

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Since 2010, the Higher education landscape in Morocco has undergone a number of substantial developments like the rapid increase in the number of students. In fact, the national demographic characteristics as well as the impact of successful policies generalizing primary and secondary education in the 1990's, are currently translated into a "massification" of higher education, a trend expected to continue until 2020. The combination of these phenomena has translated into an increase in the number of students who have gone from 300,000 in 2005 to more than 850,000 currently. The education system is therefore under pressure to meet demand, bearing in mind that the public education system, entirely funded by the State, is attended by 95% of students. The private higher education sector is also developing in Morocco based on the mechanisms established under Law 01.00, and which started to be implemented towards 2009-2010. Higher education also faces challenges related to the lack of skills of youth entering the system, and the difficulties to find employment after graduation.

To face these challenges, higher education sector has benefited from various efforts undertaken by the Kingdom to modernise the education sector and improve its governance. These include the proclamation in 1999 of an education charter and the formation of bodies to co-ordinate public policy on education; at their forefront are the Higher Council of Education, training and scientific research (Conseil Supérieur de l'Éducation, de la Formation et de la Recherche Scientifique) and the National Assessment Body (Instance Nationale d'Évaluation). The higher council of education formulated recommendations for the sector in its strategic vision for education by 2030, that inspired the elaboration of the department's of higher education action plan 2017-2021 to promote human capital and develop knowledge-based society.

These developments have also placed quality of higher education at the top of priorities and prompted authorities in July 2014 to enact Law 80.12 for the creation of a National Evaluation and Higher Education and Scientific Research Quality Assurance Agency.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

This request is for technical assistance to provide a QA Scoping Report detailing the structure of quality assurance of higher education in Morocco. The report will inform a substantial system to system collaboration project, managed by the British Council in conjunction with local government, commencing in April 2019.

The three-year system collaboration project will be a multi-country Quality Assurance in Higher Education project in the Maghreb region of MENA and include participation from

Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. The project will work through regional government, higher education agencies and individual HEIs and the equivalent stakeholders in the UK. The overall aim is to support current quality assurance systems and processes for higher education as a vehicle to improve student outcomes and employability and increase collaboration between Maghreb countries and the UK.

The system collaboration project is expected to start in April 2019 until April 2022. In order to define the project and its outcomes, we are looking to undertake a **scoping** of the quality assurance systems, processes, practice and ambitions in each of the participating countries.

The scoping reports for each participating country will then be used to develop a **system collaboration project proposal** including a theory of change, achievable outcomes, detailed workplans and the identification of potential partners and stakeholders.

The British Council is therefore looking for technical assistance in the following two areas:

- (A) Technical assistance to undertake the scoping of the quality assurance systems, processes and stakeholders in Morocco.
- (B) Technical assistance to develop a system collaboration project proposal drawing conclusions from the results of the scoping reports from each participating country.

*These terms of reference are for **Area (A)**.*

DELIVERABLES AREA “A”

Technical assistance to undertake the scoping of the quality assurance systems, processes and stakeholders in Morocco.

The key personnel shall support British Council by leading the technical scoping and production of a report and recommendations. The key personnel shall:

1. Demonstrate a very good understanding of country context and the issues relevant to quality assurance and internationalisation of higher education in Morocco and the UK.
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of terms of reference and have a clear focus as to their requirements.
3. Develop and agree with the British Council a scoping methodology including areas of focus that will provide the necessary identification of issues and opportunities for the system collaboration project.
4. Agree a workplan and timetable of activity with relevant British Council staff in Morocco.
5. Complete the technical scoping to a high level of expertise within three set stages (and agree if additional stages may be included):

Stage 1: Obtain relevant background information necessary for developing the scoping methodology and report format (4 days consultancy). This will include:

- i) Relevant desk and background research.
- ii) Examination and review of reference documents and relevant supporting information.
- iii) Meetings with relevant British Council and local stakeholders. This will involve inward visit to Morocco if key personnel are not based in Morocco.
- iv) Telephone meetings with relevant British Council colleagues.

Stage 2: Development of a first draft of the scoping report (8 days consultancy). This will include:

- i) Proposed methodology and approach.
- ii) A summary of the current higher education sector in Morocco including legal framework for quality assurance, international collaboration environment, main stakeholders and potential partners.
- iii) A description of the HE structures in the country, detailing the scale and level of awards provided, status of institutions and HE providers (e.g. public /private/foundation and accredited/non-accredited), role of support agencies, and the connection to government in relation to authority and funding.
- iv) A description of the role of each of the key stakeholders in relation to the monitoring and evaluating the quality of higher education, clearly highlighting specific responsibilities and authority for delivering quality in provision.
- v) A description of the mechanisms employed at institution, agency and government levels to ensure the quality of provision in HE.
- vi) A description of any national level frameworks that support quality assurance e.g. frameworks for levels of awards or award content.
- vii) A description of the mechanisms employed to train, support and develop the skills of those involved in securing high quality provision of awards.
- viii) A description of the accreditation of teaching staff or CPD in higher education institutions.
- ix) A statement on the relative maturity of the quality assurance systems, in terms of recent system reform or restructuring and longevity of the organisations involved.
- x) Potential strategies and recommendations for improving quality and relevance of quality assurance in higher education building on existing best practice models in the UK and Morocco.
- xi) Added value and any additional information requested related to scoping report and technical proposals.

Stage 3: Revision and development of the scoping report (3 days consultancy). This will include:

- i) Discussions with British Council to agree final format of report.
- ii) Discussions with the key personnel responsible for developing system collaboration project proposal (Area B).

OUTPUTS

- Scoping report and recommendations.

SUPPORT

The successful applicants will be supported by British Council in-country staff to secure meetings.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Timeline	
Terms of reference published	Sunday 10 th February
Deadline for applications	Tuesday 19 th February
Contract issued	Monday 25 th February
Consultancy begins	Monday 4 th March
First draft of report	Friday 22 nd March
Final report	Thursday 28 th March

Evaluation criteria	
Criteria	Weighting
Knowledge and experience	30%
Methodology and approach	30%
Timetable (ability to complete by timeline)	20%
Costing and value for money	20%

Please note that applicants **will not** be disqualified from participating in future project activities by undertaking this technical assistance. Applicants can apply for more than one country, but please keep in mind the timeline. Applicants may also be interested in applying for Area A for one country and Area B, but please provide separate applications as these are being assessed independently.

If you would like to apply for this technical assistance opportunity, please provide a proposal by **Tuesday 19th February 2019** including your contact details. Please send your applications to Kenza El Mohajir (Kenza.elmohajir@britishcouncil.org.ma). If you have any questions, please contact Kenza El Mohajir.