2024 UK-TW Innovative Industries Programme
Executive Guideline
(for Taiwan Researcher Visiting the UK)

The "UK-TW Innovative Industries Programme (I^2P)" is sponsored by the British Office Taipei and aims to strengthen the bilateral Science and Technology collaboration between the UK and Taiwan. This scheme funds researchers from both sides to conduct short-term (2 weeks to 3 months) **R&D** activities at the research and technology organisations (RTOs), companies or Innovate UK - Catapult Centers in the UK.

The five priority sectors funded by this scheme include but are not limited to:

1. **Smart Technologies** (ex. next generation communication, semiconductor technology and space technology)
2. **Green Energy Technologies** (ex. electric vehicles, hydrogen transportation, renewable energy, future grids and carbon capture utilisation and storage)
3. **Smart Manufacturing**
4. **Biotechnologies** (ex. medical materials and devices)
5. **Service Innovation** (ex. Internet of Things, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, 5G and 6G)

Application Timeline

	Open Period	Announcement Date
1st call	June 1st to July 15th (12 PM)	August 15th, 2024
2nd call	August 16th to September 30th (12 PM)	October 31st, 2024
The open of 2nd call will depend on the 1st call result. If the aggregated successful applications from the 1st call reach the total funding cap, the 2nd call will not be conducted. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. The official information of the 1st and 2nd calls will be posted on the Facebook page of the British Office Taipei (www.facebook.com/britishofficetaipei).		

Placement Fund

The Programme Office will cover 50% of the expenses during the placement period and the other 50% should be provided by the Sending Entity. The maximum subsidy per person is up to NT$1 million.

Eligibility of the Applicants

A.   An incumbent and full-time employee who is conducting research and development at the Sending Entity.

B.   Holding a Taiwan citizenship during the period of the placement programme.

1. Application Documents

Candidates must submit the following documents in English:
(Applications should be submitted per individual)

A. Research Plan (see Attachment 1)
B. Placement Budget Form (see Attachment 2)
C. Original copy of Agreement of Sending Entity (see Attachment 3)
D. Letter of Agreement from the UK Hosting Entity (see Attachment 4)

All applicants are required to fill in the form and upload Attachments 1-4 via https://reurl.cc/Vz1GrA before the deadline.

2. Review Criteria

The review criteria will be based on the applicants' academic performance and capability, research topics and execution feasibility, and the suitability of the UK Hosting Entity. The Programme Office will invite experts and scholars from related fields to review the applications.

A. The review criteria and weighting are as follows:
   i. **20%** - The applicant's professional background, outstanding achievements, potential, experiences of attending international activities and the ability of project execution.
   ii. **10%** - The academic suitability in the respective field of the applicant's Sending Entity and the UK Hosting Entity.
   iii. **35%** - Completeness and feasibility of the research plan (including topic, structure, contents, concepts and methodologies, analysis, etc.)
   iv. **35%** - Technical complementarity and potential contribution to the bilateral UK-TW collaboration in the respective field.
B. The results for the 1st call will be announced by August 15th, 2024 and posted on the Facebook page of the British Office Taipei. The qualified applicants will also be informed individually by email.
C. If necessary, information on the availability of the 2nd call will be posted on the Facebook page of the British Office Taipei on August 16th, 2024.

3. Execution (Before departure)

After the approval of the proposal and sponsorship, the qualified researchers and their Sending Entities are required to submit the following documents:
A. The Contract: beginning from the date of the approval announcement, the Sending Entity is required to sign a contract with the Programme Office (template to be provided by the

Programme Office) and to complete the necessary formalities by <u>September 15th (1st call)/ November 30th (2nd call)</u>. Any delay will be considered as the withdrawal of the sponsorship.

B. Researchers' <u>Itinerary</u>: the sponsored researchers must depart Taiwan by <u>October 15th (1st call)/ December 31st (2nd call)</u>. Researchers must report the departure date and email a copy of their e-tickets to the Programme Office before the date of departure. Researchers who have specific circumstances that may cause a delay in their departure must notify the Programme Office as early as possible. All placement researchers must finish their research and return to Taiwan no later than <u>February 28th, 2025</u>.

4. Execution (During placement)

The sponsored researchers must provide the following documents:

A. The <u>Receipts</u>: the reimbursement is based on the expenditure incurred during the approved research period, which begins from the departure date and ends on the arrival date to Taiwan (based on the dates shown on the e-ticket). Researchers are responsible for keeping all receipts of expenditures that meet the requirement of sponsorship and should provide them to the Sending Entity.

B. The <u>Midterm Report:</u> the researchers with a placement period longer than one month are required to submit an electronic midterm report to the Programme Office at the halfway point of the placement period (see Attachment 5).

5. Execution (Placement completed)

The sponsored researchers must provide the following documents to the Programme Office within **1 month** after the placement is completed:

A. The <u>Final Report:</u> all sponsored researchers are required to submit an electronic final report after the placement has been completed (see Attachment 6).

B. The <u>Evaluation of the Placement:</u> this evaluation should be filled in by the UK Hosting Entity (see Attachment 7).

6. Important rules and obligations

A. Changes to the research topic, duration, placement budget, early completion, or early termination will require the approval from the British Office Taipei, the Programme Office and the Sending Entity.

B. The research achievements made by the sponsored research project is required to acknowledge the support from the **"Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) and the UK-TW Innovative Industries Programme"** whenever the related research results are published in international conferences, academic journals, and other public mediums.

C. If any of the following conditions occur, the sponsorship will be cancelled, and the researcher must return the sponsorship payments obtained from the reimbursement:

    i.   The proposed documents (including relevant certificates) are forged or not in compliance with the requirements.

ii. The researcher makes changes on the research topic, duration, placement budget, the hosting institution, early completion, or early termination without the approval of the British Office Taipei, the Programme Office, and the Sending Entity.

iii. Anyone who violates the law and is indicated and convicted of crimes, sentenced to be in prison by Taiwan or foreign judiciaries, or deported back to Taiwan.

iv. Violation of the laws of the United Kingdom and Taiwan, or behavior and statements by the researcher which damage the benefits of the United Kingdom and Taiwan during the period of the sponsored placement.

D. The sponsored researcher must take full responsibility of the obligations involved with other institutions during the sponsored placement period (such as military or other service obligations).

E. The rights and obligations that the sponsored researcher should comply must be supervised by the Sending Entity during the application process and the placement period. Other principles not stated in the guidelines can be regulated by the Sending Entity. Whenever the sponsored researcher violates these regulations, the Sending Entity has the responsibility of withdrawing and returning the funding to the Programme Office.

7. The "UK-TW Innovative Industries Programme (I^{2}P)" event

All sponsored Taiwan researchers will be expected to attend the I^{2}P celebration event, which will be hosted by the British Office Taipei in March, 2025. Selected sponsored Taiwan researchers will be requested to give a presentation at the event.

8. Contact information of the Programme Office:

- Email address: **UKTWI2P@itri.org.tw**
- Office phone number and contact person:
  Leah Shieh (03-5915817), Sean Lin (03-5913596), and Erika Ho (03-5917490)