UK Government Prosperity Fund in China: Education Reform

What is the Prosperity Fund?

In November 2015, the UK Government announced a £1.3 billion Prosperity Fund over the next five years (2016-2021) to promote the economic reform and development needed for growth in partner countries. As well as contributing to a reduction in poverty in recipient countries, the reforms are expected to create commercial opportunities for international businesses and institutions, including those from the UK. The role of the Prosperity Fund is set out in the UK Government’s Strategic Defence and Security Review and also in the UK’s overarching aid strategy ‘Tackling Global Challenges in the National Interest’.

Engagement and partnership with China will be an important part of the Prosperity Fund’s work, with the education sector as one key area of focus.

The British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in Beijing are jointly managing the 2016/17 Prosperity Fund education programme in China.

Year 1: 2016 – 2017

Through the Prosperity Fund, the UK government will support education development and reform in China. With a focus on creating a sustainable platform for UK-China education partnerships over the long-term, year 1 scoping activity is primarily based around in-depth research and sector-led pilot projects. Findings will inform the design, development and implementation of a prospective, large-scale Prosperity Fund education programme in China over the subsequent years of the Prosperity Fund (2017-21).

Proposals for pilot projects have been invited in the following priority areas: Creative Industries; Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Education; Vocational Education; Executive Leadership & Management; and Health Education. Pilot projects will align UK expertise and strengths with furthering sustainable development of China’s education reform, development and Five Year Plan objectives. Submissions for pilot project proposals close on 15 September 2016, with projects commencing in October and completed by February 2017. More information on how to apply, including the eligibility and assessment criteria, can be found on the British Council China website.

In-depth research will analyse and evaluate opportunities for deeper engagement in specific fields of education, providing recommendations on the priorities and approach which best support China’s reform ambitions. The invitation to tender for research will be released at the end of August 2016.

Questions

For further information; please contact the Project Team at the British Council on ProsperityFund@britishcouncil.org.cn