**Call for proposals to attend UK Study Tour**

**on Graduate Employability in London**

**Target group: Azerbaijan Universities and businesses**

**Application Form and Guidelines**

**Overview:**

British Council’s work in higher education aims to globalise knowledge partnerships, promote innovation, extend policy debates, and establish a new generation partnership model to develop global knowledge economies. It builds tripartite partnerships between governments, universities and industry in the UK and through a unique approach to cultural relations, builds trust, engagement and mutual benefit.

Our work in Azerbaijan focuses on Global Partnerships within higher education and contributes to the improvement of quality assurance, trans-national education, entrepreneurship and enterprise, transferrable skills and competencies. We work in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, partner Universities and industry. Our activity includes national and regional seminars and workshops, as well as exchange of researchers, faculty staff and education professionals between the UK and Azerbaijan.

**About the UK Study Tour:**

The aim of the UK Study Tour on Graduate Employability is to give an opportunity to higher education and business sector representatives from Azerbaijan to learn from UK higher education institutions’ experience in graduate employability in order to foster development of graduate employability in Azerbaijan.

UK practice in graduate employability is highly advanced since the topic has been addressed in the UK higher education sector for over two decades. As per the research that has been conducted by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (July 2011), the majority of UK institutions have a strategy for enhancing student employability and higher education institutions are highly encouraged to incorporate an employability strategy into their development processes to ensure all students have the opportunity to access a common level of employability skills.

According to the official statements of the Ministry of Education officials, one of the main problems of Azerbaijan's higher education system is a large number of graduates who are unable to find jobs after successful completion of their studies at higher educational institutions. It has been mentioned at ministerial level that higher education institutions need to establish cooperation and partnership agreements with industry/business in order to improve employability skills of student graduates.

In order to see the successful examples of UK university-business partnerships and learn from good practice in UK universities’ graduate employability schemes, the representatives of Azerbaijan universities, business institutions and MoE hope to visit the UK in May-June 2016.

**Who can apply?**

Azerbaijan universities and business institutions are invited to develop joint proposals on partnership (based on this application form) in the area of graduate employability and submit to [Nigar Nasrullayeva](http://www.britishcouncil.az/en/events/nigar.nasrullayeva%40britishcouncil.az), Education Officer, British Council Azerbaijan **no later than 20 April 2016**.

Application needs to be completed by one representative from either side (university and business/or industry) and provide information about joint partnership interests; planned activities, timeline and expected outcomes.

Selected representatives will have a chance to visit UK for a Study Tour on Graduate Employability.

**Only one application may be submitted per applicant.**

Note: The tour will be arranged by the British Council in partnership with the selected UK partner institution. The tour will take place only in that case if sufficient number of representatives from Azerbaijan higher education institutions will be selected for participation at the study tour.

**Application process:**

* A complete application form
* CV forms of the representatives (university and business)

**Selection process:**

Applications will be assessed by the British Council Azerbaijan staff after the deadline for submission of applications. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview and will be notified in writing about the results by 5 May 2016.

**Selection criteria:**

* Eligibility check – the full application package has been submitted by the indicated deadline
* Quality assessment – the applicant(s) has sufficient relevant experience to undertake the proposed activities; the importance and ways of partnership between the university and business institution are clearly demonstrated;
* Impact assessment – potential for sustainable impact as a result of the partnership is assessed

**Funding:**

British Council Azerbaijan is responsible for organizing the study tour and will cover the expenses of the selected university representatives.

**The project will cover expenses of only one selected participant from each University.**

Representatives of business institutions are expected to cover their own expenses.

**Expected outcomes:**

Partnership relations between the universities and businesses are expected to improve; (or) new partnership agreements to be signed between the participated parties as a result of the UK Study Tour.

**Equal opportunities:**

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

**Submit your applications to the attention of:**

Nigar Nasrullayeva

nigar.nasrullayeva@britishcouncil.az

**Application Form**

**University**

|  |
| --- |
| **1. Applicant**  |
| Name and title |  |
| Position and institution |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Brief CV (educational and professional background) – no more than 2 pages of A4 (or CV form can be attached) |  |

**Business partner**

|  |
| --- |
| **1. Applicant**  |
| Name and title |  |
| Position and institution |  |
| Postal address |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Brief CV (educational and professional background) – no more than 2 pages of A4 (or CV form can be attached) |  |

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| **2. Description of existing or perspective partnership between university and business (partnership form, agreement and etc.)** |
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| **3. Description of the proposed activities and timeline within the existing/perspective partnership** |
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| **4. Expected study tour and partnership outcomes** |
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| **5. Please use this space to give any additional information that you feel is relevant for the application.** |
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The application needs to be signed by the applicants.

**Applicant 1:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant 2:**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_