

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Connecting Classrooms?

Connecting Classrooms is the British Council's global education programme for schools, co-funded by the British Council and the UK's Department for International Development.

2. What are Core Skills?

British Council consulted a range of stakeholders, drew upon research on the deep pedagogies framework¹ and UNESCO's transversal skills² and then decided to focus on supporting teachers develop their pedagogy in the following six core skills and competencies:

Ways of Working

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Imagination

Ways of Living

- Student Leadership and Personal Development
- Citizenship

Enablers

- Digital Literacy
- Communication and Collaboration

These skills have often also been referred to as Life Skills, 21st Century Skills etc. depending upon country and context. British Council believes Core Skills have to be strongly embedded local cultural context and curriculum along with literacy and numeracy skills.

3. Who can participate?

Primary, secondary and high secondary schools from private and public sector can participate in this programme. Currently British Council is working with more than 500 schools across Pakistan.

4. What is the registration criterion?

Registered schools meeting the following criterion can register for this programme:

- Should be registered with local/international body/board
- Minimum 250 students are enrolled
- At least 8 teachers are serving the school
- Should have a reasonable building, infrastructure and basic facilities
- Equipped with reasonable IT infrastructure and access to internet
- Teaching staff with a sufficient level of English to facilitate communication with international school
- Willing to establish links with the international schools

5. How can I register my school?

[Click here](#) and fill the online registration form to register your school. Make sure to provide updated and correct mailing address, email address, and contacts numbers.

¹ Fullan, M and Langworthy, M (2013) *Towards a new end: New Pedagogies for Deep Learning*. Seattle: Collaborative Impact

² UNESCO, (2013) *Integrating Transversal Competencies in Education Policy and Practice*.

6. What benefit will my school get from this programme?

- Teachers will be able to create great learning experiences for pupils that support the development of core skills.
- Teachers will be able to draw upon a wide range of free resources to nurture core skills in their learners.
- Teachers will be able to network with and find peer support from like-minded colleagues locally and globally.
- School leaders will be able to foster innovation and use of a range of teaching strategies in their schools, thus enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.
- School leaders will be able to improve their own instructional leadership through mentoring their own staff and wider teaching community.

7. How I will be contacted by British Council after registration?

Shortlisting will be done by British Council and shortlisted schools will be contacted by 20 October 2015.

8. Is there any registration fee?

Initial registration is free. Only shortlisted schools will be invited to the orientation session. One school management representative and one nominated teacher will be invited to attend the orientation session. After attending the orientation session each school will be asked to pay PKR 5,000/- as registration for participation in future activities.

9. How many teachers from school will get trainings?

The registration fee will entitle participation of:

- **Two** school representatives/teachers for the advanced phase of CPD workshop and reflection phase
- **Two** school representatives/teachers for student leadership workshop
- **Two** school representatives/teachers for International School Award orientation
- **One** school management representative/head teachers/principal for school leadership workshop
- **Free access** to all digital resources and online training courses
- **Opportunities** to build online school partnership with schools from UK and other countries

10. Where will these trainings take place?

The training will happen in your own city. British Council will arrange the training venue, refreshment, stationary, training material, IT equipment, etc.

The participants will have to make their own arrangements for travel to and from the workshops venue.

11. Who will deliver these training?

The trainings will be delivered by British Council's globally validated trainers.

12. What is International school award (ISA)?

The British Council International School Award supports your school in embedding international learning into the curriculum. Working towards it gives pupils and teachers a new perspective on the world and the skills to work in a global economy:

- creates links between teachers from other countries, facilitating the sharing of best practice and the development of new skills
- curriculum based activities
- focuses on global citizenship and embedding internationalism in curriculum and school ethos
- majority of subjects and students are involved

13. How will my school benefit from International School Award?

International work gives schools the opportunity to develop, improve and learn from new colleagues around the world. It exposes educators to new practises and perspectives, their professional development and as such raising teaching standards. While for young people it provides a window into different cultures and countries, preparing them for life in a global society.

- The ISA accreditation is for three years
- Certificate, shield and use of ISA logo (in any publication by the school) for three years
- Acknowledgement of high standards of international work
- Accredited schools can become “champion ambassadors”
- An enriched curriculum and a whole school ethos
- Raising the school’s profile

14. How can I apply for ISA award?

All registered schools will initially take part in a 2 day orientation session by the British Council after which they will submit an action plan. Once this action plan is approved by the British Council, the schools can start their work. Support from the British Council will be available throughout the year.

At the end of the period, the schools will submit their portfolio to the British Council for evaluation.