

# **OPEN CALL CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS**

**THE BRITISH COUNCIL COMMISSION  
AT THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL  
ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION – LA BIENNALE  
DI VENEZIA**

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## Clarification Questions

**Q: Do any members of the team making the proposal have to have Malaysian nationality?**

**A:** The Open Call does not specify whether the Malaysian team member/s should be resident in Malaysia, so to clarify; the application must demonstrate that at least one team member has strong connections to Malaysia and/or the Malaysian built environment (for example, recent relevant experience of delivering creative projects in Malaysia).

**Q: As part of the content creation strategy, our team intends to invite identified artists and designers to produce original work to form part of the curated content. Can/Are the honorariums for their participation be included in the production budget expenditure?**

**A:** The production budget expenditure may include fees / honorariums for invited artists and designers, whose original work will form part of the proposed content. We recommend that strategies are agreed in advance with any invited creatives to manage the time commitment and costs for producing exhibition content, as artwork/designs may need to adapt to British Pavilion spatial constraints and in line with any technical or building heritage requirements.

It should also be noted that the British Council has limited budgets for casing and shipping and for this reason, museum / fine art crating will not be possible. In general, the British Council's transport budget allows for a single consolidated transportation of exhibition content from one location in the UK to the British Pavilion in Venice. We strongly recommend that the cost of transporting work from multiple studios / fabricators to a single point of collection is incorporated within the exhibition production budget.

**Q: Chinese New Year falls on 17 and 18 February 2026 and is one the primary public holidays in Malaysia. Will the British Council consider moving the interview for shortlisted candidates to the following week?**

**A:** The clash of provisional interview dates with Chinese New Year was brought to our attention shortly after announcing the Open Call. We will move interviews to the following week, with a provisional date of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026, and apologise for this oversight.

**Q: My team has established working relationships with highly experienced and reliable contractors. I note in the Open Call that there is a 'British Council Venice supplier framework', but will it be possible to consider my contacts, and for me to approach them for assistance in this initial budget outline?**

**A:** The team may approach known fabricators and other contractors in the process of producing a proposal and production expenditure budget for the Open Call submission. As part of the exhibition development process, the appointed Curator will work closely with the British Council to deliver their proposal and if approved by the British Council, may produce and source from its supplier network, any exhibition content using the Exhibition Production Budget. The Curator (also referred to as the Lead Practitioner) must have a UK VAT registered company in order to receive from the British Council and disseminate such payments of the Exhibition Production Budget. The British Council will follow its procurement policy in sourcing additional suppliers to be directly managed by the British Council for the presentation of the exhibition at the British Pavilion. The timeframe for such procurement will be discussed with the appointed team at the earliest opportunity.

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**Q: Who is on the Selection Committee?**

**A:** The Selection Committee for the British Council Commission for 2025 is made up 9 people as follows:

- **Sevra Davis**, Commissioner of the British Pavilion (Chair)
- **Dato' Hamdan Abdul Majeed**, Managing Director of Think City
- **Pei Tsen Yeoh**, Director at YTL Construction
- **Chris Williamson**, President of the RIBA
- **Tara Gbolade**, Co-Founder of Gbolade Design Studio
- **Deep Kailey**, Cultural Narrator and Artistic Director
- **Leonie Bell**, Director of V&A Dundee
- **Roisin Donnelly**, Project Manager at the National Trust
- **Albert Williamson-Taylor**, Co-Founding Director at AKT II

**Q: What if I know someone on the Selection Committee? Will the Selection Committee register any Conflicts of Interest?**

**A:** We have deliberately pulled together a diverse and wide-ranging Selection Committee who will share the Open Call with their networks and we recognise that as such, there may be some Conflicts of Interest. All Selection Committee members will sign a Terms of Reference agreement which will include a note on registering Conflicts of Interest. We take Conflicts of Interest very seriously and in addition to registering any that may arise, Selection Committee members will be excluded from discussions about proposals where there is any Conflict of Interest.

**Q: What should be included in the Letters of Support (Part 7 of Application) and does there need to be a Support Letter from every organisation involved?**

**A:** Support letter should be provided from all planned supporting institutions/organisations that will be involved in the Pavilion. The content of the letter is intended to confirm that the institution/organisation is aware of and supportive of being involved in principle. No further information is required other than a statement to this effect.

**Q: Can the commissioned team seek or apply for further funding or sponsorship from their own networks to add to the production budget stated?**

**A:** The exhibition proposal should be achievable within the indicative budget for production of £200K and the proposal should not assume additional funding. The British Council is responsible for all fundraising activity to support its activities at the Venice Biennale and the indicative production budget of £200K will be fundraised against by the British Council. Sponsorship of any materials in kind will also be managed by the British Council against the overall fundraising plan for the exhibition's £200K production budget. The successful team is invited to work closely with the British Council to make introductions to any potential sponsors that the British Council may approach to help realise the exhibition.

**Q: Should the equalities monitoring form be filled out by the team or just the Lead Practitioner?**

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**A:** This should just be filled out by the Lead Practitioner who will lead the project and manage the team.

**Q: Will a presentation be required at the interview stage and what format will this presentation take?**

**A:** There will be some form of presentation required but this will depend on the feedback from the Selection Committee. We will communicate the format of the interviews to all shortlisted applicants.