

**Workshop Title: Improving Literacy: Understanding Reading Development and Reading Difficulties across the Lifespan**  
**UK coordinator: Professor Kevin Paterson / Professor Simon Liversedge**  
**Add name of country coordinator: Professor Xuejun Bai**  
**Discipline: Psychology / Education**  
**Dates and venue: Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin, 21-23 September 2016.**

As part of the Newton Fund, the British Council and the Chinese National Science Foundation has launched a new five-year programme to encourage international research collaboration between ambitious researchers from the UK and eighteen countries around the world.

The programme, 'British Council Researcher Links' provides opportunities for early career researchers from the UK and internationally to interact, learn from each other and explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations. As part of this programme, a 'call to action' was issued in April 2014 for leading researchers to propose themes for bilateral workshops to be held in one of these countries which will bring together early career researchers to discuss their research and start to build international relationships.

Successful applicant organisations from the UK and China are now recruiting early career researchers and welcome applications to attend the above workshop.

The workshops will provide a unique opportunity for sharing research expertise and networking. During the workshops early career researchers will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a poster or short oral presentation and discuss this with established researchers from the UK and partner countries. There will be a focus on building up links for future collaborations and participants selected on the basis of their research potential and ability to build longer term links.

The British Council and Chinese National Science Foundation will cover the costs related to the participation to the workshop, including: travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. Costs for the visa will be covered; however participants will be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements. Although this cost will not be covered by the British Council, participants are encouraged to purchase an adequate travel and medical insurance. The British Council accepts no responsibility for any problems which may occur when the participants are in-country.

**Application and Deadline:**

The full application below must be completed and submitted by April 29, 2016 to: Kathryn Smith [k.m.smith@soton.ac.uk]. Enquiries can be made to Kevin Paterson (kbp3@le.ac.uk).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applications must be submitted using the Researcher Links application form
- Application must be submitted before the above deadline
- Participants must be early career researchers: Early Career Researchers are defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience – workshop organisers define the prerequisites according to field of research/discipline) and

having up to 10 years post-PhD research experience. They are equivalent to the 'Recognised Researcher' and sometimes 'Experienced Researcher' categories in the EU framework for researchers' careers.

[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research\\_policies/Towards\\_a\\_European\\_Framework\\_for\\_Research\\_Careers\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf).

Leading Researchers as defined by the EU Framework for researchers careers are research group leaders who are internationally recognised in their field.

- Participants must have a research or academic position (either a permanent post, research contract, or fellowship etc) at a recognised research institution in the UK or China.

### **Quality Assessment**

- Experience and relevance of the applicant's research area to the workshop
- Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
- Description of the long term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
- Ability to disseminate workshop's outcomes

### **Selection Procedure:**

- Eligibility check
- Quality assessment

### **Notification of results:**

Applicants will be notified by email 2 months prior to the workshop.

### **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. Participants' selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy. Extra support to enable participation of early career researchers with special needs will be given.