

Considerations for Visa and Passport Equity

1. Inclusive, fair and equitable research partnerships

Global South partners should be viewed as equal participants in research, ensuring two-way mobility (UK-Global South and vice versa). Addressing agenda-setting dominance by the Global North is key to fair partnerships.

Actions: Plan trips to and from both regions; agree on travel schedules and frequency with Global South partners.



2. Budgeting for all visa application costs

High visa and flight costs hinder Global South mobility. Equitable partnerships should account for these expenses.

Actions: Include visa fees, transport, and flights in budgets. Liaise with finance for timely reimbursements.



3. Facilitate documentation to support application

Proper paperwork is crucial for visa approval. UK hosts must ensure all documentation is provided to Global South partners.

Actions: Guide partners through visa types, ensure accurate documents, and provide support letters if needed.



4. Timeliness

Visa processes are lengthy and uncertain, requiring early planning and coordination with Global South partners.

Actions: Develop travel timelines at least three months in advance; prepare invitation letters and support documents early.



5. Communicate effectively

Open and continuous communication between visiting partner(s) and hosts is essential throughout the visa process, especially regarding application outcomes.

Actions: Establish clear and well-defined feedback channels to discuss application outcomes. Avoid assumptions about participation after visa decisions.



6. Explore buffers and alternatives

Rejected visa applications necessitate contingency plans, such as alternative meeting locations or virtual options.

Actions: Consider visa-friendly locations for meetings; have a debriefing session, counseling or other support if visa is rejected; and consider virtual participation if appropriate and fair to partners.

