



What is the British Council?

- The British Council is the UK's international cultural relations organisation
- The British Council works in 110 countries and territories worldwide to build intercultural understanding between the UK and other countries through the arts, education and training, science and technology, sport and good governance

What the British Council does

- The British Council works to increase trust and understanding between the UK and other countries
- Each year the British Council reaches more than 85 million people through its work
- The British Council's work with young people gives it unique access to tomorrow's influencers and leaders, using its networks to help them develop their skills and experience
- In a year, the British Council:
 - has 8.5 million visitors to its centres
 - helps 1.3 million people sit professional and academic exams from the UK
 - teaches English to 325,000 learners in 53 countries (a total of 1.1 million class hours a year)
 - manages 1,700 arts events
 - has 1.5 million people using its website
 - answers 2.5 million general enquiries and 35.4 million enquiries a year about opportunities

Background Information

- Sir Reginald 'Rex' Leeper of the Foreign Office founded the 'British Committee for Relations with Other Countries'. The name was later changed to 'British Council for Relations with Other Countries' and then shortened to British Council (in 1936)
- Queen Elizabeth II is a patron of the organisation, the Prince of Wales is Vice-Patron and Neil Kinnock is the chair
- The British Council has 7,900 staff in 110 countries around the world