

# The Way Forward – The Catalyst Fund Facility

Building research activity that serves national policy across the Global South

Develop the people. Strengthen the institution. Sustain the independent capability for the future.

## KEY BENEFITS

Ultimately, Catalyst helps Global South governments build and sustain their autonomy to plan their clean energy transition as part of their sustainable economic growth strategy. Catalyst does this by supporting local academics to empower themselves with real-world training, ready-made curricula, enhanced research skills and high-quality outputs, respected on the world stage and credible with investors.

Catalyst releases these governments from a dependency on external western consultancies and puts them in charge of their own destinies. It does this by building an academic powerhouse within local universities, sustaining home-grown energy and policy expertise as a legacy for the future.

## THE LEGACY FOR THE UNIVERSITY?

**A Local Teacher** Skills and knowledge can be reproduced locally rather than repeatedly imported

**A Champion Academic** With research connections and a platform to develop funding proposals

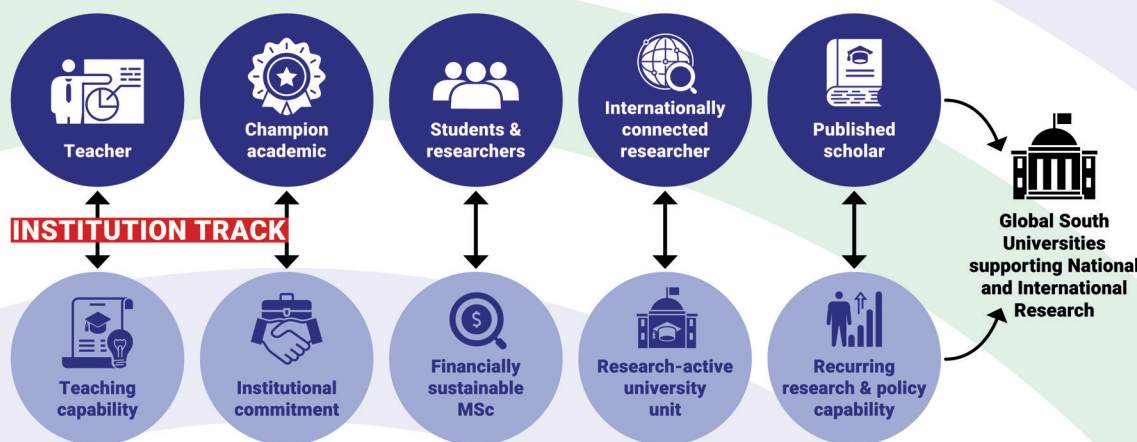
**A Financially Sustainable MSc** Government-focused programmes generate continued fee income and maintain high-level relationship, useful to both parties

**A Talent and Research Pipeline** Successful students working on policy-relevant topics. Collecting data, creating analysis and potential papers for future real-world research.

**International Scientific Connections** Stronger links to TWAS, ICTP, international universities and South-South research networks for mutual benefit.

**The objective is not a series of trained individuals but a university unit able to keep producing them within country.**

## PEOPLE TRACK



Catalyst has just five proven elements through which it achieves this (see below). Crucially, it also has a well-established network of highly respected global partners including TWAS, ICTP, AEF, leading universities and the OpTIMUS Community whose members include The World Bank, GIZ, UNECA, IAEA, UNDESA, WRI, IEA, Asian Development Bank, IRENA, African Development Bank and others.

### 1 Train the Teacher

**ICTP Bootcamp** Train academics to deliver CCG-developed courses in their home institutions.

#### BENEFITS

The individual gains professional capability and status  
The institution gains a richer curriculum

### 2 Back the Champion and Secure University Commitment

**TWAS Starter Grant** Give a champion academic protected time for research and support for proposal writing, conditional on university commitment to develop a sustainable,

government-focused MSc model.

#### BENEFITS

The individual develops their research agenda and gains a platform to raise funding  
The institution gains student fee income through new MSc model to fund teaching

### 3 Embed a permanent Talent Pipeline

**TWAS and partner universities award** Prestigious partial scholarships and associations for qualifying MSc Programmes whose thesis work addresses policy questions.

#### BENEFITS

The individual gains prestige, a research opportunity and wider network access  
The institution gains stronger student cohorts, more fee income, research students and a pipeline of energy analysts

### 4 Deepen the Research and Build the Network

**ICTP Fellowship/Associates Programme** This supports mini 1-2 month sabbaticals

at ICTP and connections with LMIC peers and international research community.

#### BENEFITS

The individual gains research time, collaborators and

international connections  
The institution gains a globally connected research leader and stronger links to international research network

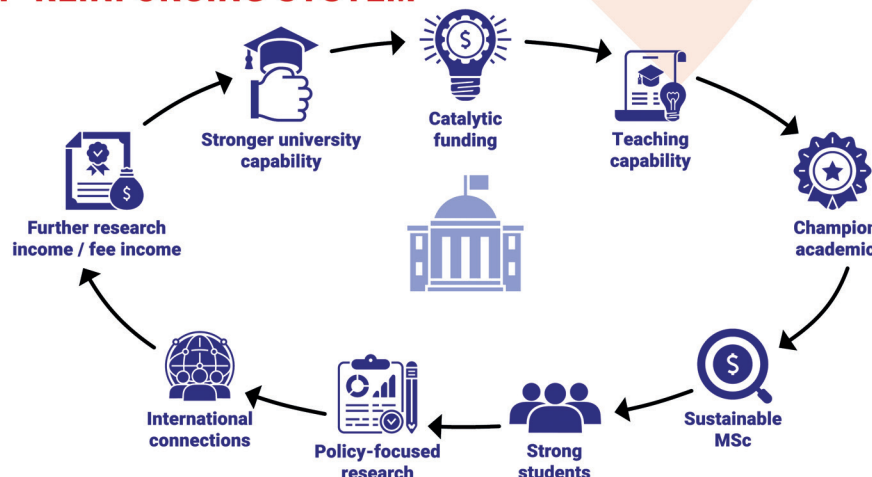
### 5 Convert Research into Publication

**ICTP Writing Retreat** Provide researchers with intensive scientific and writing support to complete papers from their research when it becomes substantial.

#### BENEFITS

The individual gains publications and career progression incentive  
The institution gains stronger reputation and visibility through higher quality research output

## A SELF-REINFORCING SYSTEM



## Creating enduring institutional capability.

Catalyst has taken the best of CCG's partner network and created a structured and incentivised system to support universities. With the infrastructure now working, we are finalising the scaffolding to bring Catalyst to market. Once capitalised, it is easily and infinitely scalable.

**Catalyst components are tried, tested and shown to be effective. As a package, they can be applied in partnership and at scale for impact.**

## WHY THE MODEL CAN SCALE

### 1 Builds on Elements already working successfully

CCG's credibility with partners has given it instant access to 1000s of mentors and modelling-trained professionals around the globe; **plus around 40 universities. TWAS and ICTP are already operating established, academically rigorous research activities. CCG can easily mobilise this network with no need to 'reinvent the wheel' separately for each university.**

### 2 Incentives Support Sustainability

The MSc is the institutional anchor because the fee income creates the incentive to continue teaching it. Academics gain status and contribute to research direction through Catalyst. They develop policy-focused papers and links to government grants and this continues on an ongoing basis long after initial funding.

### 3 Catalytic Economics ~£100 000

to set up a self-sustaining university centre, producing scores of graduates and policy relevant research. That is comparable to full scholarship and support for a single 2yr MSc student coming to the UK.



Plus any other appropriate partners who can help scale this positive impact

Catalyst is, as you would expect, a partnership funding scheme. It takes activities that already exist and work – CCG's training and university network, TWAS's grant and award systems, ICTP's long-established Associates model

and writing residencies – and connects them through the five complementary offers we saw above. Universities can choose any they like to solve a particular constraint. Catalyst is in advanced development, with foundational

MOUs in place and seed activities successfully completed. It is deliberately designed for coalition building—we invite aligned organisations and funders to partner with us rather than compete. CCG staff are actively

embedded within UNESCO-ICTP in Trieste to finalise the contractual and financial scaffolding. As we prepare to go to market for full capitalisation, the immediate requirement is core funding.