



ELTRA 2019 English Language Teaching Research Awards

The British Council is pleased to announce its 2019 call for research proposals under the ELT Research Awards scheme. Through this successful and popular scheme, we aim to facilitate the production of innovative research to benefit the learning and teaching of English throughout the world by co-funding a number of partnership awards. Resulting articles will be published as part of the British Council Research Papers series online ([click here](#)). The deadline to submit your research proposal is **Monday, 4 March 2019**.

What is the purpose of the ELTRA scheme?

- To facilitate the production of high quality research from the UK relevant to ELT practitioners.
- To improve access of ELT policy makers and professionals worldwide to high quality and relevant research from the UK.
- To facilitate and encourage the establishment and maintenance of active research links between ELT professionals and policy makers in the UK and overseas.

Who may apply?

Any person resident in the UK with an affiliation to a UK educational institution. The award agreement will normally be only with the institution and not with an individual.

Note: Although the *applicant* must be resident in the UK, the research may, in whole or in part, take place outside the UK or by persons not resident in the UK.

What type of activity can be considered?

The British Council is particularly interested in research within the following areas:

- Learning & teaching of English at younger ages
- ICT and new technologies in ELT
- Teacher education and training
- English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI)
- English language testing and assessment and applications of the CEFR
- English language programme evaluation
- English for development: Social, economic, political aspects of English, education, and language teaching
- Role of English language in promoting peace, security and resilience
- The role of English in migration
- Multilingualism and English

However, proposals for any research activity relating directly to the learning, teaching, or assessment of English as a foreign, second, or additional language will be considered.

There must be a clear research output which the British Council will disseminate and which must be in a format that can be shared publicly and without cost throughout the world. Successful applicants must produce a final article on the project. This would normally include the rationale, methodology, findings, discussion and implications, and references. See guidelines to authors ([here](#)) for more information. In addition to this output, researchers are encouraged to publish further outputs elsewhere, for example in peer-reviewed journals and at conferences.

How can I apply?

All applications for a research award proposal must be submitted within the ELTRA application form. Send the completed form to: eltra@britishcouncil.org

Deadline: 4 March 2019

Please ensure the document is saved in Microsoft Word as a .doc document (NOT .docx).

FAQ

What type of activity is outside the scheme?

- The research must not have already taken place or be underway.
- The research output / final article must be in English (though there may also be a version in another language).
- Funding will only be agreed for a maximum initial period of one year.
- This scheme is not intended to fund the field work of Ph.D. candidates or similar.
- We define research as original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding.
- Researchers/institutions currently in receipt of a research award cannot apply for a new one. Recipients of awards will become eligible to submit research proposals when the research report from a previous successful application has been accepted for publication by the British Council.

Previous ELT Research Partnership projects:

- Investigating the Practice of the CEFR outside Europe: A Case Study on English Writing Assessment in China, University of Southampton
- Which English? Whose English? Teachers' beliefs, attitudes and practices towards target varieties of the 'world' language, Newcastle University
- Attitudes and Experiences of English Learning by Chinese Kindergarten Children and their Parents in Rural and Urban Locations, De Montfort University
- Subject teachers' attitudes to English in their online postgraduate studies and in their teaching: voices from Malaysia, Nigeria and Singapore, University of Nottingham
- Children and teachers as co-researchers in Indian primary English classrooms, University of Warwick
- Investigating teachers' experiences of conducting action research on the use of ICT and new technology in the ELT classroom, Aston University
- A comparative study of English language teacher recruitment, education and retention in Latin America and the Middle East, University of Birmingham
- The transition from primary to secondary, Aston University
- Inspiring state school English teachers, University of Leeds
- English as a lingua franca in HE, York St John University
- The use of learners' L1 in ELT, University of Northumbria
- Identity in ELT, University of York
- Assessing Teaching Practice, University of Ulster
- Attitudes to English as a language for international development in rural Bangladesh, The Open University
- Learner Autonomy: English Language Teachers' Beliefs and Practices, University of Leeds
- Researching cognitive processes in reading and in the computer-based testing of reading, through the use of eye-tracking technology, University of Bedfordshire
- Using online learning objects to develop intercultural awareness in ELT: a critical evaluation in a Thai higher education setting, University of Southampton
- Global Survey of EYL teachers' qualifications, experience and career path development, University of Essex
- Making oneself understood by international students: the role of metaphor in intercultural communication, University of Birmingham
- Primary school children with English as an Additional Language: a multi-disciplinary and international approach, University of York
- The impact of training on the classroom practice of Chinese secondary school teachers: evaluation of a UK programme, Reading University
- Global practices in teaching English to young learners, Aston University
- Computers and learner autonomy: trends & issues, Salford University
- Perceptions & methods of learning English as an additional language by Singapore primary school children with dyslexia, De Montfort University
- Identifying best practice in ELT INSET, Lancaster University
- European vocabulary project, Manchester University

How will an award be made?

A panel of ELT specialists will evaluate each proposal against a series of criteria. The Director of the programme at the British Council will make a final decision on

how to allocate awards, taking into account the recommendations of the panel on each proposal, and the overall balance of the portfolio of awards. We may ask the advice of external experts on an in-confidence basis as part of the evaluation. We reserve the right to contact applicants to request or negotiate an amendment to any aspect of the proposal, including budget items, in order to best meet the objectives of the scheme.

What criteria will the British Council apply in judging whether to make an award?

- The potential impact of the research on ELT practice.
- The relevance of the project and research output to ELT professionals.
- The originality of the contribution to its field within ELT.
- The quality of the research design and the qualifications and experience of the researcher(s).
- The amount of funding requested and proportion of funding from other sources. We expect to favour proposals which demonstrate funding from other sources including but not restricted to, the applicant's own institution.
- The proposal's contribution to the aims of the scheme, including international research collaboration where appropriate. We expect to favour applications which demonstrate an element of international collaboration.

What amount of award will be made?

- Awards may be made for amounts up to a maximum of 20K GBP.
- We will consider proposals in three tranches: up to 5K GBP; 5-10K GBP, and 10-20K GBP. Our intention is to encourage a wide range of new research and the total funds available are limited. We expect this will favour proposals at the lower levels of funding.
- We do not expect the partnership awards to cover the full costs of the research, but to fund essential elements of the research without which the research would not take place. Proposals should make clear how the other costs of the research will be funded. Proposers of jointly funded research must agree to the full conditions of the award (see below).
- The proposal must make clear what expenditure items the award will fund. The scheme will not fund items of equipment which institutions would normally be expected to possess (for example computing equipment including laptops). Nor will it fund conference or seminar attendance to disseminate findings unless specifically invited to do so by the British Council (see 'dissemination' below).
- Awards are generally paid in 2 tranches with 80% of the value to be paid upon the receipt of the fully signed and initialled contract and the remaining 20% to be paid when the final article is submitted and accepted for publication.

What are the conditions of the award?

- The British Council will own the intellectual property rights of the research output / final report or enjoy a licence to disseminate the research output / final report at its

own discretion with no limitation on time or territory. This will be specified in individual letters of agreement.

- The proposer, institution and researchers must explicitly acknowledge the support of the British Council through an ELT Research Partnership in any written or spoken dissemination of the research process and all outputs arising from it.
- The British Council reserves the right to make freely and publicly available information on the proposal form of successful proposals, any reports and research output.
- The British Council will inform applicants of whether the proposal is successful or not. The British Council is not obliged to enter into further discussions, or offer advice on proposals. The decision of the British Council regarding partnership awards is final.
- Successful proposers must satisfy the British Council that the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the original proposal.
- Proposers must agree to the terms and conditions of the scheme, which will be outlined in detail in a grant letter to successful applicants.

What are the benefits of the award to the successful proposer?

- Financial support which enables the research to take place.
- Dissemination of the research by the British Council as an example of quality research from the UK with full acknowledgement of the researchers and their affiliated institutions.
- The right to refer to the research as funded by the British Council ELT Research Partnership scheme.
- Support with access to appropriate partners, teachers and learners overseas as agreed on a case by case basis.

How will the research be disseminated by the British Council?

- Publication as part of the British Council Research Papers series online.

What is the timeframe for ELTRA scheme?

- Proposals must be received in by the British Council by **4 March 2019**
- Decision on awards will be communicated by **3 June 2019**