



ELTRA 2020 English Language Teaching Research Awards

The British Council is pleased to announce its 2020 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. The deadline to submit your research proposal is **Friday 6 March 2020**.

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 four areas:

- **Language for Resilience**
Formal and informal education contexts where there are high numbers of refugees and where English and/or other languages builds resilience, whether it is giving a voice to young people and adults, building social cohesion in host communities or providing individuals with the skills they need to access work, services, education and information.
- **English as a subject**
English in formal education systems where home language is the medium of instruction and English is (often) taught as a core and compulsory subject.

Research in this area focuses on improving standards of the teaching, learning and assessment of English as a foreign language, across the education sectors – in primary, secondary, tertiary education (technical and vocational education and training and higher education), or may focus on pre-service and in-service teacher education.

- **English Medium Instruction (EMI) and Multilingual Education**
Bi/multilingual education systems and/or where English is an additional language but is the medium of instruction for all or part of the education system. EMI and multilingual education support governments to address some of the challenges they face in providing quality education in such contexts, across the education sector – in primary, secondary, tertiary education (technical and vocational education and training and higher education), or in pre-service and in-service teacher education.
- **English for Empowerment**
Largely informal or specialist education contexts and with disadvantaged and marginalized groups and populations where English empowers, provides agency, voice and/or opportunity and broadens social, economic and cultural horizons in a profound way. The main areas of focus in English for Empowerment are girls' education and English for interfaith dialogue.

ELTRA awards consider the primary audience of teachers in an inclusive way and therefore we would expect Continuing Professional Development, Teacher Education, Digital technologies and/or Inclusion to underpin the proposals we receive.

We will prioritise proposals in these four areas. 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: Friday 6 March 2020

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.

Examples of the recent ELT Research Awards projects:

2019 ELTRA winners

- How to survive the first year: Delivering online support to bridge the gap between pre-service training and in-service reality for novice English language teachers.
- Investigating global practices in teaching English to young learners: ten years on
- Language learning 'in the wild': Implications of children's playing of online games in English for their language learning
- Why won't they speak English? An investigation into how young learners in middle-income-country schools learn spoken English
- Resilience and beyond: facilitating learning and well-being in the refugee language classroom - an inquiry-based study of ELT provision for refugees in a UK University of Sanctuary
- Oral peer feedback in classroom second language task-based interaction
- English language teachers' engagement with published research: perceptions, priorities and pedagogy

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 for example budget items or project timeline, 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 ELT Research 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 contract and the remaining 20% or entitled balance (whichever is less) will be paid on receipt of a Final Article approved by the British Council for publication.

What are the conditions of the award?

- The successful proposers will own the intellectual property rights of the research output / final report and will licence these rights to the British Council to use and disseminate the research output / final report at its own discretion with no limitation on time or territory. This will be specified in the individual agreement.
- The proposer, institution and researchers must explicitly acknowledge the support of the British Council through an ELT Research Awards 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 as to 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 ELT Research 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 Awards 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.
- Opportunity to present a webinar through our website or online communities.
- Promotion of the report through British Council internal and external networks.

What is the timeframe for ELTRA scheme?

- Proposals must be received in by the British Council by Friday 6 March 2020
- Decision on awards will be communicated by 11 May 2020