Notes for Applicants for BA Academy Research Projects Grant Scheme

2024-25 Competition

PLEASE READ THESE SCHEME NOTES CAREFULLY

<u>Any application which is incorrectly submitted will not be eligible</u>

Funding:

Funding is now available for new Academy Research Projects. The scheme funded new projects in 2014 and 2022 and now has additional funds to support new projects. Typically, projects supported through this programme obtain small-scale core funding and the kitemark of recognition that enables them to approach other funders with the Academy's endorsement of quality. The call is aimed at scholars in both Humanities and Social Sciences, and on this occasion the Academy is particularly interested in projects that have a strategic benefit by providing primary resources for other researchers and the wider public. We welcome applications which have a clear focus on longer term sustainability, and a clear plan to move to financial self-stability after a fixed period of core funding from the Academy.

Purpose of the Grant:

The Academy Research Projects are intended to offer the kitemarking of academic excellence to ambitious long-term projects which aim to produce primary resources for research which will be accessible to the research community for collective benefit and fundamental works of scholarship, rather than to produce interpretative works or monographs.

The Academy grants the title of Academy Research Project to around 55 long-term enterprises, each organised and run by its own project committee. So long as the projects continue to work towards their agreed objectives and remain active and productive, the Academy expects to maintain long-term support. Current projects include some supported since the 1920s and 1930s but new projects should ideally aim to complete or to be self-financing within 10 years.

The maximum grant is £5,000 per annum and it is desirable that the projects will be able to complete or to be self-financing within 10 years.

Applications for collaborative or discrete research projects are equally welcome under this scheme. Applications from international groups of scholars are welcome, provided there is a UK-based scholar as lead applicant.

Funds are available to <u>facilitate initial project planning and development</u>; to support the direct costs of research; and to enable the advancement of research through workshops or visits by or to partner scholars. Applicants may seek support for any combination of eligible activity and cost up to the overall limit of £5,000 per annum. The Academy will assess applications equally on their merits, with no preference as to mode of enquiry.

All applications should demonstrate that funds are sought for a clearly defined programme to develop primary research resources for collective benefit or research resources leading to fundamental works of scholarship.

NB - The British Academy welcomes proposals for high-quality research in all its subject areas. While all proposals should be situated in an appropriate field of study, they may vary considerably in their approach to conceptualisation, methodology and/or outputs, depending on the discipline. In some cases, creative and professional practice may play a significant role in shaping the methods and/or outcomes of research. In all proposals, whether practice-led or not, a clear scholarly rationale is required for the choice of research methods, processes and outputs.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants should be at postdoctoral or equivalent level, in the fields of the humanities and/or the social sciences. Equivalent experience may include holding, or having held, an established post, having a record of publications in the field and/or having teaching experience.

- Postgraduate students are not eligible to apply.

- Applicants must be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands (that is, classed as 'ordinarily resident' for tax purposes) **or** currently employed overseas by a recognised UK overseas research organisation.

- UK research organisations based overseas may apply to be recognised by demonstrating that they satisfy **both** the following conditions:
    1. Organisations which are, or which are constituent parts of, charities registered with the Charity Commission.
    2. Which must be able to demonstrate an independent capability to undertake research in the field or discipline in which they wish to be funded, and to lead the research for which funding is received.

- Applications are welcome from existing collaborations/research infrastructure projects that are already in progress and have prepared or published material previously. Awards of funding under this scheme will, however, only be made to support new work, not retrospectively providing reimbursement for work already undertaken.

Please note the earliest point at which research can commence, and to help regulate the flow of applications, the latest starting date is 01/09/2025. The Academy is inviting proposals in this round with the **closing date noted below**.

Opening date	Closing date	Research to commence	Result notified by
21/08/2024	**22/11/2024**	**01/04/2025**	**By 30th March 2025**

Eligible Costs

Funds may be sought to cover the direct expenses incurred in planning, conducting, and developing the research, including:

- project planning and development costs (cost of travel for discussion in the UK and overseas; initial workshops with potential partners)
- travel and maintenance for UK scholars; including travel to disseminate results of the research at conferences held either in the UK or abroad
- travel and maintenance for overseas scholars engaged in collaborative research activity with UK partner(s)
- research assistance (based in UK or abroad)
- workshops or conferences to advance the programme of research (principally the costs of travel and maintenance for key participants, though organisational costs may be considered)
- consumables
- specialist software including preparation of a website

- costs of interpreters in the field
- costs of editorial tasks, e.g Copy-editing, Proof reading etc.

Bids for the cost of child or parent care may be considered if the carer is conducting research away from home and it is not possible to make alternative arrangements. The costs of normal regular childcare whilst at home are <u>not</u> eligible for support. Consumables include the purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc, and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the project. Applicants may apply for short-term consultancy or salary costs for expert staff, or short periods of research assistance. Provided they are central to the research process and an adequate case is made, the costs of preparing illustrations (including photography, acquisition of images, draughtsmanship and cartography or other bespoke illustrative material) may be considered. The cost of reproduction rights for text or images may be considered provided there is a contract for publication in place. Costs associated with deposit of digital material in an appropriately accessible repository may be considered. If an application is purely for technical or practical work with no research objective, it is not eligible for funding. Incidental translation expenses may be considered.

Additional Needs Funding – The British Academy has set aside specific funding to support any additional needs that applicants and award holders may have. This funding is available both to applicants, to assist in making an application to British Academy schemes, and award holders. Funding is managed outside of the Visiting Fellowships application process. Further information can be found here: https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/additional-needs/

The following items are **not currently eligible** for funding (applicants registered with special needs may consult the Academy about possible exceptions):

- Institutional overheads, or any element that should properly be ascribed to institutional overheads
- Computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc; books and other permanent resources
- Payment to the principal researcher(s) in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home
- Replacement teaching costs
- Travel and maintenance expenses for purposes such as lecture tours or to write up the results of research.

Level and Duration of the Award

Up to £25,000 in the first instance (over 5 years) with the expectation that the projects will be reviewed for further funding if necessary.

Applicants will be asked to specify the expected duration of their project, understanding that the projects should set out a clear plan to move to financial self-stability after a fixed period of core funding from the Academy.

Applications to multiple British Academy Schemes

An application cannot be accepted if there is a report outstanding on any previous research grant awarded by the Academy to the principal investigator or co-applicant(s) named in the current proposal. Failure to follow this guidance will result in your application being withdrawn from this round of competition.

If you have any queries about this, please contact us so that we can review your request prior to the application deadline.

Nominated Referee

Applicants are required to nominate one referee and ensure that the supporting statement from their chosen referee is submitted on the British Academy Flexi-Grant® Grant Management System (GMS) by the application submission deadline. Please note this deadline is final.

The reference must be submitted before the application can be approved. Any application without a supporting reference will not be able to be submitted. Please also note that the reference must be submitted in time to allow you to submit the application for approval by your employing organisation for the same deadline.

Your referee must be drawn from outside your own employing institution and from outside the employing institution of your co-applicant(s), if any. The referee must also not be involved in the project being proposed for support.

Before listing your referee on your application form you should seek permission from them that they are happy to provide this by the deadline. It is essential that you enter the correct email address for your referee, otherwise your referee will not receive the automated messages delivered from the British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS. We strongly advise that you complete your application as early as possible to allow your referee enough time to provide their reference in the system**.** An application cannot be considered for an award unless the proposal and reference have been submitted on time.

Please note that references <u>must</u> be provided through Flexigrant. They cannot be provided as an email attachment nor sent by post in hard copy. <u>Any references received after the deadline, or outside of the system, or by another academic at the same institution as you or a co-applicant(s) will not be accepted, and your application will be withdrawn from this competition.</u>

Code of Practice

The Academy has a Code of Practice for assessing research applications, setting out the principles of equity, integrity and confidentiality governing the treatment of all applications for research support. The Code of Practice also covers Data Protection, the Academy's ethics policy and the appeals procedure. The Code of Practice may be viewed on the Academy's website at https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/code-practice.

Feedback is not a feature of the Academy Research Project scheme, and the Academy is, regretfully, unable to enter correspondence regarding the decisions of the awarding Committee, which are governed by the Code of Practice. Please note that by applying in this scheme, applicants undertake to accept the terms under which applications are assessed.