

The British Academy

Research Funding

Dr Ken Emond (Head of Research Awards)
Kate Kenyon (International Officer)

Who we are

- National academy
- Learned society
- Grant-giving body



Our subject areas

- The Humanities
- The Social Sciences

Other societies

- The Royal Society
- The Royal Academy of Engineering
- The Academy of Medical Sciences
- The Royal Society of Edinburgh



Relation to Research Councils

The British Academy

- ESRC – social sciences
- AHRC – arts and humanities



Current BA objectives

- Individuals
- International engagement
- Excellence and engagement
- Languages and Quantitative Skills



Division of spend 2012-13



- Research, £16m
- International, £6.5m
- LQS, £1.2m
- Policy, Public Engagement and Other Costs £1.7m

Research and international spend 2012-13



- Postdoctoral Fellowships, £10.5m
- Mid-Career Fellowships, inc sunsetting BARDA, £4.6m
- Small Research Grants, £0.9m plus £0.5m from Leverhulme Trust
- Newton International Fellowships, £1.4m
- IPM and International Activities, £1m

Languages and Quantitative Skills

Aims to:

- Demonstrate the value and significance of languages and quantitative skills;
- Build capacity, and alongside other key stakeholders, support the development of languages and quantitative skills at targeted levels.



Available research support

- Humanities and social sciences
- Postdoctoral level
- Applicants resident in the UK
- Complement the schemes of the AHRC and ESRC
- Major focus on individuals through Postdoctoral and Mid-Career Fellowships
- New International partnerships and mobility

Research Awards & Int'l Schemes

- Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)
- Mid-Career Fellowships (MCF)
- Senior Research Fellowships (SRF)
- BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants (SG)
- (NEW) Skills Acquisition Awards (SQ)
- BA/Wolfson Research Professorships (WRP)
- International Partnership & Mobility (IPM)
- Newton International Fellowships (NIF)

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- currently offering up to 45 awards each year
- tenable for three years
 - experience of independent research
 - introduction to teaching
 - career development
 - output and dissemination

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Annual competition
- 2-stage application process
- Deadline for outline applications Oct 2012
- Shortlist announced in February
- Final awards announced in May
- Awards to be taken up from Sep 2013
- Heavy competition – 900+ applications last year
- High priority scheme

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- 747 applications in 2012-13, expect 45 awards
- 923 applications in 2011-12, 45 awards, 4.8% success rate
- 826 applications in 2011, 47 awards expected, 5.7% success rate
- 900 applications in 2010, 45 awards, 5% success rate

Skills Acquisition Awards

- Open to early career scholars employed at UK universities
- Awards for up to 1 year: relationship building, learning from mentor
- Emphasis on real outcomes in skills development
- Deadline for applications was on 31 October 2012

Mid-Career Fellowships (1 year)

- Mid-career (research and communication)
- 2-stage selection process
- Success rate under 10%, likely to be around 35 awards
- Awards for 6-12 months: research leave, FEC basis
- Emphasis on:
 - Strength of research proposal
 - Communication to a broad audience

BA/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships

7 awards each year, tenable for one year

- to complete major programme of research
- relief from teaching and administration
- Non-FEC, sponsored by Leverhulme Trust
- Deadline was 14 November 2012; decisions announced in February
- Awards tenable from the following autumn

BA/Wolfson Research Professorships

- Open to outstanding scholars employed at UK universities
 - Awards for 3 years: career-transforming research
 - 4 Professorships to be offered
 - Deadline is on 28 November 2012
 - Awards from September 2013
- 

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

- Restored scheme, now with additional funding from Leverhulme Trust
- Awards £10k, tenable for up to 24 months
- Commonly used for pilot studies, small-scale projects
- Worldwide in scope, international partners
- High priority in Academy portfolio
- Wide outreach: over 120 HEIs in last financial year

BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

- Two rounds of competition per year
- Competition opens Feb for deadline on 10 April 2013
- Awards for research to start between 1 Sep and 31 Mar
- Next round in autumn for deadline in November 2013
- Awards for research to start between Apr and Aug 2014

Academy Research Projects

- Recognition of c. 50 long-term infrastructural projects
- Datasets of fundamental resources
- Support for British contribution to collaborative international enterprises
- Occasional Call for new proposals, most recently in November 2011

International



International Aims

Representation

Partnerships

Funding

Communication



Sponsored Overseas Institutes

- Includes 6 research institutes with premises in Ankara, Athens, Nairobi, Tehran, Rome, Amman, Jerusalem



European Consortium for Asian Field Study

- Access to 23 field centres across Asia



Newton International Fellowships

Run by two national academies (Royal Society, British Academy)

- Supports visits by foreign scholars to the UK for up to two years
- Covers any discipline within remit of RS and BA
- Electronic application via RS e-Gap system
- Next round in spring for deadline April 2013
- See www.newtonfellowships.org

International Funding

- International Partnership and Mobility Scheme

Support for research partnerships between UK scholars and scholars in Africa, East Asia, the Middle East, Latin America & Caribbean, and South Asia

3-year and 1-year awards: £10,000 per year

Next deadline in February 2013

Evaluation Criteria

For all awards:

- academic merit
- originality of proposal
- relationship to and volume of research already in the field
- feasibility of research programme
- specificity of scheme of research
- intended outcomes

Evaluation Criteria

Research Posts: additional factors:

- For PDFs: potential to go on to a successful academic career as a teacher in higher education
- For MCFs: the communication plan and the public benefit of the intended outcomes
- For Senior Fellows: how pressing is the need for the research time applied for

Evaluation Criteria

International awards: additional factors

- The match between partners involved
- Appropriateness of planned activities for developing the partnership
- Degree to which collaboration within the partner area is encouraged
- Ways in which knowledge development is encouraged
- Outcome of the project, both academic and in terms of plans for continued links

Peer Review

- assessment procedures proportionate to scale of funding
- subject specialists within Academy
- for international grants, may also use area specialists
- recommendations confirmed by Award Committees, in light of budget available
- Code of Practice for all assessors

Bournemouth University

Recent and current awards include:

- Fabian Homberg (Business School) *Investigating Public Service Motivation in Europe* – BA Small Research Grant, £7,474
- Professor Holger Schutkowski (School of Applied Sciences) *The Interrelationship of Diet and Status in Early Medieval Alamannic Societies* – BA Small Research Grant, £4,130



Public engagement

- Media
- Websites
- Blogs
- Social Media
- Conferences/talks
- Books/publications
- Partnerships



CAMPUS ROUND-UP
University of Sheffield
Simon says...remember this?
A university has launched a website chronicling the history of children's games, songs and nursery rhymes. The University of Sheffield's Childhoods and Play project, funded by the [British Academy](#), aims to develop an interactive online archive that will eventually contain information contributed by more than 20,000 young people. It will also incorporate the full archive of observations and sound recordings made by renowned folklorists Iona and Peter Opie, whose works include *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*.
• www.opieproject.group.shef.ac.uk



Deborah Sugg Ryan @DeborahSuggRyan 18 Oct
Researched history of @ideal_home_show at Media 10 for new edition of my book on show's history funded by @britac_news mid-career fellowship
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