English Language Teaching Research Partnerships Awards

As part of our work in English, we seek to establish links between policy, research and communities of practice between Sri Lanka and the UK. To stimulate innovative research and encourage classroom-based action research in English language learning and teaching, we are launching the English Language Teaching Research Partnerships (ELTReP) Awards in Sri Lanka in May 2014, in line with similar award schemes in the UK and in India.

The ELTReP Awards are essentially for small or medium scale research projects and can be viewed as seed-funding for bigger projects. However, ELTReP Awards are not meant to support or contribute towards formal M Phil or PhD work.

The purpose of the ELTReP Awards are to:

• Facilitate and strengthen the production of high quality research from Sri Lanka relevant to the Sri Lankan ELT community.
• Document innovative classroom practice in Sri Lanka using rigorous action-research methodology.
• Improve access for ELT policy makers and professionals worldwide to high quality and relevant research from Sri Lanka and the UK.
• Facilitate and encourage the establishment and maintenance of active research links between ELT professionals and policy makers in Sri Lanka and the UK.
• Support British Council Sri Lanka’s overall objectives in English in Education Systems.

The British Council aims to facilitate the production of innovative research to benefit the learning and teaching of English in Sri Lanka, by co-funding a number of research awards.

Eligibility:
Any person resident in Sri Lanka and professionally involved in the research and / or teaching of English language (NOT literature), affiliated to an educational institution in Sri Lanka. The award agreement may be with either the individual or the institution.

Note: The applicant must be a resident in Sri Lanka, and the research must also, in whole or in part, be relevant to Sri Lanka. A research proposal that links with UK ELT practices, professionals and institutions is highly desirable. The research output must have wider international application.

Activities Considered for the Award:
The British Council is particularly interested in research within the following areas:

• English teaching in bi-lingual and multilingual contexts
• Learning and teaching of English for Young Learners
• ICT and new technologies in ELT
• Teacher education and training
• English language testing and assessment and applications of the Common European Framework of Languages
• English for development: social, economic, political aspects of English, education, and language teaching.
There must be a clear research output which must be in a form that can be shared publicly and without cost throughout the world. In addition to this output, researchers are encouraged to publish further outputs elsewhere, for example in peer-reviewed journals and at conferences.

The research must not have already been completed or be under way.

The research output / final report must be in English (though there may be a version in another language as well).

Successful applicants must produce a final report on the project, and in the case of longer projects, an interim report. This would normally include the rationale, methodology, findings, discussion, implications, and references.

Funding will only be agreed for a maximum initial period of one year. This scheme is not intended to fund the field work of PhD candidates or similar research leading to an academic degree. We define research as original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding.

**Criteria for Selection:**

Proposals shall be selected based on:

- The potential impact of the research on ELT practice.
- The relevance of the project and research output to ELT professionals.
- 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.
- The proposals’ contribution to the aims of the scheme, including international research collaboration where appropriate.
- Linking proposed research with UK ELT practice, professionals and institutions is highly desirable, but not essential.

**How will an award be made?**

A panel of external ELT specialists and British Council staff with professional ELT experience will evaluate each proposal against the above criteria. The Deputy Director of 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. As part of the evaluation we may ask for confidential advice from external experts. 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.

**Award amount:**

**Awards may be made for amounts up to a maximum of 2000 GBP, payable in SLR.** Our intention is to encourage a wide range of new research and as funds are limited, we may favour the lower cost proposals

- 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).
• Our standard timing for the payment of awards will be 50% on acceptance of the award, and 50% following the receipt of a satisfactory final report. However, individual needs will be taken into account.

**Conditions for the award:**

• The British Council will own the intellectual property rights of the research output / final report or have the right 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 English Language Learning and Teaching Research Award Scheme in any written or spoken dissemination of the research process and all outputs arising from it.
• For successful proposals, the British Council reserves the right to make freely and publicly available, information on the proposal form, any reports and research output.
• The British Council will inform applicants if the proposal is successful of not. It will not offer feedback, 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.

**Benefits of the awards:**

• 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 Award scheme.
• Support with access to appropriate partners, teachers and learners overseas as agreed on a case by case basis.

**Research dissemination by the British Council:**

While we are still planning how research proposals and outputs will be disseminated, we currently envisage:

• Announcements of awards and project summaries to be posted on British Council websites.
• Full research outputs and project reports as appropriate to be published on British Council websites.
• Annual hardcopy, digital and e-book compilations of selected project outputs and reports to be published and distributed to British Council ELT contacts worldwide.
• Invitations to researchers to attend relevant meetings, seminars and conferences worldwide with the support of British Council and its partners at the British Council’s discretion.
Dates to remember:

- Proposals must be received in by the British Council by **Monday 18 July 2014**.
- Decision on awards will be made by **4 August 2014**.
- The grants will be made by **1 September 2014** and the research must start in **October 2014** and end by **October 2015**.
- The final report of the research project must be delivered within **1 December 2015**.