

British Academy

Academic Careers Observatory
Early Career Research Funding

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10-11 Carlton House Terrace,
London, SW1Y 5AH

Discover more at
thebritishacademy.ac.uk



Our Subject Areas

- The Humanities
- The Social Sciences

In most schemes, there are no thematic priorities and the aim is to support research across the whole range of Social Sciences and Humanities subject areas.

We work closely with the other National Academies and Research Councils



Focus of Research Funding

- Postdoctoral Research
- Support at particular key career path moments
- Largely response-mode funding schemes, but increasing opportunities for challenge-led grants
- Individuals
- International engagement
- Communication of scholarly findings



Brief Introduction to Research Award Schemes

- Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)
- Newton International Fellowships (NIF)
- Tackling the UK's International Challenges (TUKIC)
- BA Rising Star Engagement Awards (BARSEA)
- BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants (SG)

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Three year Fellowship for early career researchers offering major career development opportunity
- Currently offering up to 45 awards each year, plus 10 Global Talent awards
- Level of competition around 600 applications, giving success rate under 10%



Postdoctoral Fellowships

Key characteristics

- Career development
- Focus on independent research
- Experience of teaching, but limited requirements
- Building on doctoral research, but focus on second research project
- Eligibility – open to global talent, but very early career researchers with UK university host



Postdoctoral Fellowships

Process

- Annual competition offered through two-stage selection process
- Outline call for proposals, deadline expected October 2019
- Shortlist announced by end January
- Final awards confirmed in May
- Awards to be taken up between September and January following

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Success Rates over past 5 years



International Programmes

- The British Academy funds a range of international programmes, including Newton International Fellowships and Newton Fund schemes, which support excellence in the UK and overseas, promote international collaboration and harness the expertise of the social sciences and humanities to tackle global challenges.

Newton International Fellowships

Key characteristics

- Two year individual career development Fellowship
- International researchers with no prior connection to UK academic community to come and research at UK host institution, with mentor
- Funding includes contribution to living expenses and research expenses
- Alumni funding if leave UK at end to continue collaboration
- Level of competition around 250 applications, giving success rate under 10%

Newton International Fellowships

Eligibility

- No more than seven years of active full-time postdoctoral experience at time of application
- Includes those in final stages of doctorate (provided viva before start of Fellowship)
- Candidates based outside UK and not UK citizens at time of application
- Individuals already living, working or researching in UK not eligible

TUKIC and Knowledge Frontiers

- Awards support interdisciplinary projects which bear on our understanding of the UK's international challenges and opportunities (past, present and future) or engage with questions concerning the relationship between expertise, public understanding and policy delivery
- International co-applicants are strongly encouraged
- Awards of 18 months and up to £50k



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British Academy Rising Star Engagement Awards

Grant of up to £15k for 12 months not for research but to enable networking and activity to take place benefitting early career researchers in particular

First awarded in 2015, and three cohorts to date

Expected to offer up to 35 awards

Interest expanding – last year over 90 applications were submitted

FBA champion



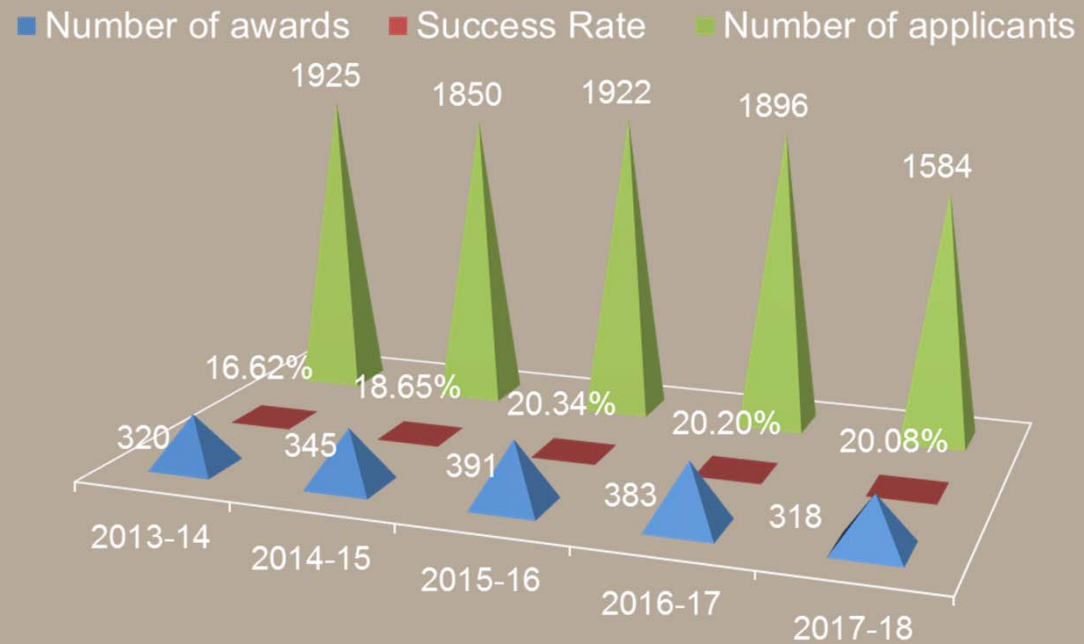
BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

- Dedicated BEIS funding for 2018-19
- Funding from Leverhulme Trust renewed
- Additional funding from around 30 other sources
- 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: around 100 HEIs



BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants

Success Rates over past 5 years



Evaluation Criteria

For all awards, the Academy above all looks for:

- excellence of research
- originality
- relationship to work already done in the field
- track record of applicant (appropriate to the aim of the scheme)
- feasibility of timescale and methodology
- specificity and appropriateness of intended outcomes.



Peer Review

Assessment procedures are proportionate to scale of funding requested.

Two-stage process for PDFs – significant career-defining opportunity

Simpler process for SRGs – more awards for significantly smaller value

Subject specialists within the Academy

Code of Practice for all assessors



Top Tips

- Read. Read. Then read some more
- Discuss your application with colleagues and your Research Office
- Make it interesting!
- Be realistic
- Try not to be Gollum...
- Become familiar with guidance/electronic systems



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