



Background

1. The Froebel Trust is a UK-based early years education charity which aims to promote the value and relevance of Froebelian principles to the education and learning of children in the 21st century.
2. Friedrich Froebel was a German educator who devised a set of principles and practices which formed part of an interactive education process which he named 'Kindergarten.' Froebel emphasised the importance of educating rich and poor children together so that all children are able to access education based on his principles. The Trust is concerned that children, who through life circumstances have had fewer opportunities and experiences, are increasingly given an education that emphasises acquiring basic skills, literacy, numeracy and adult directed experiences rather than the opportunities to develop creativity and self-activity which Froebelian principles emphasise. Their access to the very experiences and ways of learning that other children benefit from, and that promote real learning, are limited, thus increasing their disadvantage.
3. The Froebel Trust promotes the principles developed by Froebel and our vision is a world in which childhood is valued in its own right and each child's capacity and potential is recognised. To achieve this, we advance the following Froebelian principles for the education and care of children up to the age of eight:
 - The integrity of childhood in its own right
 - The relationship of every child to family, community, nature, culture and society
 - The uniqueness of every child's capacity and potential
 - The holistic nature of the development of every child
 - The role of play and creativity as central integrating elements in development and learning
 - The right of children to protection from harm or abuse and to the promotion of their overall well-being
4. As part of meeting its charitable objectives, the Froebel Trust provides PhD bursaries to support students undertaking research with a Froebelian focus relating to early childhood. The Trust takes seriously its role in supporting the development of our bursary holders to enable them to successfully complete their studies and to progress into a career that will build on their understanding and knowledge of Froebelian principles.

Froebel Trust PhD Bursaries 2019

5. The Froebel Trust is offering two PhD Bursaries (full time or part time) to foster research which advances the development and application of Froebelian principles to early years (age 0-8). The Bursaries will enable outstanding students to pursue a PhD at a UK university or analogous research institution.

6. Candidates will be notified about the outcome of their application by October 2019.

The bursaries are available therefore for a January 2020 start. Applications from candidates due to commence their studies in September 2020 will also be considered, with any bursary payable from September 2020 (i.e. there will be no retrospective payments).

Research priorities

7. In order to be considered all proposals must demonstrate how they meet the Trust's Research Priorities. The objectives of our research strand are to:

- a. Contribute to deepening understanding of:
 - i. The theoretical underpinning of Froebelian principles
 - ii. How Froebelian principles may contribute to high quality early childhood development, care and education
- b. Provide evidence of how effective practice that follows those principles can be developed and supported for children in care and education settings

8. We have five major priorities:

- a. Access to high quality early years provision for families in disadvantaged areas: *What are the particular difficulties faced by families in disadvantaged areas in accessing provision and in what ways may Froebelian Principles inform the strengthening of the capacity of provision to work in partnership with families?*
- b. Transition to primary school: *What are the challenges facing children and families in the transition from early years to primary school? What models are there of how these challenges have been mitigated? What evidence is there of the impact of these models on children's well-being and attainment?*
- c. Nurturing high quality, stable and sensitive interactions between staff and children/families: *What models of continuing professional development (CPD) are being used to promote stability and sensitivity of interaction between staff and children and what is the contribution of a Froebelian approach here? What evidence is there of the effectiveness of different models of CPD? If the importance of 'competent' systems as well as 'competent' practitioners is accepted, what evidence is there of the key features of a competent system to facilitate effective CPD? What are the key features of a successful key person approach?*
- d. Developing playful pedagogy and resourcing for play
- e. Finding pedagogies that are inclusive of and celebrate diversity (including white children from lower income backgrounds, and ethnic, linguistic, socio-economic status)

Eligibility

9. Students must live within reasonable proximity to the University at which they are registered, and we would expect there to be direct contact between the student and supervisor. This applies to full-time and part-time students.
10. To be eligible for a full-time award (including maintenance and fees), students must:
 - be ordinarily resident in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay; and
 - have been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for at least three years prior to the start of the bursary. This means students must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences); and
 - not have been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. (This does not apply to UK nationals and EU nationals who were ordinarily resident in the EU immediately before the period of full-time education).
11. For purposes of resident requirements, the UK includes the United Kingdom and Islands (e.g. the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).
12. These eligibility criteria are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments. These regulations cover England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. www.legislation.gov.uk/2007
13. The Trust places full reliance on residential eligibility approval checks undertaken by the University. In the event that any funded student was subsequently found to be ineligible, this would require cancellation of the grant and recovery of sums paid, for which the Trust would hold the University liable.
14. The Trust will consider applications from international students seeking to undertake a PhD at a UK university, however the tuition fees and maintenance grant amounts to be paid will be equivalent to those for UK residents and therefore may only represent a proportion of the total amount that non-UK students typically have to pay to attend UK universities. Any award offered to international students will be conditional upon the student providing evidence to demonstrate that they have met the requirements relating to International English Language Tests and/ or visas for study in the UK, if applicable.
15. The Trust is supportive of part-time students and applicants for part-time bursaries compete on an equal footing with full-time students. Bursaries for part-time study are calculated on a pro rata basis.
16. If a student already holds an award from, or is otherwise financially supported by, another organisation and the Trust considers that award, or other form of support, to be sufficient to cover maintenance and/or tuition fees, the student will not be eligible for an award from the Trust.
17. Students who receive scholarships or grants from sources where the income is clearly inadequate or not in excess of a Trust award may apply for a Trust bursary.

18. Applicants for / recipients of a Trust PhD bursary are not precluded from holding or applying for a Postgraduate Doctoral Loan.

19. It is the responsibility of the University to verify that students possess the relevant qualifications and relevant experience.

For more information about the Trust's terms and conditions for PhD bursaries, please see the Terms and Conditions document on the Trust website

The Bursaries

20. Bursaries cover tuition fees and a maintenance stipend, and are based upon the prevailing rates offered by ESRC to PhD candidates. Thus the maximum total funding available for each bursary is the sum of the publicised ESRC standard maintenance grant plus the tuition fees. The maximum available in the year 2019/20 is:

- Standard maintenance grant: £15,009
- Fees: £4,327
- Total: £19,336

21. A candidate starting their PhD in 2019/20 would therefore be entitled to approximately £59,765. This is based on an estimated annual 3% increase. Approximate annual sums have been calculated as follows:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total
Standard maintenance grant	£15,009	£15,459	£15,923	£46,391
Fees	£4,327	£4,457	£4,590	£13,374
Total	£19,336	£19,916	£20,513	£59,765

22. A maximum of the equivalent of three years' funding is available and the Trust is willing to consider applications to spread this sum over six years.

23. Successful applicants will be able to apply for additional funding to support their attendance at conferences, study visits, and presenting papers in the UK and internationally. The Trust's PhD bursary holders can apply at any time during the year. Each student is entitled to apply for a maximum of £1,000 per year during their course of study.

24. The Trust prioritises the payment of tuition fees, and should fees be higher than the ESRC rate, any maintenance stipend is reduced accordingly. Candidates should note that in the event that tuition fees are lower than the ESRC rate, the maintenance stipend will not be increased.

25. Students who defer during the PhD must notify the Trust immediately. They are not eligible for payments during the period of deferment.

26. Tuition fees and maintenance stipends are paid directly to the institution.

Application process

27. Completed applications should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 3 May 2019 - you can apply on this link - <https://www.tfaforms.com/4666346>

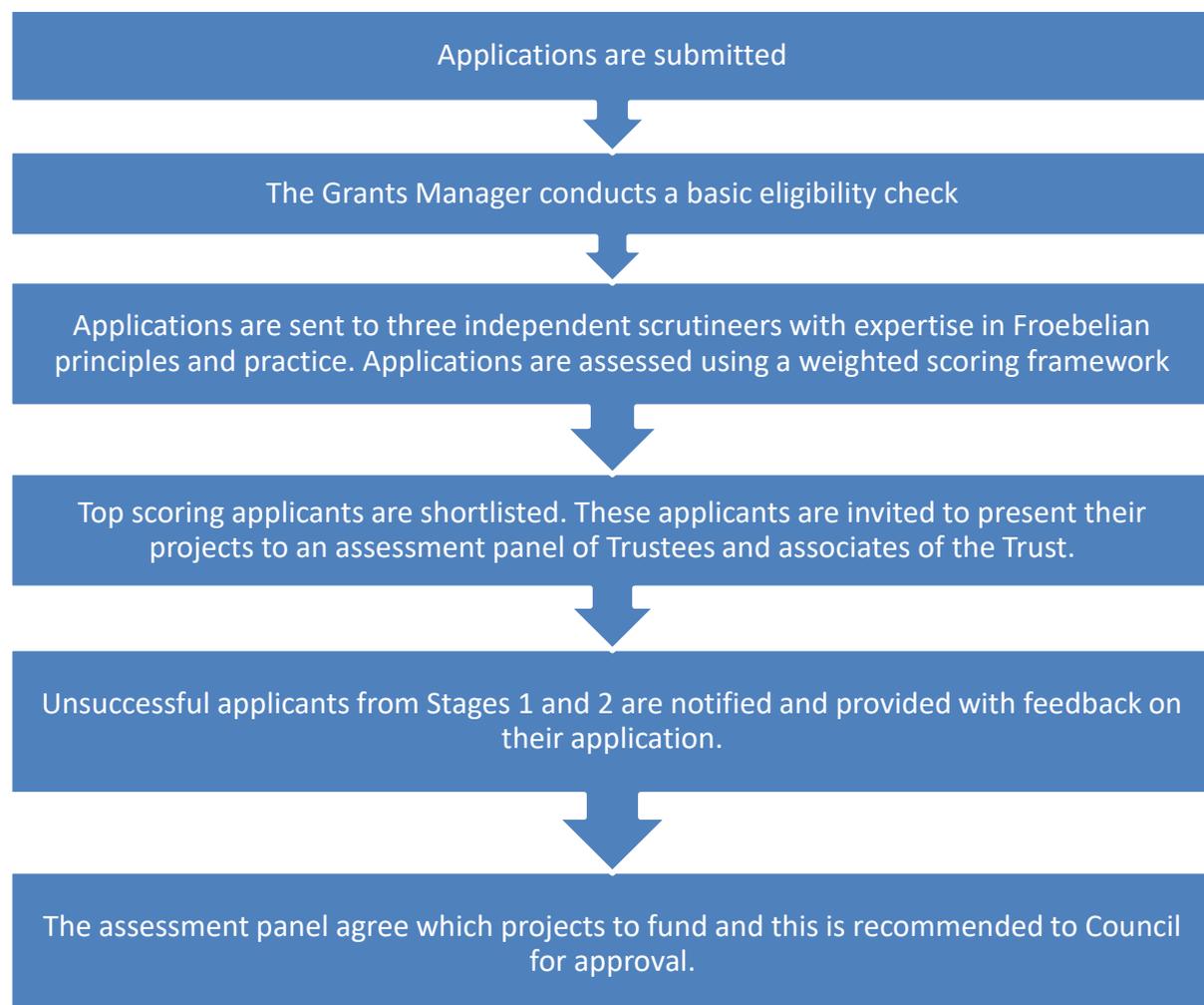
28. All eligible applications will be considered via our scrutiny and grants process. **Applications that do not meet our basic eligibility criteria including those for research subjects that are unconnected to Froebelian principles will be immediately unsuccessful and will not go to scrutiny.**

29. The decision of the Froebel Trust will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough and informed assessment process. The Trust reserves the right not to enter into any correspondence about the assessment process and/or any subsequent monitoring procedures.

30. Successful applicants will be required to submit annual progress reports to the Trust, a final report following the Award of PhD, and a summary report to go on the Trust's website.

Assessment process

31. The table below illustrates the assessment process for each application:



32. Applications are reviewed against the following criteria:
- How the project advances Froebelian thinking or application
 - Whether the proposal addresses one of the Trust's research priorities and to what extent
 - The previous experience and capacity of the individual and institution to carry out the research
 - The design, scope and methodology of the work proposed
33. The most common reasons why applications are not successful are that:
- The proposal did not have enough explicit links to Froebelian thinking or practice
 - The proposal did not reference relevant Froebelian literature
 - The proposal did not have direct links to the Froebel Trust's research priorities