



Open Call Research Grants – Guidance for Applicants

Please read these guidelines carefully before making an application.

About the Froebel Trust

1. Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) was a pioneering German educator whose enduring influence has spread far and wide. He devised a set of principles and practices which formed part of an interactive education process, which he named 'Kindergarten.'
2. The Froebel Trust is a UK-based charity, which promotes the value and relevance of Froebelian principles in the 21st century. Our principles are:
 - 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
3. The Froebel Trust's vision is of a world in which childhood is valued in its own right and each child's capacity and potential is recognised. It is one in which all young children (birth to eight years) have access to high quality educational experiences based on Froebelian principles.

About Open Call Research Grants

4. The Froebel Trust funds high quality research, which builds upon and contributes to knowledge and understanding of Froebelian philosophy, principles and approaches. This includes critical studies and impact evaluations. The Trust aims to use its funded research to inform discussions with policy makers and to provide resources for parents and professionals who work with young children and their families.
5. Our Open Call is announced once a year. In 2019, **the application window opens on Monday 15 June and closes at 5pm (UK time) on Thursday 19 September.** Applicants

will hear the outcome of their application in December 2019. Awards will be announced on our website in January 2020.

6. The Trust will fund research projects lasting between 12 months and three years. Projects may start at any time **between 2 January and 30 September 2020**.
7. Questions about the Open Call Research Grants scheme and / or the application process should be sent to our Grants Manager, Deborah Brodie by 19 September 2019. Please email: Deborah@froebeltrust.org.uk or telephone 0208 8878 7546. Please note that regrettably, **we cannot provide feedback on unsuccessful applications**, which do not progress to the shortlisting stage.
8. While the Trust does not set a minimum or maximum budget, applicants should note that the average research grant awarded in 2018 was £30,000. Please note that the Trust is interested in projects which demonstrate strong value for money and therefore applicants should factor this into proposals if they wish to apply for a large or multi-year grant.
9. Successful applicants will be required to sign a Deed of Grant, the Terms and Conditions of which are not negotiable. A copy of our standard Deed of Grant is available on request.

Eligibility and What Our Grants Cover

10. The scheme is open to research and educational institutions and individuals who share our goal of increasing and advancing knowledge and debate about Froebelian principles and their application in the teaching, learning and development of children from birth to 8 years. We actively encourage new applicants who have not previously received funding from the Trust.
11. Applicants do not need to be based in the UK but applications should be written in English and budgets should be in GB £ sterling.
12. Partnership projects are welcome. In such cases, a lead institution should be identified. In all cases, one named person should act as Lead Applicant. This is the individual with whom the Trust will correspond about the application and (if successful) the project. The Lead Applicant is normally considered by the Trust to be contractual partner; the grant holder (i.e. the recipient of the grant funding); and with responsibility for meeting the terms and conditions of the award.
13. Research grants can cover the costs of:
 - Personnel costs directly incurred exclusively in relation to the project, including salary/visiting lecturer replacement or cover

- Direct activity and production costs including venue hire, equipment and materials, project travel costs, costs of attendance at relevant conferences
- Project administration costs where these are not already covered by other funding
- Project publicity costs, including launch event costs
- Disclosure and Barring Service checks for applications in the UK and NI
- VAT on fees where the VAT cannot be reclaimed

14. Grants cannot cover the costs of:

- Full economic costs
- Salary costs of staff who are already funded by their organization
- Core overheads of the applying organisation not related to the project, i.e. heating, rent, etc.
- Expenses incurred in submitting an application (including attending interviews)
- Bursaries or other costs for Masters degrees or PhDs
- Costs arising prior to the start date of the project

Key Considerations

15. Applicants must demonstrate how their proposal maps against the Trust's Five-Year Strategy and research priorities. This includes showing how your proposal aligns with our principles, research priorities and strategic objectives.

The Trust's named **Froebelian principles** are:

- a) The integrity of childhood in its own right
- b) The relationship of every child to family, community, nature, culture and society
- c) The uniqueness of every child's capacity and potential
- d) The holistic nature of the development of every child
- e) The role of play and creativity as central integrating elements in development and learning
- f) The right of children to protection from harm or abuse and to the promotion of their overall well-being

The Trust's five major **research priorities** are:

- a) Access to high quality early years provision for families in disadvantaged areas
- b) Transition to primary school
- c) Nurturing high quality, stable and sensitive interactions between adults / staff and children / families
- d) Developing pedagogies of play and resourcing for play
- e) Finding pedagogies that are inclusive of and celebrate diversity

The Trust's **strategic objectives for research** are:

- a) To contribute to deepening understanding of:
 - The theoretical underpinning of Froebelian principles

- How Froebelian principles may contribute to high quality early childhood development, care and education
- b) To provide evidence of how effective practice that follows those principles can be developed and supported for children in care and education settings

The Trust's strategy can be viewed on our website here: www.froebel.org.uk/about-us/

The Application Process

16. An online application form is on the Trust's website here: www.froebel.org.uk/apply/

17. The online application will ask you to provide:

- General information about the lead applicant(s) and project team
- Details about your proposed research and its fit with the Froebel Trust's aims
- Budget details in an Excel spreadsheet
- Data protection and (optional) equalities information

18. All eligible applications will be considered via our scrutiny and grants process.

Applications that do not meet our basic eligibility criteria, including those for projects that are unconnected to Froebelian principles, will be immediately unsuccessful and will not go to scrutiny.

19. 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.

20. Successful applicants will be required to submit operational and financial monitoring reports during the grant period. The Trust will also conduct a monitoring visit during the project to meet with grant recipients and understand how the project is progressing. Sample monitoring forms can be downloaded from the Trust's website here: www.froebel.org.uk/apply/

Assessment process

21. The table overleaf illustrates the assessment process for each application.

22. 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 budget was not sufficiently justified
- The proposal did not have direct links to the Froebel Trust's research priorities

23. Applications are reviewed against the following criteria:

- The extent to which the project develops understanding, interest and/or debate about Froebelian principles
- The originality of the project

- The feasibility of the project and the quality of its management
- The extent to which the project supports delivery of the Trust's strategic priorities
- The potential impact of the project
- Whether the project includes effective evaluation and dissemination plans
- Whether the budget has been sufficiently justified and the value for money the proposal offers

