

FAQs for Open Call Research Grants

We will add to these FAQs as and when we receive and respond to any enquiries from applicants. If your question isn't covered here, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

The Froebel Trust funds high quality research, which builds upon and contributes to knowledge and understanding of Froebelian philosophy, principles and approaches to education and care. This includes critical studies and impact evaluations. The Trust aims to use its funded research to provide insights and resources for parents and professionals who work with young children and their families, and to inform policymaking.

Can I apply for a grant?

Applications are welcome from any country. To be eligible to apply for a grant, applicants must be able to answer 'yes' to all of the following questions:

- Does the lead applicant work in an institution that will support the proposed research?
- Can the institution accept a grant from the Froebel Trust, which will be ring-fenced for the project?
- Does the applicant / team possess a proven track record of experience in the topic proposed?
- Are you affiliated with a research and/or educational institution which shares your 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?
- Can you demonstrate that advancing Froebelian education and learning is central to your project aims?

In addition, we do not fund:

- Proposals by individuals who are not affiliated with a specific organization
- Projects that are not connected to a Froebelian ethos and philosophy
- Requests for financial help for capital costs. The projects are primarily for research activities, and we expect that most of the budget will be for staff time.

I work with, but not in, a university/ institution that can support research. Can I apply for an Open Call Research grant?

Lead applicants must be employed by a university or other institution where research can be supported. This organisation will receive the grant, if successful. Applications can include (as members of the research team) colleagues who do not necessarily work for an institution that supports research or who are self-employed.

Applicants whose institutions do not have a research ethics committee / panel can still apply but applicants should read the Trust's Expectations for Ethical Research. This includes the requirement for all research to be approved by an ethics committee. Where no such committee exists formally within the applicant's institution, the Trust will carry out an ethics review of the project, if the applicant is successful.

What is it meant by track record of the research team?

Applicants must be capable of undertaking the proposed project to a high standard, on time and within budget. Therefore, previous experience of successful completion of relevant scholarship and / or a research project (funded or unfunded) including endorsements, publications and presentations, can help to demonstrate a track record. Where previous experience is closely related to the topic of the proposed project, the applicant(s) can also show a track record in relevant research and / or scholarship. Our funding also has the potential to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of the applicant(s), which you may wish to consider and mention in your application.

What does 'expected maximum' mean?

While it is unlikely that we will be able to make awards of more than £5,000, the Trustees will not exclude an outstanding application for a grant with a budget that exceeds £5,000. Budgets must demonstrate value for money.

Can I include non-pay costs in my application budget?

The guidance outlines costs that can and cannot be included in a project's budget. We expect most of the budget to cover staff costs but up to 20% of the total may be allocated for other, non-pay costs.

What daily rates are acceptable for staff time?

The Froebel Trust cannot cover full economic costs. In general, our funding covers or contributes towards daily rates in the range of £350-£375 per day (or around £50 per hour) but you can still submit an application with higher daily rates. Value for money is a key consideration. All budgets must be calculated in UK pounds sterling.

How long should my project last?

We expect projects to take 12-18 months, although we hope that projects will have lasting, positive effects. Projects must start by 31 March 2022 and are likely to finish by 30 September 2023.

How do I apply?

There is a two-step process that begins with a short expression of interest form. All Step 1 applications must be submitted using our online portal: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4917274>.

The portal will take you to the expression of interest form, which must be completed and submitted by 4pm on 23 September 2021. We cannot accept applications sent by email or post. You must make sure that you have permission from your institution before you submit your application.

Step 2 is only for applicants whose expressions are shortlisted. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to proceed to Step 2, completing a full proposal application via the online portal. The application form will be available in November. The Trust will work with applicants to support their development of the full proposal.

What happens to my application?

Your application will be scrutinised by experts with relevant knowledge and expertise. The reviewers score applications and provide comments. These scores and comments enable our trustees to shortlist and confirm awards.

Can I talk to someone about my application?

We are always happy to help. At any stage you can contact our Programme Officer, Valeria Scacchi or our Finance Manager, Oksana Lissovets by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk.

Can I partner with other teams?

Partnering with other teams is permitted and encouraged where this will enhance the project, however a lead applicant must be identified that will act as the primary contact for correspondence with the Trust. The eligibility criteria only apply to the lead applicant but everyone should understand what is involved in the project and have the capacity to play their part.