



FAQs: Action 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.

Our Action Research Grants are designed to provide funds for leading early years practitioners to explore and develop an aspect of their setting's practice with support from a research mentor, if required.

Can I apply for a grant?

Applicants should be able to answer yes to the following questions:

- Do you work in a setting or school in the UK?
- Do you have a leadership role and the capacity to explore and develop practice across your setting?
- Have you completed one of the Froebel Trust's Endorsed Courses*?
- Are you confident that you can lead a research and development project?
- Can you demonstrate a sustained commitment to a Froebelian approach to early childhood education and care?
- Have you got a great idea that an Action Research grant would help you to explore and develop? I work with, but not in, settings / schools.

Can I apply for an Action Research grant?

Lead applicants must work in a setting or school but can partner with others. So you can be involved but you cannot be the lead applicant.

I work in a setting outside the UK. Can I apply for an Action Research grant?

The Action Research grants are only available to lead applicants who work in the UK. But you can partner with a UK setting / lead applicant to be part of their project if this is likely to be mutually beneficial and will enhance the project.

Do I need to know or be the research mentor?

No! If you are the lead applicant and have research experience, you can select yourself as the research mentor for the project. You are welcome to tell us this in your expression of interest application form. Alternatively, you can name someone else (with their permission). If you don't have someone as a potential research mentor, we can help you to find someone. Research mentors

don't need to be identified until / unless an application has been conditionally approved for an award.

About project costs / budget

Our grant funding runs in line with the Trust's financial year, which is from 1 April to 31 March.

When completing the budget form with your application, we need you to tell us how much you expect to spend in any of our budget years (not academic, calendar or project years).

So if your project starts in August 2022 and lasts for 12 months, you will need to split the costs across 2 of our budget years: Year 1 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) and Year 2 (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024).

A basic example is shown below for a project starting in August 2022 and ending in July 2023.

Cost	Year 1 1.4.22 to 31.3.23	Year 2 1.4.23 to 31.3.24	TOTAL
Supply cover – 2 days per month (24 days @£250/day)	[8 months in this financial year: 8 x £250] £2000	[4 months in this financial year: 4 x £250] £1000	£3000
Mentor (total 12 hours, 1 per project month) @ £60/hour	[8 hours in this financial year: 8 x £60] £480	[4 hours in this financial year: 4 x £60] £240	£720
Books about XXX (bought at start of project)	£100	£0	£100
Printing a resource for parents (at end of project)	£0	£150	£150
Subtotals	£2580	£1390	
Project total budget			£3970

How much budget should I allocate for a research mentor?

Even if you don't name a mentor in your application, **please make sure that you include the cost of a mentor's time in your proposed budget.** We recommend that you allow for at least one hour per month of mentor time, and we suggest an hourly rate in the range of £50-£70.

How much funding can I apply for?

These are small grants with an expected maximum of £5,000 per award with less than 20% of the budget allocated for resources and materials (e.g. furniture, tools, blocks or printing leaflets). Our grants are primarily for staff costs, including mentor time. In deciding whether to support travel to events, the Trust will give serious consideration to the benefits to the project versus the environmental impact.

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 a really excellent application for a grant with a budget that exceeds £5,000. Please note: projects budgeting for more than 20% for resources will automatically be excluded from the shortlisting.

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.

Who are the research mentors?

Research mentors should have experience of designing, carrying out and writing or speaking about a piece of research at Masters level or above. Ideally, they should understand practice-led and practice-based research, including action research. Applicants who are practitioners with research expertise themselves aren't required to have a mentor but may still appoint one or ask us to help find one. If you know someone who can help you to design and run your project, you are welcome to name them in your application (please ask them first!). If not, we will help you to find a mentor. You should include the cost of a mentor's time in your budget.

Who is included in a leadership post?

A member of the leadership team can be a room leader, a key stage lead, the head of the school/setting or someone in the setting that has an influential pedagogical role in leading practice in your school/setting and whose application benefits from the full backing of the head of the school/setting. We know that projects are likely to have greater success and more lasting benefits if they have the support and involvement of senior management. If you don't have a senior manager role, please make sure that your senior manager is backing your application and will support the project.

How long should my project last?

It takes time to research and develop practice. We expect projects to take 12-18 months, although we hope that projects will have lasting, positive effects. Projects must start by August/September 2022 and March 2023.

How do I apply?

After reading the guidance carefully please do look at some of the projects we have already funded.

Your application must be submitted through our online application portal, which allows you to save your progress and return to it later. Completed applications need to be submitted by our deadline of 4pm on 11 May 2022.

We will host Zoom meetings on 6 April 2022 6.30pm and 5 May 2022 8.30am to offer guidance and answer questions about applying for a grant. If you would like to join one or both of these meetings, please email office@froebeltrust.org.uk by 4pm on 5 April / 4 May.

After an application has been submitted, it is checked against our eligibility criteria. All eligible applications are sent to independent reviewers for assessment against a scoring matrix.

You will hear the outcome of your application by mid-June. Applicants who are approved for an award will be asked to address any queries raised by the reviewers and / or helped to find a suitable research mentor, if applicable. Awards will be conditional until all queries are resolved.

Can I talk to someone about my application?

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

Can I partner with other settings?

Partnering with other settings is permitted and encouraged where this will enhance the project. The eligibility criteria only apply to the lead applicant(s), but everyone should understand what is involved in a project, have the capacity to play their part and have the backing of the senior managers.