



The Cambridge English/ English UK action research award scheme

Frequently asked questions

Action research award scheme

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What is action research?

Action research gives teachers the opportunity to investigate teaching and learning in their own classrooms.

The starting point in action research is a local issue – a challenge, problem, area of potential improvement, or puzzle – that teachers want to examine systematically.

Typically, an action research project will have a number of different stages: devising teaching strategies that address the identified issue; collecting data on what occurs in class when these strategies are applied; analysing this data; and reflecting on what has been learnt.

Research done in this way gives teachers a deeper insight into their own practice, broadens their professional development and has additional benefits for the learners, other teachers and the institution where they work.

You supply the ideas, passion and commitment – we supply the procedure, support and expertise.

What does the scheme involve?

The action research award scheme involves a combination of workshops, tutorials, research, presentation and submitting articles for publication.

- Two two-day workshops held in London and led by Simon Borg. These focussing on refining proposals, gathering and interpreting data and both drafting progress and final reports (February and June 2017)
- Four online tutorials with Simon offering feedback on the projects and written reports (March to October 2017)
- A presentation of findings at the 2017 English UK Teachers' Conference, following a one-day preparatory workshop and pre-conference dinner (November 2017)
- The submission of articles based on the final reports for publication in Cambridge English Language Assessment's Research Notes journal for publication in 2018
- One project will be awarded the Cambridge English Language Assessment/English UK Action

Research Award, consisting of a cash prize and a commemorative trophy

- All participants will receive Award Scheme certificates for themselves and their institution upon completion

Full details on the key dates of the scheme are available in the submission guidelines. We will pay for travel, accommodation (if required), meals for the workshops and attendance at the English UK Teachers' Conference 2017.

What are the other benefits of the scheme?

We welcome proposals from individual EFL/ESOL teachers or pairs of teachers who are currently working in English UK member schools; research pairs can either be working at the same English UK member organisation or different member organisations.

Applications are welcome from teachers with a minimum qualification of CELTA or equivalent and any level of experience.

Please note that your action research project should not be work that you are required to do or have recently done for a degree (e.g. MA) or Diploma-level programme.

Who is eligible to apply?

We welcome proposals from individual EFL/ ESOL teachers or pairs of teachers who are currently working in English UK member centres.

Research pairs can either be working at the same English UK member centre or two different member centres. Applications are welcome from teachers with a minimum qualification of CELTA or equivalent and any level of experience.

Please note: your project should not be research that you are submitting/ have already submitted for an master or diploma level programme.

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How do I apply?

If you are interested in participating, please read the submission guidelines and complete a proposal form.

- [Download the submission guidelines](#)
- [Download the proposal form](#)

Proposal forms must be submitted to Huan Japes before midnight on Monday 16 January 2017.

We will only consider proposals received on or before this deadline. Member centres may submit a maximum of two proposals.

Please note: all completed proposal forms must be counter-signed by a line-manager.

Do you suggest research topics?

The submission guidelines provide a list of sample research topics from previous iterations of the scheme.

We welcome applications relevant to any aspect of English language teaching; the key criteria we consider are that the topic is relevant to the applicant's work, of broader interest to their colleagues and school, and potentially of value to ELT practitioners more generally.

How are proposals selected?

Cambridge English Language Assessment and English UK will evaluate all proposals based on the:

- Relevance of the topic and its contribution to professional development
- Relevance of the perceived benefits for the teacher(s), learners and institution
- Potential for practical outcomes
- Potential for presentation and publication.

Proposals must be sent to huan.japes@englishuk.com on or before midnight on Monday 16 January 2017.

Successful applicants will be notified on Monday 23 January 2017. To maximise the quality of the support teachers on the scheme receive, we normally accept a maximum of seven proposals.

Can you suggest any further reading?

Simon Borg has put together a list of freely available sources of research on language teaching, including collections of research conducted by teachers.

- [Access Simon's free resources for language teaching research](#)

Cambridge English also provide webinars on learning-oriented assessment and Research Notes issue 61 to read the reports from the UK 2014 Action Research Award Scheme. Issues 44, 48, 53 and 56 have reports of action research projects in Australia.

- [Visit Cambridge English's website](#)

