



The Cambridge English/ English UK action research award scheme

Submission guidelines
2016-2017

Action research award scheme

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1. Introduction

Cambridge English Language Assessment and English UK believe strongly in supporting teachers' professional development and have developed an action research award scheme for teachers working in English UK member schools. This is the fourth year of the scheme.

Action research is a form of professional development that involves teachers doing classroom-based research to investigate a teaching or learning challenge.

This award scheme gives teachers a unique opportunity to undertake research and disseminate their findings with support and guidance from an expert researcher.

Participants will engage with a classroom-based issue they have identified and take part in a series of workshops, led by Simon Borg

2. Submitting your proposal

If you are interested in participating, complete and send a proposal form to huan.japes@englishuk.com before midnight on Monday 16 January 2017. We will acknowledge receipt of your submission within five working days.

A maximum of two proposals can be submitted per member centre. Up to seven will be chosen for this round of the scheme.

Find suggested research areas in section six, but proposals can be on any relevant topic of interest.

Proposals must:

- Received before midnight on 16/01/2017
- Be from current EFL/ ESOL teachers working with an English UK member centre
- Contain an outline research proposal including:
 - i) Area of research and why it is of interest
 - ii) How the research will proceed
 - iii) Anticipated benefits for the applicant(s), their learners and their institution
- Be counter-signed in section D by the applicants' academic manager or managers in the case of pairs of teachers working in different organisations.

- Be made either by an individual teacher or two teachers working at the same or two different English UK member centres.

We will notify successful applicants on Monday 23 January 2017.

3. Key dates

All applicants need to be aware of the key dates for workshops, tutorials, presentations and publication.

[23 January 2017](#)

Decisions on submissions announced.

[17/18 February 2017](#)

First workshop for participants, two days, London.

[March 2017](#)

Teachers submit expanded proposals and receive feedback; online tutorials.

[April 2017](#)

Teachers submit progress reports and received feedback; online tutorials.

[9/10 June 2017](#)

Second workshop for participants, two days, London.

[July 2017](#)

Teachers submit progress reports and receive feedback; online tutorials.

[October 2017](#)

Teachers submit draft final reports and receive feedback; online tutorials.

[3 November 2017](#)

Decision made on the award.

[10/11 November 2017](#)

One-day workshop prior to the teachers' conference to review presentations; pre-conference dinner; conference presentations; and award announced.

[November/December 2017](#)

Guidelines issued for teachers to prepare final reports for publication in Cambridge English language Assessment's Research Notes

[December 2017](#)

Teachers submit final reports for publication

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4. Scheme benefits

All participants will receive:

- Support from their institution to undertake an action research project
- A certificate for themselves and their institution upon completion.

One project will be awarded the Cambridge English Language Assessment / English UK Action Research Award, which includes a cash prize and commemorative trophy.

5. 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](#)

6. Suggested topics and sub-topics

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.

Here is a selection of some of the research topics covered in previous years:

- Different ways of giving students feedback on their speaking and writing
- Students' preferences for traditional and on-line homework
- Using formative assessment in the English language classroom
- Self-assessment to improve student autonomy
- Helping students define their goals at the start of an English course

- Extensive reading in the EFL classroom
- Helping students use peer assessment more effectively
- Electronic portfolios on an EFL course
- The kinds of listening activities students like

7. Evaluation Criteria

Cambridge English language Assessment/ English UK will evaluate all proposals using the following criteria:

1. Relevance of topic and contribution to self-development
2. Relevance of perceived benefits for the teacher(s), learners and institution
3. Potential for practical outcomes
4. Potential for presentation and publication.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission.

For further information, [contact huan.japes@englishuk.com](mailto:huan.japes@englishuk.com) or [visit englishuk.com/training](http://visit.englishuk.com/training) for a proposal form.

