

Open Call Research Grants 2022-23 - Guidance for Applicants

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications portal opens on our website:	Tuesday 7 June 2022
Zoom Webinar for applicants:	Tuesday 14 June 2022 1-2pm GMT
Deadline for applications:	Wednesday 31 August 2022 4pm (UK time)
Shortlisted applicants will be notified:	Monday 19 September 2022
Zoom interviews for shortlisted applicants:	Tuesday 27/ Wednesday 28 September 2022
Applicants notified of the final outcome:	Monday 10 October 2022
Projects must begin:	Before 31 March 2023

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 aims to promote and advance knowledge and understanding of a Froebelian approach to education, for the benefit of children (birth to eight years) and their families and educators, communities and environments.
3. The Froebel Trust's vision is of a world in which childhood is valued in its own right and each child's capability is recognised and respected. It is one in which all young children (birth to eight years) have access to high quality educational experiences based on [Froebelian principles](#).

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSES & FUNDING

4. The Froebel Trust provides funding for research and practice development as well as specialist training, and information and support for continuing professional learning.
5. Our work is focused on **Early Childhood Education and Care** for children from birth to eight years of age – a broad and often multi-disciplinary field of study to inform, support, critique and advance Froebelian approaches to education pedagogy and practice as well as further research.
6. Our grants for research include Open Call Research grants, these grants are designed to provide funding for individual researchers or collaborative research partnerships and networks to develop innovative studies.
7. In 2022 we are offering two types of Open Call Research grants:
 - Seed Corn grants up to £5,000
 - Larger grants in the region of £20,000 to £50,000

8. **We can only support projects that are clearly linked to our charitable objects**, which are: *To promote for the public benefit the advancement and understanding of Froebelian principles of education in learning within the UK and internationally.*
9. In 2022 the application window opens on 7 June 2022 on our online portal with a deadline of **31 August 2022 at 4pm (UK time)**, late applications will not be considered.
10. Applicants will hear on Monday 19 September if they have been shortlisted for interview and those who are interviewed will hear the outcome on Monday 10 October 2022. The successful applicant must be in a position to commence their research before March 2023.

WHO CAN APPLY?

11. The scheme is open to researchers working in institutions anywhere in the world who share our goal of 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 and will prioritise awards for new applicants who have strong applications and have not previously received Open Call funding from the Trust.**
12. Applicants do not need to be based in the UK but applications should be written in English and budgets should be in GB £ sterling.
13. Partnership projects are welcome. In such cases, a lead institution/researcher 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 grant funding); and with responsibility for meeting terms and conditions of the award.
14. In deciding whether to support travel to events, the Trust will give serious consideration to the benefits to the project versus the environmental impact.

HOW THE FUNDS CAN BE USED

15. In 2022 we are offering two types of Open Call Research grants:
 - Seed Corn grants up to £5,000
 - Larger grants in the region of £20,000 to £50,000
16. Research grants can cover the cost of:
 - Personnel costs directly incurred exclusively in relation to the project, including salary/visiting lecturer replacement cover
 - Direct activity and production costs including venue hire, equipment and materials, project travel costs, costs of attendance at relevant conferences. Please note, these costs should not represent more than **20% of the overall budget**
 - 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 VAT cannot be reclaimed
17. Grants cannot cover the costs of:

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

18. Please give consideration the institution's sustainability policy and the environmental impact of your proposed study when preparing the budget for the project.

HOW TO APPLY

19. We have a two-step process which is designed to save time and provide support for applicants who are less experienced in applying for grants. The first step is an expression of interest and the deadline for this is **4pm on Wednesday 31 August 2022**. We have provided answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs) on our website. If you have a question not covered by the FAQs, please don't hesitate to contact our Programme Officer (Grants) by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk.

20. Applicants whose expressions of interest are shortlisted will be offered support to write a full proposal with a deadline of **4pm GMT on 3 October 2022**.

21. Expressions of interest must be made through our online portal (see below). Please complete the expression of interest form before the deadline of **4pm on Wednesday 31 August 2022** late applications will not be considered. The form asks about:

- General information about the lead applicant
- Your project outline
- Details about how your proposed research, and its fit with our principles and objectives
- A timeline for the project (which must start before 31 March 2023)
- A budget that indicates how the grant will be spent
- Data protection and (optional) equalities information

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

22. After the expressions of interest have been reviewed, shortlisted applicants only will be invited to develop a full proposal **4pm GMT on 3 October 2022**. This will be submitted via email to our Programme Officer (Grants) who will be in contact beforehand. The full proposal will ask about:

- Your Froebelian focus
- General information about the project team
- A more detailed project outline
- Intended outcomes of the project and how it will lead to further research
- Your plans for sharing learning and key messages from the project
- A detailed budget in an Excel spreadsheet (the template will be provided)

23. 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 rejected.**

24. Eligible applications are reviewed by experienced scrutineers. Applications are reviewed against standardized criteria, including:
- The extent to which the project develops understanding, interest and/or debate about education that is underpinned by Froebelian principles
 - The originality and significance of the project and environmental impact of it
 - The feasibility of the project and the quality of its management
 - The extent to which the project supports delivery of the Trust's charitable objective
 - The intended outcomes or expected impact of the project, including its potential to lead to further significant work
 - Whether the project includes effective dissemination plans
 - Whether the budget has been successfully justified and offers strong value for money
25. The highest scoring applications will form a shortlist. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been shortlisted by 19 September 2022.
26. 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 successfully justified
 - The proposal did not have direct links to the Froebel Trust's principles and objectives
27. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview via Zoom or similar. Interviews will last up to an hour and will be held on 27/28 September 2022.
28. Interviews will provide an opportunity for applicants to explain and discuss their proposed study in response to questions from a panel. The interview panel will consist of trustees and committee members of the Froebel Trust who are experienced researchers.
29. The Trust will notify shortlisted candidates about the outcome of their interview on Monday 10 October 2022.
30. The Froebel Trust must be acknowledged on any material or publicity that is produced for external presentation or publication in association with / resulting from an Open Call Research Grant. Please refer to our Photography and Film Images policy and Social Media and Communications policy (copies available on request).

We offer a complimentary application workshop via zoom to answer any questions about the application process, this will be held on 14 June 2022 1-2pm, please note this will be a zoom meeting and all potential applicants will be visible to one another. **Please register for the webinar by emailing office@froebeltrust.org.uk no later than 4pm on 13 June 2022.**

31. All eligible applications will be considered via our grant scrutiny and selection process. Applications that do not meet our basic eligibility criteria will be rejected. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

32. 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.

Assessment process

33. The chart below illustrates the assessment process for Expressions of interest and full proposals.



Outcome

On **10 October 2022**, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by email. Please bear this date in mind when adding email addresses to the application form.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. We want to support projects that aim to benefit young children, directly or indirectly. We want learning from projects to benefit those involved and be shared with the wider community of early childhood education and care
2. Successful applicants will be required to sign our Grant Offer, which includes specific Terms and Conditions of awards, **which are not negotiable**. A sample copy can be viewed on [our website](#).

3. Anyone who receives an Open Call grant will be expected to provide us with a progress report in the middle of the project and a final report within three months of the project's completion. We will provide guidance about preparing the final report, which will be published on our website.
4. Reports that contain images are often more attractive to readers. We can only publish images if appropriate consent has been collected from people whose images are shown (or their parents or carers if they are children).
5. At the end of a project, a statement of expenditure will also be required. This must explain in detail how the grant was spent, we will supply a template to fill in.
6. We often ask our grant recipients to get involved in our seminars, webinars and conferences. This is a way to share knowledge and understanding with others, especially key messages and learning from a project.
7. If you receive a grant from us, you might be invited to complete a questionnaire or take part in an interview as part of our self-evaluation activities. Participation is entirely voluntary.
8. The decision of the Froebel Trust Council will be final. Every effort has been made to develop a thorough, fair 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.
9. We are here to help. If you experience any problems with the online application portal or have any questions about eligibility that are not covered in our FAQs, please email us and we will respond as fast as we can. Please write to office@froebeltrust.org.uk for the attention of Valeria Scacchi, Programme Officer (Grants).