British Academy Support for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

REPORT OF A REVIEW

1999-2000

The British Academy

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Foreword

The British Academy has received Government funds since 1924 to support advanced research and to supplement its modest private endowment. In recent decades, in the absence of a full Humanities Research Council, the Academy was the principal channel outside the universities for public support for research in the humanities. With the creation of the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), a development which the Academy helped to bring about, we are now in a position to be even-handed in supporting humanities and social sciences scholarship across the full range of the Academy's disciplinary coverage and to complement the provision of the AHRB and the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council), as the Royal Society does in relation to the research councils for the physical and biological sciences.

Last Autumn, in this new context, we began a wide consultation on the support given to scholars in the humanities and social sciences by the British Academy's small grants scheme. The response has been very impressive in quality, detail and representativeness.

Overall, the replies gave overwhelming backing for the Academy's small grants scheme; the grants are an invaluable means of support to individual researchers across Britain. They have helped foster diverse and original research by allowing individuals themselves to determine the direction of their studies.

Because of the resounding support from the academic community, the grants scheme will thus remain substantially intact: responsive to researchers and with the same upper limit of £5,000. There will be a few minor modifications made to the scheme, and these are set out in this document, but the general approach will be unchanged.

However, the consultation did highlight a gap in the current provision of funding nationally: there is a demand for a medium-level of funding for pilot projects and field studies that fall between the small grants and the large funding provided by the AHRB or ESRC. In response to this, we are pleased to announce that the Academy will run a new scheme for Larger Research Grants for pilot studies/field projects, and, to a limited extent, extensions to existing research activity. The upper limit of the awards will be £20,000. The first competition will be held in 2000–01 and we will review the scheme after its first year.

It is clear that the subject associations and individuals who responded to this review have devoted a great deal of time and effort to compiling a considered response. The Academy is very grateful to everyone who contributed and helped us shape our research funding schemes so that we can continue to promote outstanding research in the humanities and social sciences.

Sir Tony Wrigley

President of the British Academy

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Introduction

Following the establishment of the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), the Academy has been able to devote more of its resources to the support of individual scholarship through its small grants and conference programmes. From 1 April 1999, the budget for the unified grants scheme, now equally open to scholars in the social sciences as in the humanities, was more than doubled, rising to £1.2 million, and the provision for conference grants rose to £0.4 million. The Academy was able to reinstate the scheme to support the attendance of scholars in the humanities at overseas conferences, which had been suspended by the HRB in 1997. A new Grants Committee was established under the Chairmanship of Professor Roger Kain FBA. Over the course of its first full year of operation, it has made 1,027 grants.

Background to consultation

As a result of the changes that have taken place following the establishment of the AHRB, the Academy's new role can be seen more distinctly as complementing the funding available nationally through the AHRB for the humanities, and the ESRC for the social sciences. Given the new arrangements, it was decided that it would be timely to seek the views of the academic community on how the Academy should organise its support so as to maximise the benefits to scholars.

Method of survey

Under the aegis of the Grants Committee, a detailed consultation paper was prepared, setting out the current scope and purposes of the small grants and conference schemes, and inviting comment on any modifications that should be made. A series of questions was devised, seeking views on what were the needs and wishes of the academic body.

During the autumn of 1999, 109 subject associations were consulted. Separately, a cohort of 240 previous award holders were surveyed. By the deadline of 31 January 2000, 54 subject associations had submitted replies, and 165 award holders, representing an overall response rate of more than 60%.

Principal findings

In March 2000, the Academy's Grants Committee considered the results. Its principal conclusions were that there was ample evidence to show that the small grants scheme was perceived as meeting a real need, and its scope and purposes were generally on the right lines. A few modifications were required, principal amongst which was the clear preference that research funds should be reserved for primary research, with publication-related costs coming second by some distance. The Academy has therefore decided that the costs of permission fees and, in certain cases, the preparation of images or other bespoke illustrative material will remain eligible for support, but grants will no longer be given for the costs of preparing camera-ready copy, nor for any other editorial task which should properly be met by the publisher. The argument for meeting production costs in special cases, e.g. for local records societies, was voiced by a few respondents, but not found compelling and the Academy has decided to abolish any element of publication subvention from the small grants scheme. There was little support for the suggestion that small grants

might be used to finance short periods of teaching relief, given that other resources already existed to fund this element (AHRB, ESRC, and HEIs all have responsibility for funding research leave), and that there were already severe pressures on scarce funds available for the direct costs of research. The Academy has concluded that this option should not be pursued.

Opinion had been sought through the consultation exercise on whether the level of small grants should be raised, and comments invited on whether there were particular types of activity that were not adequately accommodated under the present arrangements for research support nationally. The responses indicated that there was a body of opinion that was strongly in favour of allowing support up to the £20,000 mark, particularly for pilot/field studies that were unlikely to attract funding elsewhere. Separately, representations from the archaeological community had been made directly to the Academy's Council putting the case for the urgent need for additional support for fieldwork projects, the fundamental research base of the discipline.

Accepting the case that there was a gap in the current provision of funding nationally, which needed to be remedied, the Academy has decided to run a new scheme for Larger Research Grants, to support pilot projects, field studies, and, to a limited degree, extensions to existing research activity. The upper limit will be £20,000 and grants may be held for three years. The first competition will be held in 2000–01, and the Academy has allocated a budget of £200,000 for the first year. New money has been forthcoming from the DfEE for the purpose. The Academy will review the scheme after its first year.

The following report provides an analysis of the responses that were submitted. It is hoped that the alterations to the schemes will meet with the approval of the humanities and social science constituencies that the Academy serves through its grant-giving operations. The schemes will continue to be kept under regular review.

The Academy would like to express its gratitude to all those who contributed their views, and who have thus helped to shape the future design of the Academy's schemes for supporting research.

Summary of conclusions

Small Grants

The Academy has confirmed that the small grants programme will continue to offer awards to support scholars conducting individual research at postdoctoral level.

The scheme will remain wholly responsive in mode. The quality of the research proposed will remain the prime criterion on which awards are made.

The purpose of the small grants scheme is to support primary research, whether the mode of enquiry is archival/resource-based, fieldwork, or social survey.

The upper limit of the grant to support individual research will remain at \pounds 5,000 at present, given the current restriction on the overall budget for small grants (\pounds 1.23 million in 2000–01). The value of the grant will be reviewed periodically and adjustments may be made in line with inflation.

The scheme will remain open to all postdoctoral or equivalent scholars ordinarily resident in the UK. Applications from independent researchers and from those based in museums, galleries, libraries and similar organisations will continue to be welcome, as well as those from scholars based in Higher Education Institutions in the UK.

Grants may be used for the direct costs of research, research assistance, travel and maintenance, consumables (including the purchase of datasets), but excluding equipment and other basic infrastructural costs that will be expected to be borne by the host institution.

Applications for pre-publication costs will be considered for permission fees and, in certain cases, the preparation of bespoke illustrative material for publication.

Grants will no longer be available for the preparation of camera-ready copy, nor any other editorial task, nor production-related cost, which should be borne by the publisher.

The clear majority of respondents were not in favour of allowing the costs of teaching relief to be supported with the limited research funds at the Academy's disposal, and this option will not be pursued.

New scheme for Larger Research Grants

Opinion had been sought through the consultation exercise on whether the level of small grants should be raised, and comments invited on whether there were particular types of activity that were not adequately accommodated under the present arrangements for research support nationally. There was a body of opinion that was strongly in favour of allowing support up to the £20,000 mark, particularly for pilot/field studies that were unlikely to attract funding elsewhere.

The Academy has decided to introduce a new scheme for Larger Research Grants, to support pilot projects and field studies, and new monies have been allocated by the DfEE for this purpose. The first competition will be run in 2000–01, with a total budget of £200,000 in the first year. Grants may be held for up to 3 years, with an upper limit of £20,000. The Academy will review the operation of the scheme after the first year, and consider whether additional funds can be devoted to this programme.

Response from Subject Associations

Questionnaires were sent to 109 subject associations (listed in Appendix A). Fiftyfour responses were received by the deadline of 31 January 2000, representing a response rate of 50%. 12 of the responding associations represented social science subjects, 26 humanities, and 16 were cross-disciplinary. The classification of respondents is shown in the Appendix.

A number of respondents chose not to complete the questionnaire, but rather to submit a simple letter. Where it has not been possible to map replies on to specific questions, the graphical and tabular analysis relies only on the actual responses given by respondents who did complete the questionnaire. A selection of typical comments provided by respondents appears in the margin.

Items eligible for funding

Question 1. List in order of priority the items eligible for support that you find most useful.

The majority of respondents listed travel and maintenance as the top two priorities for funding. The disciplinary breakdown suggested a greater preference for research assistance amongst the social scientists than amongst humanities organisations. Most put the items relevant to pre-publication as the lowest priority. (Figure 1) 'Small grants are important out of all proportion to their size in fostering original research'

'Travel, maintenance and accommodation are by far the most important items'



Fig 1: Priority of items eligible for funding

Question 2. What other items would you wish to be funded, in order of priority?

• *Teaching relief* 12 respondents (22% of total) wrote in favour of including the costs of teaching relief under the small grants scheme. It was pointed out that the freeing up of researchers' time was one of the most useful forms of support; that it would be especially advantageous in universities where teaching loads were consistently heavy; that it would give postgraduates teaching experience; that teaching cover could be bought fairly cheaply, by the hour. However, a small band made a specific

'Other funding bodies and HEIs are better placed to assess and fund teaching relief' 'Publication costs should not be subsidised from research funds'

'Assistance with preparation of illustrations can be crucial'

'It is important to fund a large number of applications under this valuable scheme, rather than a smaller number of somewhat larger grants'

'Do not raise the level of grant if this means reducing the number of awards made'

'Small grants offer the only opportunity to pursue the initial stages of a research programme, so it is important to fund as many worthwhile applications as possible'

'Academy grants should be increased to £20,000 for pilot projects' appeal for teaching relief **not** to be funded as it was considered an inappropriate drain upon scarce research funds. They pointed to other more appropriate funding sources for teaching relief (ESRC/AHRB and HEIs). 70% of respondents did not mention the matter, which may perhaps be taken as a vote against.

• Assistance with publication costs Some pre-publication procedures were particularly expensive (the preparation of colour plates for example) and assistance would be welcomed in these instances; publication costs could be of particular help for independent applicants; help with costs of indexing would be welcomed. However, it was also urged that scarce research funds should not be diverted towards costs that were properly the responsibility of publishers. A number of respondents thought that such costs should continue to be allowable, and three (British Records Society, British Sociological Society, and the Royal Historical Society) specifically requested that publication subventions be available to support the publication of specialist monographs.

• *Translation* Several organisations asked for translation costs, and the British Comparative Literature Association put in a plea for translation *per se* to be fully recognised as a research activity.

• *Miscellaneous items* Some subject-specific items were mentioned, e.g. the cost of conducting surveys; the cost of visas and permits, electronic survey equipment, geophysical services; local literature; workshops abroad; small items of capital equipment (e.g. microfilm readers); purchase of datasets.

Level of grant

Questions 3 & 4. If the budget for small grants stays the same would you like to raise the upper limit?

70% expressed a preference for keeping the current upper limit at £5,000. The reasons were that it was preferable to award a large number of small grants rather than a few larger ones in order to ensure as many researchers as possible could benefit; that the ESRC/AHRB provided larger grant support and overlap was not desirable; that one merit of small grants was their ability to fund pilot or high risk, unknown projects as well as conventional ones; and that small grants helped new scholars establish themselves. It was, however, suggested that the Academy should maintain a degree of flexibility so as to take into account occasions when a project required slightly more funding than the present maximum.

14 organisations wanted the limit to be raised, to an average of £8,000. The value of larger grants to fund pilot/field/social survey studies was mentioned. A number pointed out that there was a gap in the current provision for this type of work, which slightly larger grants could go some way to fill. Some organisations in the humanities recognised that social science research would probably cost more than the individualistic mode of research that was typical in humanities subjects. (Figure 2)

Fig 2:	Would you like to raise the upper limit of awards?
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0 9						
	Responses	Yes	(%)	No	(%)	
Total	46	14	30	32	70	
Humanities	25	6	24	19	76	
Social Sciences	7	2	29	5	71	
Cross-disciplinary	14	6	43	8	57	

Priority areas for funding under the small grants scheme

Question 5. What priority would you give to primary research or publication/other dissemination?

The majority (79%) of respondents identified primary research as the top priority for funding, although 21% gave equal priority to research and publication. The following points were mentioned: the main strength of small grants was in funding the early stages of research; the British Academy might well become the funder of pilot projects which went on to seek larger project funding from the ESRC/AHRB; and that primary research underpinned all other forms of activity. It was recognised that assistance might be needed for publication costs although it was proposed that good research could always find publishing outlets. (Figure 3)

'Primary research underpins all other forms of activity'

'We wish to see primary research funded, rather than publishers' costs'

Fig 3: Type of activity

	Primary Research	(%)	Publications	Equal Priority	(%)	
Total	33	79	0	9	21	
Humanities	17	40	0	5	12	
Social Sciences	3	7	0	3	7	
Cross-disciplinary	13	31	0	1	2	
	13	31	-	1	2	

Note: Figures based on number of first choices cast for each type

Question 6. What priority would you give to archive/resource based study or fieldwork?

Replies were generally admitted to be subject-specific i.e. those subjects which used fieldwork tended to give it top priority, and those in the humanities gave archive/resource-based study top priority. (Figure 4)

Fig 4: Mode of research

	Archive/ resource-based	d (%)	Fieldwork	(%)	Equal Priority	(%)
Total	17	41	7	17	17	41
Humanities	13	59	2	9	7	32
Social Sciences	2	29	2	29	3	43
Cross-disciplinary	2	17	3	25	7	58

Note: Figures based on number of first choices cast for each type

Question 7. Recipients of grants: what priority would you give to: recent postdoctoral scholars, mid-career scholars, long established scholars, independent scholars, museum/library staff, other, no priority.

The majority of respondents expressed the view that the academic merit of the proposal should be the main criterion for assessing and awarding grants. It was, however, suggested that recent postdoctoral scholars were particularly deserving of support, other things being equal, and this category received the second highest number of votes. Contrasting cases were made for long-established scholars, respondents either taking the line that such individuals generally had access to other sources of funding, or stating that they were producing the best work and should therefore have priority. (Figure 5 overleaf)





Administration

Question 8. Please give any comments on the administration of the small grants scheme?

Confidence in the small grants programme is high'

'The limited administrative burden and speedy response time are particularly valuable' The majority of respondents expressed themselves reasonably content with current arrangements. There was general agreement with the four closing dates although one respondent mentioned modifying these to fit in with the new semester system. The lack of unnecessarily complicated procedures, and the speedy response time were valued. The assessment procedures were generally perceived to be well-conceived and fair.

Other comments

Question 9. Please give any other comments about the small grants scheme.

The majority of respondents tended to endorse the Academy's current policy for grant-giving, and there was a broadly consensual view that no radical modification was needed to the terms and scope of the small grants scheme. There was strong support for the Academy retaining its responsive mode funding, and there was a definite view that 'strategic' or policy-driven research should be left to others. Social scientists identified a lack of awareness amongst its constituency of the funding opportunities provided by the Academy (more should be done to publicise amongst this community). It was also commented that social science projects often did not have elasticity in the funding structure, so it was imperative to award the full amount requested. The small grants scheme was seen as very useful for independent researchers, and those in less strong RAE institutions also welcomed the opportunity to apply for small grants.

It was suggested that the literature should state the kinds of applications that have been funded in the past and the size of grant obtained (this information is now available on the Academy's web site).

One body suggested a 10% increase in the Overseas Conference Grants budget, but otherwise the division of the conference budget was thought to be appropriate.

'The small grants scheme is a lifeline to many researchers and the British Academy fulfils a role no other body does so specifically'

'The small grants scheme can make a real difference to a young scholar's career by offering just the right seed corn help'

'The British Academy's small grants scheme is vital, and complementary to the larger and more collaborative ESRC/AHRB schemes'

'We hope the BA will continue to operate in responsive mode, rather than engage in research planning'

'The British Academy has made an important contribution to the development of humanities research'

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Appendix A: Profile of subject associations consulted

Subject association	Discipline
ALSISS	
Arts and Humanities Research Board	
Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies	
Association for Environmental Archaeology	
Association for French Language Studies	Humanities
Association for South East Asian Studies	Cross-disciplinary
Association for the Studies of Modern Italy	
Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France	
Association of Art Historians	Humanities
Association of Business Schools	Social Sciences
Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government	
Association of Heads of Psychology	
Association of Hispanists	Humanities
Association of Political Studies	
Association of Social Anthropologists	
Association of University Departments of Theology &	
Religious Studies	Humanities
Association of University Professors and Heads of French	Humanities
British Academy of Management	Social Sciences
British Association for American Studies	
British Association for Chinese Studies	Humanities
British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies	Cross-disciplinary
British Association for the Study of Modern Languages	
British Association for the Study of Religions	
British Association of Academic Phoneticians	
British Association of Applied Linguists	
British Association of Jewish Studies	Humanities
British Comparative Literature Association	Humanities
British Forum for Ethnomusicology	Cross-disciplinary
British Institute of International & Comparative Law	
British International Studies Association	Social Sciences
British Library	Cross-disciplinary
British Psychological Society	Social Sciences
British Records Society	Humanities
British Society for the History of Science	
British Society for the History of Philosophy	Humanities
British Society for Middle Eastern Studies	
British Society for the Philosophy of Science	
British Society of Criminology	
British Sociological Association	Social Sciences
Carnegie Trust	Cross-disciplinary
Centre for Economic Learning and Social Evolution	
Conference of Heads of University Departments of Economics	
Committee of Heads of University Law Schools	Cross-disciplinary
Conference of University Drama Departments (SCUDD)	J
Conference of University Teachers of German	Humanities
Co-ordinating Council of Area Studies Associations	Cross-disciplinary
Council for British Archaeology	Humanities
Council for British Geography	
Council for College and University English	Humanities
Council of University Classical Departments	Humanities
Council of University Deans of Arts and Humanities	Humanities
•	Tumalilues
Early English Text Society Economic and Social Research Council	
Economic and Social Research Council Economic History Society	Social Sciences
Economic mistory society	Social Sciences

Subject associations consulted	Discipline
English Association	Humanities
Heads of Departments of Sociology Council	
Historical Association	Humanities
History at the Universities Defence Group	Humanities
Iumanities Research Centre, University of Warwick	Humanities
nstitute of Linguists	
nternational Society for the History of Rhetoric	
everhulme Trust	
inguistics Association of Great Britain	
Iodern Humanities Research Association	
Iuseums and Galleries Commission	Cross-disciplinary
ational Association for Music in Higher Education	Humanities
lational Committee of Philosophy	
ational Council on Archives	Cross-disciplinary
Vational Institute of Economic and Social Research	
Juffield Foundation	
hilological Society	a . 1 a .
olitical Studies Association of the UK	Social Sciences
egional Studies Association	Cross-disciplinary
esearch Group in Social Anthropology	
oyal African Society	G . 1 G .
coval Anthropological Institute	Social Sciences
oyal Economic Society	a . 1 a .
Coyal Geographical Society	Social Sciences
oyal Historical Society	Humanities
Proventing to the second se	
Coyal Musical Association	
Coyal Scottish Geographical Society	Social Sciences
coyal Society	Cross-disciplinary
loyal Society of Edinburgh CONUL	Cross-disciplinary
	Cross-disciplinary
cottish Committee of Professors of English	Humanities
ocial History Society of the UK locial Policy Association	Social Sciences
ociety for French Studies	Social Sciences
ociety for Latin American Studies	Cross dissiplinary
ociety for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies	Cross-disciplinary
ociety for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies	
ociety for the Promotion of Roman Studies	Humanities
ociety for Renaissance Studies	Humanities
ociety for the Social History of Medicine	Tumanues
ociety for South Asian Studies	
ociety for the Study of French History	
ociety of Architectural Historians of Great Britain	
ociety of Moroccan Studies	
ociety of Public Teachers of Law	
tanding Conference of Arts and Social Sciences	Cross-disciplinary
tanding Conference of Heads of European Studies	Cross-uiscipiniary
tanding Conference of Heads of Geography Departments	Social Sciences
tanding Conference of University Professors and Heads of	Social Scicility
Departments of Archaeology	Humanities
tanding Committee on University Studies of Africa	Cross-disciplinary
heology and World Religions Network	Jer
Iniversity Association for Contemporary European Studies	
Iniversity Council of Modern Languages	Humanities
Vellcome Trust	
hose who submitted responses are shown in bold , and those who su	

Those who submitted responses are shown in **bold**, and those who submitted 'unsolicited' (but nonetheless welcome) comments are shown in **bold italics**

Response from previous award holders

240 questionnaires were sent out, to scholars who had received small grants from the British Academy between September 1997 and July 1998. 165 responses were received by the deadline of 31 January 2000, representing a response rate of nearly 70%.

The following is a synopsis of the responses, broken down by each question that was included in the survey. Not everyone chose to reply to every question, so the numbers of respondents for each question varies.

The accompanying charts and tables provide a graphical analysis of the responses, and show breakdowns of the answers given by institutional affiliation and by discipline.

The institutional affiliation has been categorised as (a) 'golden triangle' (Oxford, Cambridge and London); (b) old universities (excluding the 'golden triangle'); (c) new universities (post-1992); and (d) independent, which includes those who have no institutional affiliation, are retired, or are employed by independent research organisations or non-HEI affiliated museums or galleries, such as the British Museum.

The disciplinary spread has been divided between humanities and social sciences, relying on the subject classification which the scholars themselves chose when they last applied to the British Academy for research funding. A profile of the cohort surveyed (those who responded) is given in Appendix B.

Items eligible for funding

Question 1. Please list in order of priority the items currently eligible for support that you find most useful

The majority of respondents listed travel costs and maintenance expenses as the top priorities. The variations when broken down by institutional affiliation and by discipline are shown in (Figures 6 and 7).

'The essential elements are travel and maintenance'



Fig 6 Priorities for funding (by discipline)



Fig 7: Priorities for funding (by institutional affiliation)



There were 76 replies to this question.

'The suggestion to incorporate teaching relief is not an effective use of funds' • *Teaching/administrative relief* 20% of respondents supported the inclusion of teaching relief as an eligible item under the small grants scheme, stating that even a limited amount of replacement time (hourly, weekly) would be valuable. In a similar vein, there were views in favour of providing some form of maintenance grant ('payment in lieu of salary') for independent scholars whilst they were writing up their research. On the other hand, a number of respondents forcefully put the case that it was not appropriate to use the small grant scheme to fund teaching relief, as it would reduce the budget for funding the direct costs of research (for which there were scant funds available), and there were other sources that could and should fund this element, namely the ESRC/AHRB, or HEIs themselves.

• *Books* Respondents requested that an allowance be made to buy books that were not held by institutions, and also to buy books and/or out of print items when abroad. The purchase of non-print items, such as sound recordings was also mentioned.

• *Translation, both of primary sources, and in the field* It was stated that researchers could not be expected to master all the languages they might need, and translation costs should therefore be eligible. Conversely, some respondents said that translation costs were *not* needed as scholars should be expected to have the requisite language skills. It seems reasonable to conclude that the respondents were talking about different aspects of translation, i.e. interpreting for witnesses in the field on the one hand, and the kind of translation associated with the preparation of critical editions on the other. It was proposed that the use of an interpreter in the field might indeed improve the quality of the research data.

• *Publication-related costs* Requests included indexing, translation, and adequate assistance with preparation for publication. Art historians tended to emphasise that assistance with publication expenses was especially necessary, as their work could be centrally concerned with the use of colour and publishers were reluctant to pay the high cost of a large numbers of colour illustrations. (See also question 5)

• *Childcare costs* The case was put that it was especially difficult for single parent researchers to undertake research away from home, in the absence of funds to cover

childcare costs. It was suggested that an allowance for such costs be made under 'maintenance'. (It may be noted that although it is not specifically listed as an eligible item, the Academy has looked sympathetically on requests for child care costs in the past and provided funding within its awards).

• *Miscellaneous* There were a number of suggestions for items that were subject specific e.g. on-site photographing of architecture, purchase of surveys, computer modelling of historic buildings.

Overall, the answers to this question stressed the importance of travel and maintenance as the most essential items, and emphasised the satisfaction most respondents felt with the existing cost categories. Replies also showed a certain amount of confusion over what constituted 'consumables' since respondents suggested photocopying and microfilm charges, which are already eligible.

Level of grant

Questions 3 & 4. If the budget for small grants stays the same, would you like to raise the upper limit? If so, to what level?

The overwhelming majority (90%) of respondents to this question did not want to see the limit raised if the budget remained the same. The primary reason was that researchers preferred to keep up the numbers of awards in order to benefit the maximum number of researchers and subject areas. It was felt that modest sums could enable researchers to achieve a great deal, and the small grants were extremely cost-effective in enabling high quality research to take place. It was also pointed out that small grants at the present limit were useful for pilot studies and testing out new ideas. There were other sources applicants could approach for larger sums. It was recognised by some humanities researchers that the requirements of colleagues in the social sciences were different and they might need more funding. Two out of five of those who wished the limit to be raised to £10-£15,000 were social scientists (politics, psychology) and one was an archaeologist. The remaining respondents who wished the limit to be raised wanted only a small increase ($\pounds 6-\pounds 8,000$) to pay for teaching relief, language informants, extended overseas visits. The point was made that the actual cash value should be reviewed from time to time to take account of inflation. (Figure 8)

"The reputation of the British Academy carries weight, and once I had a grant from the BA it enabled me to obtain grants from other sources: as many as possible should have this opportunity'

'A greater number of smaller grants safeguards against homogeneity and conformity in academic research'

'I would regret a reduction in the number of grants — especially for younger academics, who have difficulty in obtaining support from Research Councils for smaller scale research'

'A lot can be achieved with modest sums'

	Yes	(%)	No	(%)	
Total	16	10	144	90	
Discipline					
Humanities	8	7	112	93	
Social Sciences	6	19	25	81	
Cross-disciplinary	2	22	7	78	
Institution					
Golden Triangle	3	10	27	90	
Old	9	10	80	90	
New	0	0	11	100	
Independent	2	10	19	90	

Fig 8: Would you raise the upper limit for grants?

Note: Percentages have been calculated as a proportion of the responses received within each category

Priority areas for funding under the small grants scheme

Question 5. What priority would you give to primary research or publication/other dissemination?

'If the primary research is good enough, it will get published anyway'

'Publication and dissemination are a very poor second'

Primary research was considered the highest priority by a clear majority, although it was recognised that if research was not published, its use was limited. A number of respondents expressed the view that, even in the current climate, it was generally not difficult to find a publishing outlet for worthwhile research, and assistance with publication should only be met in very special circumstances. Respondents did not wish to see research funds being used to benefit publishers at the expense of researchers. (Figure 9)

	Primary Research	(%)	Publications	(%)	Other	(%)	Equal Priority	(%)
Total	135	<i>82</i>	11	7	2	1	16	10
Discipline								
Humanities	103	82	8	6	0	0	14	11
Social Sciences	23	82	2	7	1	4	2	7
Cross-disciplinary	9	90	1	10	0	0	0	0
Institution								
Golden Triangle	24	83	1	3	0	0	4	14
Old	74	82	6	7	1	1	9	10
New	11	92	0	0	0	0	1	8
Independent	17	77	3	14	0	0	2	9

Fig 9: Type of activity

Note: Figures based on number of first choices cast

Question 6. What priority would you give to archive/resource-based study or fieldwork?

Many respondents stated that their reply to this question was subject-specific. The points raised included the following: it was invidious to distinguish between different modes of research; archive and fieldwork were not mutually exclusive; the quality of the research was of prime importance and there should be no priority. (Figure 10)

Fig 10: Mode of research

	Archive/ resource-based	(%)	Fieldwork	(%)	Equal Priority	(%)	
Total	76	48	24	15	57	36	
Discipline							
Humanities	67	56	10	8	42	35	
Social Sciences	5	17	11	38	13	45	
Cross-disciplinary	4	44	3	33	2	22	
Institution							
Golden Triangle	10	34	5	17	14	48	
Old	45	5 <i>1</i>	12	14	31	35	
New	7	64	0	0	4	36	
Independent	10	50	4	20	6	30	

Note: Figures based on number of first choices cast for each type

Question 7. Recipients of grants: what priority would you give to: recent postdoctoral scholars, mid-career scholars, long established scholars, independent scholars, museum/library staff, other, no priority.

The majority of replies to this question were divided between giving priority to recent postdoctoral scholars and giving no priority at all. Emphasis was mostly placed on assessing proposals on their academic merit, not on other criteria, although it was acknowledged that recent postdoctoral scholars deserved the most assistance, other things being equal. (One respondent cynically wondered whether funding postdoctoral scholars was merely putting off the evil day when they started looking for alternative careers!). Contrasting cases were made for long-established scholars, respondents either taking the line that such individuals generally had access to other sources of funding, or stating that they were producing the best work and should therefore have priority. (Figures 11 and 12)

'Projects should be judged on their merits, rather than the category of researcher'

'Recent postdoctoral scholars and independent researchers need most encouragement and support'

'We are all desperate for research funds!'





Fig 12: Priority for recipient of grant (by institutional affiliation)



'The present system is a model of effectiveness, and anonymous feedback is useful'

'The scheme is organised, publicised and administered extremely well — it is a leader in its field'

'I was very pleased with the speed and efficiency of the selection process'

'I would like to see the British Academy put even more resources into the scheme'

'British Academy grants are distinctive in that they allow independent scholars to apply, unlike many grant awarding bodies'

'It is by far the most valuable scheme available to those who wish to carry out traditional research based on personal scholarship'

Administration

Question 8. Please give any comments on the administration of the small grants scheme?

The majority of respondents were content with the current arrangements. The assessment procedures were deemed to be fair and well-considered.

Other comments

Question 9. Please give any other comments about the small grants scheme

A few mentioned continuing uncertainty about the respective roles of the Academy and the AHRB. It was suggested that other outcomes of research, such as the impact on teaching quality, should also be taken into account. Some again mentioned the gap in provision nationally between research council funding and the small grants scheme, and suggested that the level of grant might be raised to fill that gap.

Appendix B: Profile of previous award holders

Subject affiliation of cohort of award holders surveyed

Subject	Sent	Res	oonses	% return	Subject	Sent	Responses	% retur
Ancient History		1	1	100	Law	6	4	67
American Studies		3	1	33	Medieval History	7	5	71
Anthropology		9	3	33	Modern History	29	20	69
Archaeology		8	8	100	Music	13	9	69
Classics		1	1	100	Oriental Studies	5	4	80
Comparative Literature		1	0	0	Other languages	4	3	75
Cultural Studies		4	4	100	Philosophy	2	1	50
Dance and Performing A	rts	1	0	0	Politics	14	11	79
Demography		1	0	0	Psychology	2	2	10
Drama		2	1	50	Russian and Slavonic languages	1	1	10
Economics		6	6	100	Socio-legal studies	2	1	50
Early Modern History		16	8	50	Socio-linguistics	4	2	50
English		23	17	74	Sociology	3	2	67
Film Studies		6	4	67	Theology	5	4	80
French		12	7	58	Totals	240	165	69
Human Geography		7	5	71				
German		8	4	50	Age profile of respondents			
History of Art		25	19	76	Under 30		1	1
Hispanic languages		4	3	75	30-40		56	34
History of Science		1	1	100	41–50		47	28
History of Ideas		2	2	100	Over 50		54	33
Italian		2	1	50	Unknown		1	1

Institutional affiliation of cohort surveyed



Results of survey on the circumstances and outcome of previous awards

240 questionnaires were sent out, to scholars who had received small grants from the British Academy between September 1997 and July 1998. 165 responses were received by the deadline of 31 January 2000, representing a response rate of nearly 70%.

Respondents were asked a number of questions relating to the circumstances and outcome of their application for research support. The following is a synopsis of the responses, broken down by each question that was included in the survey. Not everyone chose to reply to every question, so the numbers of respondents for each question varies.

The charts and tables provide a graphical analysis of the responses, and show breakdowns of the answers given by institutional affiliation and by discipline.

The institutional affiliation has been categorised as (a) 'golden triangle' (Oxford, Cambridge and London); (b) old universities (excluding the 'golden triangle'); (c) new universities (post-1992); and (d) independent, which includes those who have no institutional affiliation, are retired, or are employed by independent research organisations or non-HEI affiliated museums or galleries, such as the British Museum.

The disciplinary spread has been divided between humanities and social sciences, relying on the subject classification which the scholars themselves chose when they last applied to the British Academy for research funding. A profile of the cohort surveyed is given in Appendix B.

Background history

Questions 1 and 2 related to the personal details of the applicant, and the last award given by the British Academy (see Appendix B).

Question 3: How did you come to hear of the British Academy small grant scheme?

The replies were fairly evenly spread between contact with the British Academy (45%), and institutional sources (50%).

Question 4: Had you previously received a small grant from the British Academy?

Of the 164 who replied to this question, 76 respondents had previously received a small grant, and 88 had not. Those in the humanities were significantly more likely to have received a previous award than their colleagues in the social sciences. (Figure 13)

Question 5: Had you previously received a conference or international exchange grant from the British Academy?

164 replied to the question. 37 had received a conference grant, seven had received international exchange funding, and the remaining 120 had not received either. The majority of those who answered in the affirmative were based at old universities, and were in humanities subjects.

Question 6: At the time you applied, had you ever held any British Academy research post?

Of 163 respondents, 14 had held a post doctoral fellowship, and two had held a research readership. Nobody had held a senior research fellowship, and the remaining 147 had not held any of these three research posts.

Question 7: Before applying to the British Academy, how many applications had you made for this or any other research project?

151 replied to this question. The majority (57%) had made between 1–5 previous applications for research funding (not necessarily to the British Academy). The largest proportion of those who had made more than 10 previous applications came from the 'old universities' sector, excluding the 'golden triangle'. (Figures 14 and 15)

64	76	46	88	54
	13	43	17	100
	48	48	51	52
	5	38	8	62
	10	45	12	55
	69	52	63	48
	7	22	25	78

Fig. 13: Had you previously received a small grant from the British Academy?

Note: Percentages have been calculated as a proportion of the responses received within each category

Fig. 14: How many applications for research support had you made previously?





Responses	nil applics	(%)	1–5 applics	(%)	6–9 applics	(%)	10+ applics	(%)
151	12	8	86	57	27	18	26	17
	3	11	16	59	6	22	2	7
	5	5	53	55	17	19	21	28
	3	25	7	58	2	17	0	0
	1	6	10	63	2	13	3	19
	10	8	71	58	20	16	22	18
	2	7	15	54	7	25	4	14
		Responses applics 151 12 3 5 3 1 1 1 1 1 10 10	Responses applics (%) 151 12 8 3 11 5 5 3 25 1 6 10 8	Responses applics (%) applics 151 12 8 86 3 11 16 5 5 53 3 25 7 1 6 10 10 8 71	Responses applics (%) applics (%) 151 12 8 86 57 3 11 16 59 5 5 53 55 3 25 7 58 1 6 10 63 10 8 71 58	Responses applics (%) applics (%) applics 151 12 8 86 57 27 3 11 16 59 6 5 5 53 55 17 3 25 7 58 2 1 6 10 63 2 10 8 71 58 20	Responses applics (%) applics (%) applics (%) 151 12 8 86 57 27 18 151 12 8 86 57 27 18 3 11 16 59 6 22 5 5 53 55 17 19 3 25 7 58 2 17 1 6 10 63 2 13 10 8 71 58 20 16	Responses applics (%) applics (%) applics (%) applics applics<

Note: Percentages have been calculated as a proportion of the total responses received within each category

Circumstances of last grant application to the Academy

Question 8: Did you apply elsewhere for project funds at the same time as you applied to the Academy? Were you successful?

157 replies were received. 71 respondents had applied elsewhere, 86 had not. Of the former, 51 were successful. Nearly half (34 in number) applied to their own institution of whom 31 were successful in obtaining funds. Applications were also made to the ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, the Society of Antiquities, the Carnegie Trust, and other assorted sources. (Figure 16)

Responses Yes (%) No (%) Successful (%) Total Institution Golden Triangle Old New Independent Discipline Humanities Social Sciences

Fig. 16: Did you apply elsewhere for funds at the same time as you applied to the British Academy?

Question 9: Would you have been able to carry out the research project if you had not received an award from the British Academy?

The majority (73%) said they would not have been able to carry out the research project without the award from the British Academy. The percentage was even higher for social scientists. Interestingly, independent scholars and those from new universities claimed least reliance on the Academy's award: the reasons for this are not clear. (Figure 17)

Responses Yes (%) No (%) Unsure (%) Total Institution Golden Triangle Old New Independent Discipline Humanities Social Sciences

Fig. 17: Would you have been able to carry out the research without the award from the British Academy?

Questions 10 & 11: Have you published the results of the research for which you were awarded a British Academy grant? How many publications have arisen directly as a result of this grant?

Publications included books, journal articles, conference articles, monographs and symphonies. The figures include publications in press, but exclude those submitted awaiting acceptance. The nature of the publications is not differentiated in the table, so the values may give a skewed picture. Those from the 'golden triangle' appear to have the least good record in terms of the percentage of award holders delivering an output; yet of those that have delivered, this same category has delivered the greatest number of publications per researcher. It should also be borne in mind that the cohort surveyed only received their awards between September 1997 and July 1998, and a number will have been made awards for book length studies which may not have yet reached the press. (Figure 18)

	Responses	Yes	(%)	No	(%)	Number	Avge no. of pubs/'Yes'	Value to 'Yes'	Avge cost per pub
Total	165	103	62	62	38	233	2.3	£218,699	£939
Institution									
Golden Triangle		12	40	18	60	29	2.4	£36,426	£1,256
Old		65	65	35	35	148	2.3	£136,350	£921
New		10	77	3	23	19	1.9	£13,153	£692
Independent		16	73	6	27	37	2.3	£32,770	£886
Discipline									
Humanities		87	65	46	35	197	2.3	£179,527	£911
Social Sciences		16	50	16	50	36	2.3	£39,172	£1,088

Fig. 18: Have you published as a result of the grant, and how many publications have resulted?

Question 12: Was the project a pilot study/prelude to a larger research grant, or was it a self-contained project?

61 researchers used their grant for a pilot study/prelude to a larger grant, 103 projects were self-contained. Social scientists were more inclined to have sought support for a pilot/prelude than scholars in the humanities, although taking social sciences as a single category the projects were equally divided between pilots and self-contained activities. (Figure 19)

Fig. 19: Was the project a pilot study, or a self-contained project?

•		-				
	Responses	Pilot	(%)	SC	(%)	
Total	165	61	37	103	63	
Institution						
Golden Triangle		12	43	16	57	
Old		40	40	61	60	
New		4	33	8	67	
Independent		5	22	18	78	
Discipline						
Humanities		44	34	86	66	
Social Sciences		17	50	17	50	

Question 13: If pilot/prelude, did you go on to apply for funding for a larger research project? If so, were you successful?

Of the 57 respondents to this question, 31 individuals had made 35 applications for funding for a larger research grant, and 27 had made no further application. Of those who had applied elsewhere, 15 applied to the Arts and Humanities Research Board, and the remainder were spread between the ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust, the Carnegie Trust, and institutional funds.

Ten applications to the AHRB were still pending, three had been successful and one respondent did not declare the result. Of the 20 applications made to bodies other than the AHRB, 10 were successful, two were unsuccessful, four were unknown and the remainder were pending. (Figure 20)

Responses	Yes	(%)	No	(%)	Successful	(%)
58	31	53	27	47	13	42
	6	55	5	45	4	67
	20	53	18	47	6	30
	4	67	2	33	2	50
	1	33	2	67	1	100
	26	62	16	38	10	38
	5	31	11	69	3	60
	•	58 31 6 20 4 1 26	58 31 53 6 55 20 53 4 67 1 33 26 62	58 31 53 27 6 55 5 20 53 18 4 67 2 1 33 2 26 62 16	58 31 53 27 47 6 55 5 45 20 53 18 47 4 67 2 33 1 33 2 67 26 62 16 38	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Fig. 20: If the project was a pilot study, did you seek further funding?

Question 14: When you applied to the British Academy at what type of institution were you employed?

The vast majority of respondents (87%) were employed at a university, two were at other higher educational establishments, one was at an independent research institution, 14 were independent scholars, four were retired, and one was from the British Museum. The profile can be found in Appendix B.

Question 15: When you applied what was your job title/rank?

The majority of those who applied successfully for Academy support in the period surveyed were Readers or Permanent Lecturers (see Appendix B).

£3370

£1024

£411

£1160

£3159

£4300

£5000

£3143

Examples of awards, 1999

The following specimen rounds of amounts awarded, made in December 1999, gives an indication of the range of research funded by the Academy, and how Academy grants are used to support individual research activity. This round may be regarded as typical of the purposes for which Academy research grants are sought.

Dr M Aldridge (University of Wales, Bangor)

£3369

£3450

£4889

£3160

£1320

Asking the right questions: how well do child witnesses cope with wh-questions in cross-examination?

Funds were awarded to employ a research assistant for two days a week over five months to assist with the development of the categorisation scheme for data, analysis of court transcripts, preparation of data for writing up, and literature search, extending work which had previously been supported by the Academy.

Dr J Baily

(Goldsmiths College)

Music of the Afghan transnational community in Fremont, California The grant was offered for the costs of travel to the USA; translation of interviews and song texts; and consumables.

Dr S Balfour

(London School of Economics and Political Science) The Spanish Army of Africa in the Spanish Civil War

Dr Balfour's grant was split between travel costs to go to Spain to consult archives (maintenance was covered by the Academy's agreement with the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas), and the costs of employing a research assistant to extract and photocopy specific material from newspapers and periodicals.

Dr J C Beal	£4910
(University of Nervosetle upon Type)	

(University of Newcastle upon Tyne) The Newcastle-Poitiers Corpus of Tyneside English

The project was jointly funded by British and French sources (the Academy and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique). The Academy's research grant was offered to cover the costs of a research assistant to transcribe and tag interviews.

Professor	J	S	Bell	FBA	
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(University of Leeds) European legal cultures

Also in receipt of a Research Readership (which allows time, but no direct research expenses), Professor Bell was awarded a grant to cover travel costs in France, Sweden, Spain and Germany for archival research.

Professor J Bergin FBA

(University of Manchester) The Church, the Crown and the Episcopate under Louis XIV

The grant was awarded for travel and maintenance costs for Professor Bergin to consult archives in Rome, extending work previously funded by the Academy.

Dr P J Berry (King's College, Cambridge)	£2750
Eating the Bacon: intersections of evangelical piety and lik materialism in Marot, Rabelais, and Marguerite de Navar	
The Academy's award was offered to support Dr Berry in months to conduct archival research.	Paris for five
Dr S Boni	£3500
(Linacre College, Oxford) Hierarchy in twentieth-century Sefwi (Ghana)	
Dr Boni received a grant to travel to Ghana, employ a loca assistant to help with interviews, and for the costs of const	
Dr P G Boyle	£2275
(University of Nottingham)	

Eden, Eisenhower, Hungary and Suez

The grant covered travel and maintenance costs in London and the USA for archival research.

Dr N J Britton

(University of Manchester) Ethnic minorities in the legal profession

The award was to be used to employ a research assistant to transcribe interviews, and for incidental consumable expenses.

Dr D Brown

(Other Institution)

À revised estimate of the total number of landowners by category: New men of wealth and the purchase of land in Britain 1780–1880

The grant included elements for travel and maintenance within the UK, a research assistant to compile a database, photocopying, and ink cartridges for a printer.

Dr M Buckley

(University of Edinburgh) Political debates in post-Soviet Russia

Dr Buckley was awarded a grant to cover travel and maintenance in the USA to consult documents at the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

Dr S C Bushell

(University of Cambridge) *The Excursion* from manuscript to poem: Wordsworth's acts of poetic translation

The Academy's grant allowed Dr Bushell to study the manuscripts at Grasmere over four weeks.

Professor R A Butlin

(University of Leeds) An evaluative history of the Royal Geographical Society: a pilot study The award was offered for travel within the UK to various archives.

Dr M Calloni

(London School of Economics and Political Science) Le mie memorie – Amelia Rosselli Pincherle

The grant supported travel to Italy, the employment of a research assistant to transcribe and photocopy material, and the costs of photocopying.

Dr M Caravolas

(University of Liverpool) The role of phonological skills in the spelling performance of dyslexic children

The award was given for a number of trips to Prague, where the study group was located, and for a research assistant to prepare test materials, enter data and prepare preliminary analyses.

Dr P E Chaisty

(St Antony's College, Oxford)

Constitution-making and Parliamentary power in Russia

The grant was to enable Dr Chaisty to conduct archival research in Russia for six weeks, and to employ a research assistant to input data and calculate statistical regressions. The Academy has supported Dr Chaisty with a previous research grant, and a postdoctoral fellowship.

Dr J R D Coffey

(University of Leicester) Violence and religion in early modern Britain

Dr Coffey obtained an award for travel within the UK to copyright libraries to inspect 17th century books and pamphlets.

Dr E Collingham

(Jesus College, Cambridge) Imperial bodies: the British in India 1800–1947

The award was given for permission fees for prints, drawings and photographs to illustrate a book.

£920

Dr R Coomber

(University of Greenwich)

An investigation into the average length of time of progression from the first use of heroin through regular use and then to addicted patterns of use in a context of comparatively high purity

The grant was offered so that Dr Coomber could employ a number of researchers to conduct semi-structured interviews with a target group. The costs of transcribing the interviews, and various consumables were included in the grant.

Professor M P Costeloe (University of Bristol)

The British and Mexico's foreign debt, 1824 – 1890

The award was to be used for travel and maintenance in Mexico for archival research, and the costs of obtaining microfilms and photocopies.

Dr H Crawford

(University College London)

London Bahrain archaeological expedition, excavation at Saar The grant was offered for the glyptic material from Saar, to pay for the employment of a draughtsperson to draw the impressions made by seals

Dr J A Cremona

(Independent Researcher)

The use of Italian in the North African Ottoman regencies during the seventeenth century

The award covered travel and maintenance in Italy, France and the UK, for the applicant to explore new manuscript holdings and check transcriptions already made.

Dr I R M Cross

(University of Cambridge)

Lithoacoustics and evidence of music in prehistory

The grant was awarded for the costs of employing a flint knapper to conduct various experiments, consumables, and engineering facilities for analysis of the results.

Dr D M Custance

(Goldsmiths College) Social learning and imitation in pig-tailed macaques (Macaca nemestrina)

The award was given for the researcher to travel to Milan (where the study group of primates was located), accommodation, and the costs of recording the experiments.

Dr D Dalby

(Retired)

£4960

£2340

£3190

£4842

Development of existing website as a medium of the collection, presentation, revision and diffusion of data and research materials on the world's languages

The award covered travel costs, and the employment of a research assistant to develop the database, furthering work previously supported by the Academy.

Dr S D Damer

(University of Glasgow) An ethnography of the effects of tourism on the Greek Island of Symi

The grant was awarded for travel and maintenance in Symi for the purpose of ethnographic observation.

Mr C J Doherty

(University of Öxford) Fabric analysis of earthenware pottery from Sarawak

The grant covered travel and maintenance in Sarawak for the researcher to undertake sampling and data collection, and for a specialist assistant to prepare a report of pottery manufacture by ethnic groups of the region.

Professor K H F Dyson FBA

(University of Bradford) Economic and Monetary Union in Europe and the German State after the Maastricht Treaty (1991 to the present day): A Comparison of the Kohl and Schroeder Chancellorships

The grant was offered towards travel and maintenance in Germany for Professor Dyson to conduct interviews, and for a research assistant to extract newspaper and journal material.

Dr R Fieldhouse

£3300

£2000

£2200

£3760

£3465

£4682

(Retired) History of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement

The award was for travel and maintenance within the UK for archival research. The Academy had supported an earlier phase of the project.

Dr J France

(University of Wales, Swansea) Early Medieval warfare: the history of war from the third century AD to the millennium

The award covered travel and maintenance in the UK, France and Germany for archival research and topographical and route investigations.

Dr E M Garrett

(University of Cambridge) The population history of the Isle of Skye 1851–1891

Dr Garrett was awarded a grant to cover the costs of transcription of data by employing data entry clerks, and for microfilm and photocopying expenses, and some travel costs.

Professor P P D Gifford

(University of St Andrews)

Subject matters: subject and self in French literature from Descartes to the present

The grant was given for a research assistant to complete various tasks.

Dr J Glomski

(Warburg Institute, University of London) The Neo-Latin writings of Leonard Cox, Rudolf Agricola Junior and Valentin Eck (1510–1530)

Dr Glomski was awarded a grant to cover maintenance expenses whilst consulting archives in Leuven.

Professor R Gorner (Aston University)

(Aston University) German elegies in the twentieth century

The grant was offered towards travel and maintenance expenses in Germany for archival research.

Dr F A Gosling

(Independent Researcher) J.F. Schleusner Lexicon of the Septuagint Project

The Academy's grant included travel and maintenance in the Netherlands and the USA, specialist software, and the employment of a research assistant to work on a literature search.

Dr P Guest

(Independent Researcher)

Roman Imperial coin hoards

The grant was to be used for travel and maintenance whilst the researcher visited various numismatic repositories, and also for the costs of preparing graphs and maps.

Dr M Hamilton (Birkbeck College) In search of the Blues	£4789
The grant covered travel and maintenance for archival resear USA.	ch in the
Professor B S Hammond (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) Swift's reading	£1700
The award was given for travel and maintenance to the main archive in Germany.	Swift

Professor A F Harding

(University of Durham) Post-excavation analysis and publication of survey and excavation at Sobiejuchy, Poland

The grant was offered for travel to Poland for Professor Harding to revisit the finds from Sobiejuchy, and for the costs of preparing a specialist report on the animal bone.

£1990

£2500

£4633

£900

£5000

£3160

£5000

£2466

Professor B Harriss-White (University of Oxford)	£2500
India working: working India – the character of The award was given for a research assistant to literature.	0
Dr G Harvey (King Alfred's College) Indigenous religious responses to diaspora and	£4465 dislocation
The grant included travel and maintenance in N USA, to enable the researchers to investigate Ma communities at home and in diaspora, as well a	aori and Mayan
Dr S K Hazareesingh (Balliol College, Oxford) War, revolution and the state: the republican fed <i>Midi</i> (1870–1871)	£1900 leralism of the <i>Ligue du</i>
The Academy's grant was awarded for travel an France, to consult municipal archives and the Bi	nd maintenance in ibliotheque Nationale.
Professor G C Hillman (University College London) Identification of archaeological remains of glum	£4777 e wheats
The grant was for the employment of a research various glume wheats, determine diagnostic crit drawings.	
Dr W Housley (Other Institution) Art and devolution in Wales: perceptions and ex	£5000 xpectations

The award covered travel and maintenance for the purpose of conducting interviews, costs of data entry, and video/audio digitisation.

Dr D J Howarth	£4370
(Aston University)	

Managing the French Economy

The grant was offered for travel and maintenance in Paris to enable Dr Howarth to consult the archives and conduct interviews with public officials. There was also an element for photocopying costs.

Professor J M Hull

(University of Birmingham)

From experiential educator to nationalist theologian: the hymns of Isaac Watts

The Academy's grant was offered for the employment of a sighted research assistant to read microfilm and printed books, for recording and note-taking by the applicant.

Professor P Humfrey

(University of St Andrews)

The pictorial decoration of S. Maria dei Crociferi in Venice The award was for travel and maintenance for ten days in Venice, for archival research.

Dr R Husni

(University of Durham)

Nazik Al-Mala'ika: the pursuit of Utopia

The grant was to enable Dr Husni to spend time in Cairo, interviewing the poet and critic on whom she is writing a book, and to collect other material.

Ms J	Μ	Inn	es
(C		-111-	C - 11

(Somerville College, Oxford)

Extension of British legislation database (1660-1841)

The award was for the employment of a research assistant to extend a database, under supervision.

Dr T A Insoll

(University of Manchester) Geochemical source analysis of Carnelian from Gao, Mali and Khambhat, India

The grant was to enable Dr Insoll to travel to India to collect samples. The Academy has supported an earlier phase of the project.

Dr C A Jones

(University of Leeds) Britain and the Yemen Civil War 1962-64

The award was given to allow the applicant to spend time in the PRO, and to cover the costs of photocopying.

R E Jones

£1760

£5000

£1000

£1374

£5000

£4920

£5000

£1196

£687

£2000

£4890

inversity of Glasgow) eoarchaeological investigation of Xerxes Canal, Northern Greece e grant was needed for travel and maintenance in Greece, to permit Jones to conduct further research, including sediment analysis.

ofessor M Kemp FBA University of Oxford) ne Human Animal

ne award was offered for the employment of a research assistant to anduct searches of source material under supervision, and for the notographing of material from libraries, galleries and museums.

S Kirkbright

ston University) arl Jasper's Biography

r Kirkbright was awarded a grant for travel and maintenance to onduct archival research in Germany, during sabbatical leave.

r S Kite RIBA

iniversity of Newcastle upon Tyne) e traditional architecture of Oman

r Kite's grant covered travel and maintenance expenses in Oman, us vehicle hire, so that he could conduct a field survey including otography and measured drawings.

r A Le Sueur

iniversity College London) e United Kingdom's higher courts and constitutional reforms

A grant was awarded for travelling to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Spain, so the applicant could conduct interviews with key individuals and collect judicial statistics.

Professor N D Lewis

(University of Sheffield)

Law and governance

Professor Lewis sought support for trips to Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada to visit state officials and gather material not otherwise available.

Dr C Liddell

(University of Ulster)

A longitudinal investigation of underprivileged South African children Following up her study in 1994 (also supported by the Academy). Dr Liddell requested support for a research assistant to collect data on the children's progress by a variety of methods.

Dr K D Lilley (Royal Holloway)

Popular planning: the images and imagery of civic rebuilding plans in early post-war Britain

A grant was awarded for archival research within the UK (travel and maintenance).

Dr N F Lochery (University College London) £5000 The impact of the Russian Olim on contemporary Israeli culture

Dr Lochery needed grant support to enable him to conduct interviews with immigrants (Olim) and collect other material, in Israel and Russia.

Dr S B Malvern

(University of Reading) Memorizing the Great War: Stanley Spencer at Burghclere The grant covered reproduction fees for images necessary to illustrate an article

Dr D S Marriott

(Queen Mary and Westfield College) The unpublished journals, correspondence and writings of Richard Wright, Alain Locke and James Weldon Johnson

Dr Marriott's grant was for travel and maintenance to consult documents at Yale.

Dr V A Maxfield

(University of Exeter) Mons Porphyrites post-excavation project

The grant was for the specialist analysis of faunal remains. Survey and selective excavation had previously been funded by the Academy.

£3150

£1054

£3220

£5000

£3870

Professor G McCormack

£4250

(University of Essex) Credit and security in countries in transition – the case of Poland Professor McCormack wished to travel to London, Poland and the USA. The overseas research involved interviews with key players, and the grant included payment to a research assistant to help with the interviews in Poland.

Professor A McFarlane

(University of Warwick) War and revolution in Spanish America 1808–1825

The award was offered for travel and maintenance in Spain, for archival research. Support for maintenance costs was partly provided through the Academy's exchange agreement with the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas.

Professor J Michie

£5000

£4928

(Birkbeck College) The governance and regulation of professional football

As part of an ongoing collaborative project, Professor Mitchie requested support for travel and maintenance within the UK, to conduct interviews with a range of personnel.

Mrs S E H Middleton

(Independent Researcher)

A comparison of ancient Intagli from Sri Lanka, Burma and elsewhere The grant was awarded to enable Mrs Middleton to travel to Sri Lanka to inspect collections of intagli.

Professor G Millan

(University of Strathclyde)

Letters exchanged by Pierre Louys and Georges Louis, 1870-1917 The Academy's award was offered for the employment of a research assistant to transcribe manuscripts, and for the principal researcher to visit archives in France.

Dr D S Mills

(University of Manchester)

A political history of British social anthropology, 1946 to the present The grant covered travel and maintenance costs in the UK, for Dr Mills to consult archives and conduct various interviews.

Mr G Milne

(University College London)

Medieval ship publication project (Sandwich Ship)

The award included payments for a research assistant to input data, the preparation of a dendrochronological report, preparation o illustrations, photography, and travel to archives in the UK.

Dr J P Mitchell

(University of Sussex)

The production and consumption of contested histories: the case of Malta

The grant was offered for travel and maintenance in Malta for the purpose of collecting data, mainly via interviews.

Dr K Nabulsi (Nuffield College, Oxford)

£3700

£2603

£2588

Patriotic politics: the Republican tradition of war in Europe in the 19th century

Dr Nabulsi requested payments for a number of local research assistants to collect specified data in Poland, Germany and Italy.

Dr D Nash

(University of Brighton)

Reconstructing regional climatic histories in central southern Africa The Academy provided support for travel and maintenance within the UK for archival research

Dr S P Newman

(University of Glasgow)

Historical bodies: health, disease and death among the poor of Early National Philadelphia

The Academy's grant was to be used to finance a trip to the States to conduct archival research.

Dr A Noble

(University of Durham) Mexican national cinema

Building on substantial previous work, Dr Noble wished to spend more in Mexico viewing additional films and consulting bibliographic material, and the Academy provided travel and maintenance costs.

Dr M Ogborn

£1015 (Queen Mary and Westfield College) Writing and globalisation: power and knowledge in the English East India Company, 1660–1760

The Academy's grant was offered for travel and maintenance in the USA, for archival research.

Mr K S Painter

(Retired) The silver treasure from the Casa del Menandro, Pompeii The grant was needed for the preparation of drawings, and photographs.

T

Mr A J N Prag (University of Manchester) The provenance of Greek black glaze pottery: a study by neutron activation analysis

Mr Prag requested support for travel and maintenance in Greece, to enable him to complete work on his study of pottery.

Dr I J Prothero	£1760
(University of Manchester)	

"Bronterre" O'Brien and the O'Brienites

The Academy's grant was given for travel and maintenance within the UK for archival research.

Professor M D Pugh

(Liverpool John Moores University) The Pankhurst family: a collective biography

Professor Pugh was awarded expenses connected with his travelling to various archives within the UK.

Dr A Quayson

(Pembroke College, Cambridge) Literary representations of physical disabilities

The Academy awarded a grant to cover travel and maintenance expenses in Ghana and South Africa, to enable Dr Quayson to conduct interviews with landmine victims. The costs of an interpreter were included in the grant.

Dr C M Radaelli

(University of Bradford) Italy and the Euro-zone: Institutions, discourse and policy regimes The Academy funded a trip to Italy, to collect data from archives and conduct interviews.

Dr L Rattray (Other Institution)

The unpublished letters of Edith Wharton to Bernard Berenson

Extending her previous research on Edith Wharton, Dr Rattray was given a grant to enable her to spend time consulting an archive of letters, outside Florence.

Professor D Ravfield

(Queen Mary and Westfield College)

The Russian writer Tatiana Shchepkina-Kupernik (1874–1952) The Academy provided travel and maintenance expenses for trips to Russia, France and Switzerland to consult archives

Dr G W Rees

(University of Leicester)

Transatlantic security cooperation into the 21st century

The grant was offered for travel and maintenance expenses in Washington, Brussels and London, to conduct interviews and collect other material.

Miss C W Reilly

(Independent Researcher) Early Victorian poetry 1840-1859: a biobibliography

Miss Reilly was awarded a grant to continue her programme of visits to libraries within the UK.

£2920

£3252

£1015

£1242

£1262

£1509

£5000

£3850

£4685

£3865

£3300



£4620

£1850

£3000

Dr P E J Robinson (University of Kent at Canterbury)	£1008
Beaumarchais: homme de lettres, homme de société The grant was awarded for photography and research ass	sistance.
Professor D A Roe (University of Oxford)	£4977
Completion of a book on Palaeolithic Archaeology The Academy's grant was to be used for employing a rest to prepare illustrations for publication.	earch assistant
Dr A Rogatchevski (University of Glasgow) S.S. Ketshiperden schebe Usersth Processi	£162
S S Koteliansky and the Hogarth Press One of the most modest grants, this award was given to e Rogatchevski to visit archives within the UK.	enable Dr
Professor J E Sandford (University of Reading) Media control in the GDR: handling 'Das Komplizierte'	£1959
The Academy funded a trip to Germany for archival resea	arch.
Professor T Schuller (Birkbeck College)	£3020
Images of the Lifecourse: a visual literature search The Academy's grant was to be used for the employment assistant to help source material, and for reproduction fee	
Professor R A Segal (University of Lancaster) The life of William Robertson Smith	£3000
The grant was offered to help finance travel and maintena Cambridge to consult archives. An earlier phase of the pr received grant support from the Academy.	
received grant support nom the Academy.	
Dr K M Sharpe (University of Southampton)	£3173
Dr K M Sharpe	ıd, 1500–1700 s in London to
Dr K M Sharpe (University of Southampton) Representations of rule: the culture of authority in Englar The award was to cover travel and maintenance expenses	ıd, 1500–1700 s in London to
Dr K M Sharpe (University of Southampton) Representations of rule: the culture of authority in Englar The award was to cover travel and maintenance expenses visit archives, museums and galleries, and to cover photo Dr R W Sharples (University College London)	ıd, 1500–1700 5 in London to copying costs. £250
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Dr M F Snape	£1194
(University of Birmingham) Religion and the British soldier <i>c</i> .1707–1945	
The Academy funded travel and maintenance in Scotland London for archival research.	l, Ireland and
Dr A S Thompson (University of Leeds)	£1305
Publicity, philanthropy and commemoration: British socie South African War (1899–1902) The grant was offered for archival research within the UK	
Professor J A Thrower	£3225
(University of Aberdeen) The religious history of central Asia	20020
Professor Thrower needed to consult archives in the USA grant provided travel and maintenance costs.	, and the
Professor J Todd (University of East Anglia) The letters of Mary Wollstonecraft	£4182
The grant was to be used to fund a trip to the USA to con and research within the UK.	sult archives,
Dr H J Whall (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of Londo The peace process in Sri Lanka: The failure of the People' Government – Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) p	s Alliance
negotiations 1994–1995 The award covered travel and maintenance expenses in S well as vehicle hire, to enable the applicant to consult arc conduct interviews.	
Dr J P Wild (University of Manchester)	£690
The Roman and Indian textiles from Berenike, Egypt	
Dr Wild was awarded air fares to travel to Egypt to condu- analysis on site. The Academy has supported this project	
Professor D Williams (University of Sheffield)	£2726
Managing modernity: a study of Condorcet's political the The grant covered the costs of a research visit to Paris to (0
archives.	
Dr M J Winstanley (University of Lancaster)	£4337
Commerce, culture and retail provision in late Victorian & England: a comparative study	& Edwardian
The grant was split between travel and maintenance costs archival research, and the costs of employing a research a undertake data collection, collation and cross-referencing	ssistant to
Dr A Wood	£1292
(University of East Anglia) Precious blood shedding: ideology, popular protest and tl Anglian rebellions of 1549	he East
The grant was awarded for travel and maintenance withi visiting regional archives, and for photocopying costs.	n the UK,
Dr K P Zebiri (School of Oriental and African Studies) Qur'anic Controversy	£2007
The grant funded travel within the UK, photocopying cos employment of a research assistant to conduct preliminar literature and databases.	
Dr D Zeitlyn (University of Kent at Canterbury)	£4863
Preliminary archaeological survey of the Canton of Somie	e, Cameroon

The grant was awarded for travel and maintenance in Cameroon, the costs of local assistance, aerial photography and cartography, for a field survey.

Statistics on Awards, 1996–2000

The following statistics relate to awards made by the British Academy, for small research grants (up to £5,000) during the four year period 1996–2000. The figures for each year relate to the financial year, which runs from 1 April to 31 March. Where success rates are quoted, they have been calculated as a percentage of awards made against applications received, within each category.

Awards by subject area

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1996–2000		
Subject	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	% of awards	% success
African Studies	0	1	1	1	3	0.2	100.0
Ancient History	2	2	3	4	11	0.9	55.0
American Studies	0	1	5	3	9	0.7	81.8
Anthropology	9	11	9	20	49	3.8	76.6
Archaeology	21	13	23	74	131	10.2	65.8
Celtic	0	0	0	1	1	0.1	50.0
Classics	2	2	2	7	13	1.0	86.7
Comparative Literature	0	1	0	1	2	0.2	100.0
Communications	0	0	0	1	1	0.1	16.7
Cultural Studies	1	5	3	2	11	0.9	50.0
Dance	0	1	0	0	1	0.1	25.0
Demography	2	2	2	1	7	0.5	87.5
Drama	10	3	3	2	18	1.4	66.7
Economics	4	10	8	7	29	2.2	63.0
Early Modern History	12	16	18	23	69	5.3	67.6
English	16	23	34	37	110	8.5	69.2
Film Studies	2	6	5	3	16	1.2	55.2
rench	11	7	21	25	64	5.0	68.1
Human Geography	12	9	7	16	44	3.4	62.0
German	6	9	12	7	34	2.6	79.1
History of Art	15	15	17	18	65	5.0	59.1
Hispanic Languages	3	4	7	6	20	1.6	74.1
History of Science	3	2	1	1	7	0.5	77.8
History of Ideas	2	1	2	1	6	0.5	60.0
talian	2	3	1	9	15	1.2	71.4
aw	7	4	6	10	27	2.1	56.3
inguistics	2	1	5	7	15	1.2	68.2
Vedieval History	7	9	13	19	48	3.7	76.2
Nodern History	35	31	45	73	180	14.0	63.6
Music	10	16	9	11	46	3.6	71.9
Oriental Studies	2	4	5	4	15	1.2	83.3
Other Languages	1	2	5	3	11	0.9	68.8
Philosophy	3	2	2	1	8	0.6	53.3
Politics	7	13	15	21	56	4.3	60.9
Psychology	2	1	4	16	23	1.8	82.1
Russian and Slavonic Lang		2	1	5	14	1.1	66.7
Socio-legal Studies	1	2	1	3	7	0.5	63.6
Socio-linguistics	7	3	2	6	18	1.4	90.0
Sociology	5	3	12	17	37	2.9	58.7
Theology	16	5	13	15	49	3.8	77.8
Fotals	246	245	318	481	1290	0.0	66.8

Profile of award holders

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1996–2000		
Gender	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	% of awards	% success
Male	174	164	217	320	875	67.8	65.6
Female	72	81	101	161	415	32.2	69.5
Totals	246	245	318	481	1290		66.8
Age							
under 30	13	15	13	24	65	5.0	64.4
30–40	74	72	105	157	408	31.6	67.5
41–50	56	71	78	104	309	24.0	64.0
over 50	91	86	107	187	471	36.5	68.6
unknown	12	1	15	9	37	2.9	66.1
Totals	246	245	318	481	1290		66.8
Institution							
Oxford	12	13	13	37	75	5.8	81.5
Cambridge	10	17	3	24	54	4.2	80.6
London	33	26	47	63	169	13.1	71.9
Sub-total triangle	55	56	63	124	298		75.6
Old universities (exc triangle)) 138	138	184	270	730	56.6	69.1
New universities	21	18	31	36	106	8.2	51.2
Colleges of HE	1	1	3	4	9	0.7	50.0
Museums/Galleries	1	2	1	1	5	0.4	83.3
Independent	30	30	36	46	142	11.0	56.8
Totals	246	245	318	481	1290		66.8
National base (universities)							
England	184	168	224	350	926	71.8	68.6
Scotland	22	24	38	51	135	10.5	69.6
Wales	9	15	10	25	59	4.6	64.1
Northern Ireland	1	6	11	8	26	2.0	60.5
Unaffiliated	30	32	35	47	114	11.2	56.9
Totals	246	245	318	481	1290		66.8

Awards by discipline

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1996–2000		
Awards by number	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	% of awards	% success
Humanities	192	191	259	362	1004	77.8	66.5
Social Science	54	54	59	119	286	22.2	67.8
Totals	246	245	318	481	1290		66.8
	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1996–2000		
Awards by value	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	Awards	% of awards	% success
Humanities	£417,155	£410,944	£621,330	£1,025,585	£2,475,014	73.8	63.0
Social Science	£136,210	£138,972	£172,299	£431,412	£878,893	26.2	61.0
Totals	£553,365	£549,916	£793,629	£1,456,997	£3,353,907		62.4

Academy programmes to support advanced research 1999–2000

Research Appointments

Research Professorships

The scheme offers a prestigious series of awards, first offered in 1999. Awards are designed primarily for established scholars who have already published works of distinction in their field. Applicants should have a major programme of work which would benefit from a sustained period of support. The Research Professorship awards enable scholars to be relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments for three years.

Research Readerships and Senior Research Fellowships

These schemes are aimed at established scholars in UK universities who are in mid-career, having already published works of distinction. Awards allow scholars to undertake or complete an approved programme of sustained research, while relieved of their normal teaching and administrative commitments. Readerships are tenable for two years, and Fellowships for one.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

One of the Academy's most popular schemes, this programme enables outstanding younger scholars to obtain experience of research and teaching in the university environment, which will strengthen their curriculum vitae and improve their prospects of securing permanent posts by the end of the Fellowship. Awards are tenable for three years.

Research Projects

The Academy supports a series of major infrastructural research projects, which are designated 'Academy Research Projects'. This programme is currently under review. In addition, the Academy makes annual grants to collaborative international projects on behalf of the UK, and provides a substantial contribution to the *New Dictionary of National Biography*.

Research Grants

Research grants are available to support the direct expenses of a research programme, such as travel and maintenance, consumables, specific IT costs excluding hardware, and certain pre-publication costs. The upper limit of award is £5,000. Following extensive consultation with the academic community during 1999–2000, a number of adjustments will be made to the scope of the small grants scheme with effect from September 2000; and a new scheme for Larger Research Grants (over £5,000 and up to £20,000) will be introduced. Details will be issued shortly.

Conferences

The Academy offers three main forms of support for conferences: *Overseas Conference Grants*, providing travel expenses for a British scholar to present a paper abroad; *British Conference Grants*, offering a contribution to the costs of conferences in the UK, particularly to assist with the costs of bringing key overseas speakers to participate

in a conference held in Britain; and *Major International Congress Grants*, giving large grants to contribute to the administrative expenses of running a major worldwide congress in the UK. In addition, block grants are available for learned societies/subject associations to support the attendance of scholars at conferences overseas.

International programmes

Exchanges

The Academy provides opportunities, through exchange agreements with other Academies, research libraries and other research organisations for British scholars to carry out individual research programmes or to collaborate in joint programmes with overseas scholars. Research visits (in either direction) are supported, as well as attendance at joint seminars or conferences, and the holding of workshops in connection with joint projects. The exchange programme may be particularly valuable for scholars wishing to work in countries where access might otherwise be problematic. Logistic and other support in arranging a research programme is available from the relevant partner organisation.

Joint activities

A special programme has recently been established to support international joint activities involving British scholars in collaboration with foreign partners. The research programme should be clearly defined (not open-ended) and involve partners from one or possibly two other countries.

Networks

A new initiative has been developed to promote small networks of scholars from different countries meeting over a period of three to five years to work on particular issues or questions of methodology. This scheme is intended to support research which is wide-ranging in scope, and broader than that for which the 'joint activities' programme has been developed.

Visiting Professorships and Fellowships

This scheme enables distinguished scholars from overseas to be invited to spend a minimum of two weeks in the UK. The main purpose is to enable the visitor to pursue research, but the delivery of lectures and participation in seminars is also allowed. A British sponsor must apply on behalf of the overseas scholar.

British Academy Visiting Lectureships

This is another new scheme, and is designed to enable a limited number of distinguished scholars from overseas (up to 4 a year) to be invited to spend around 2 weeks in the UK, to deliver a lecture or series of lectures and/or seminars.

Special international symposia and Meetings

Funds are available to support the organisation of conferences or symposia in the UK and/or overseas, usually organised jointly by the Academy and another partner institution (in certain cases, a foreign Academy or university must be involved).

Full details of the Academy's programmes can be found on the web site at www.britac.ac.uk/guide