

# Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund Application Guidance 2025-26

---

## Contents

---

1	New British Academy Policy .....	2
2	Completing the application form .....	2
3	Summary .....	3
4	Page 1: Eligibility .....	3
5	Page 2: Proposal .....	5
6	Page 3: Lead Applicant Details .....	10
7	Page 4: Lead Applicant Career Summary.....	10
8	Page 5: Co-Applicant Career Summary.....	12
9	Page 6: Financial Details .....	12
10	Page 7: Equal Opportunities .....	13
11	Page 8: Nominated Referee .....	13
12	Guidance for Referees.....	14
13	Submission of Application.....	15
14	Outcome of Application.....	16

**Please read the scheme notes carefully. Incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered.**

---

## 1 New British Academy Policy

---

- 1.1 In 2025 the British Academy has introduced a new requirement for all grant scheme applications. All applicants wishing to apply to British Academy schemes must now register with ORCID and give their ID number in the application form (regardless of being the PI or Co-I). This is a free to use service which connects researchers to their outputs and can be used regardless of connection to institutions. If you do not already have an ORCID ID, you can register for the service on their [website](#).
- 

## 2 Completing the application form

---

- 2.1 The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:
- Page 1: Eligibility
  - Page 2: Research Proposal
  - Page 3: Lead Applicant Details
  - Page 4: Lead Applicant Career Summary
  - Page 5: Co-Applicant Career Summary
  - Page 6: Financial Details
  - Page 7: Equal Opportunities
  - Page 8: Lead Applicant Referee Statement

- 2.2 A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following table.
- 2.3 Each box in the table represents a page of the application form. The left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages. The right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion. A red asterisk (\*) indicates which questions are mandatory. Please read the table carefully before completing the form.
- 

## 3 Summary

---

### 3.1 Summary table \*

When your application form is complete, the status for each page on the application summary page will say: 'Complete'. However, only **after** all invited contributors to your application have clicked the '**Submit my Contribution**' button your '**Submit for Organisation Approval**' button appears.

---

## 4 Page 1: Eligibility

---

### 4.1 Primary and Secondary Subjects \*

Your application must be relevant to the Humanities and/or Social Sciences and you will need to select the relevant subject areas and fields from the drop-down list.

### 4.2 Time period, audiences, regional interests \*

These fields provide the opportunity to give further indications of the relevance of your subject area. They are optional fields.

### 4.3 Nationality \*

Please select your nationality from the dropdown list provided. Please note that primary applicants must be British or Hungarian.

### 4.4 Employing Organisation \*

Please enter the organisation at which you are employed. If you are in Independent Scholar please enter this.

**Please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure that you complete your application in time for your employing institution to process it and provide their approval by their closing date.**

The majority of appropriate establishments are registered in the system. If your proposed organisation is not there, please contact the institution's research support services, or equivalent, and ask them to provide the British Academy's Research Funding Office with the contact details of an appropriate person in the organisation to act as an approver. **Please note, however, that Hungarian subjects applying to this scheme should select 'Independent Scholar' from the list of organisations even if employed by a non-UK based institution.**

All applications must be approved by the employing organisation authorities e.g. research grants office, finance department, etc. The approving department will receive email notification once you have completed your application and submitted it. They will be asked to provide approval and then submit the application to the British Academy. It is strongly recommended that the applicant maintains an open dialogue with the approving department at the host institution as the British Academy cannot be held responsible for emails being caught in spam filters or not being received.

**It is recommended that you allow at least five working days for this process. Once they have checked your application, they will contact you if any changes are required, please note if changes need to be made these will have to be done before the deadline as they cannot be done afterwards.**

#### **4.5 Co-applicant**

Please note that all applications must have one lead applicant, although applications on behalf of more than one person are welcome. Please note that all correspondence is sent via the system only to the individual in whose name the application is submitted on the British Academy GMS. The applicant is responsible for notifying any other parties. If there is more than one applicant, or the research involves other partners, please complete this section, and the relevant sections of the Co-Applicant career summary. A 'Co-Applicant' is a joint director of the project with equal responsibility for the academic management of the project. It is expected that no more than one Co-Applicant would normally be named on a proposal for a Stein-Arnold Research Grant. Postgraduate students are **not eligible** to apply for grant support from the Academy, and applicants (and Co-Applicants) are asked to confirm that they are not currently working towards a PhD, nor awaiting the outcome of a viva voce examination, nor awaiting the acceptance of any corrections required by the examiners.

Other participants in a project, whose involvement does not equate to being a 'Co-Applicant' should be named in the relevant section (other participants) in the Research Proposal section.

---

## 5 Page 2: Proposal

---

### 5.1 Subject Area \*

Please select the Subject Area from the drop-down menu that is most relevant to this proposal.

### 5.2 Title of Proposal \*

In this field, please avoid using any unnecessary quotation or other punctuation marks (e.g. do not use quotation marks round the full title simply to indicate it is a title). Consider the presentation by checking the 'print application' option to ensure that the title appears as you wish it to.

### 5.3 Abstract \*

Please provide a short abstract summarising your proposed research in terms suitable for an informed general audience, not one specialised in your field. This is a mandatory field and the limit is 150 words.

### 5.4 Project start date/end date \*

Please click the calendar button to select the start and end date of the proposed research.

### 5.5 Project Duration (months) \*

Please state how long your project will last for.

Please note that awards may be held over a period of up to 24 months from a starting date not earlier than 1 April 2026 and no later than 31 December 2026.

### 5.6 Proposed Programme & Plan of Action \*

The proposal must;

- clearly specify the context, and research objectives of the proposed study,
- describe the methodology to be used, and
- set out a realistic research programme, describing the activities that will take place, and explaining how they will contribute to the achievement of the research objectives

Applicants should give an account of their research which is complete of itself, and should not depend on material facts being provided by their referees, nor rely on special prior knowledge on the part of assessors.

Where the bulk of funding sought is to finance a workshop(s) or conference(s), applicants should give a clear account of the overall research programme, provide a justification of the contribution of the event(s) to the

achievement of the research objective, and give an account of the onward research planned.

It is essential that applicants clearly state the reasons why funds are needed. For example, it is not sufficient to state that the applicant will visit a particular archive: adequate details must be provided of sources to be consulted, and the length of visit must be clearly justified. The applicant should briefly explain why alternative access to material, such as microfilm or internet access, is not appropriate.

Grants are intended only for the planning and conduct of primary research. They are not available to cover the costs of spending time at another institution for purposes such as the writing up of primary research. All applications must clearly itemise the **research programme** to be undertaken at any location. Convenience is not a justification.

If support is sought for visits between UK and overseas scholars, applicants should clearly explain the purpose of the meeting(s).

If a research assistant is to be employed, applicants should provide a brief job description, clearly stating the nature of the work to be undertaken by the research assistant, and the arrangements for ensuring adequate supervision. If the research assistant has already been identified, details should be given under 'other participants'. Otherwise, applicants should state the skills and qualifications sought. Applicants should justify the period of employment (or number of hours) for which funding is sought (e.g., has a pilot study or sample been conducted to show how long it will take the assistant to achieve the task in question?). Please note that PhD candidates employed as research assistants on projects funded by the Academy should work for no more than 10 hours per week on projects outside their own PhD research. British Academy research grants may not be used to fund work by PhD candidates that is directly related to their PhD thesis.

If the study will involve the use of a questionnaire as a research tool, a sample of the questionnaire (in English) should be submitted, if available at the time of application. Please note no other attachments can be uploaded. The PDF cannot exceed 3 Mb in size.

Independent researchers, not affiliated to an institution, should provide evidence of access to relevant facilities and resources.

The limit for the proposed programme field is 3000 words, and for the plan of action is 800 words.

## **5.7 Planned research outputs/plans for publication/dissemination \***

Under 'planned research outputs', please only state the type of output expected. Please give more detail about potential publishers etc under plans for publication, for which the limit is 500 words. In assessing value for money, the assessors may take into account the intended outcome as compared with the amount of money sought, although it is fully appreciated that some modes of research are more expensive than others and proposals will not be discriminated against on grounds of cost alone. The word limit for planned research outputs is 300 words, whilst for plans for publication and dissemination it is 500 words.

## **5.8 Digital Resource/Deposit of Datasets \***

It is a condition of award that digital resources created as a result of research funded by the Academy be deposited in an appropriately accessible repository. Applicants should ensure that any necessary technical advice is obtained before commencing work that involves the creation of digital resources. Please confirm whether the primary product of the research will be a digital resource, and if so how and where it will be deposited. The word limit for this section is 500 words.

## **5.9 Overseas Travel: Country/Institution**

Where overseas travel is to be undertaken, please list the most significant country (up to three can be chosen) to be visited under "Overseas travel – country"; and if your research involves working in a particular overseas institution, and/or working in other countries to which you will travel in connection with this application, please give details under 'Overseas travel – institution'.

This information is used for monitoring purposes and may be provided to sister Academies or other organisations which have agreements or links with the British Academy, or the British Academy-sponsored overseas Institutes and Societies. Relevant information about the proposal, including, with the consent of the applicant, contact details, may be shared with the sister Academies or Institutes where this is part of the assessment process, or where joint funding is available (see <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes> for list of organisations with which the Academy has links).

## **5.10 Research Leave Granted/Permission Obtained**

If it is necessary for you to obtain research leave in order to undertake this research project, has this already been granted?

## **5.11 Links with the British International Research Institutes**

The British Academy provides Government funding for the British Institute at Ankara, British Institute in Eastern Africa, British Institute of Persian Studies, British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies, British Institute for

the Study of Iraq, British School at Athens, British School at Rome, Council for British Research in the Levant and the Egypt Exploration Society. The British International Research Institutes (BIRI) are global research partners in the arts, humanities and social sciences – discovering new knowledge, promoting cultural heritage and supporting international engagement. More information can be found on the Academy’s website at:

<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/international/research-institutes>

Please describe any ongoing research collaborations or plans for research collaborations with the relevant BIRI that will enhance the proposed project (500 words max).

### **5.12 Language Competence**

The Academy expects that applicants will have any language skills necessary to conduct the research. If relevant, please state the level of language competence of the applicant and other participants, or otherwise explain how the objectives of the research will be met.

### **5.13 Other participants/Role of other participants/Added value of collaboration**

Under ‘Other participants’ please give the names, appointments and institutional affiliation of any other participants in the proposed research. If detail is not known yet, please indicate numbers and status of people who might be involved. Please describe the contribution to the project to be made by other participants, citing any particular specialisms and expertise, under ‘role of other participants’; and under ‘Added value of collaboration’, please provide any comments you wish to make on the particular relevance, timeliness or other aspects of the collaboration, and the benefits envisaged.

### **5.14 Endangered or Emerging Subject Areas**

There are no quotas for individual subject areas and no thematic priorities. The primary factor in assessing applications will remain the excellence of the proposal. The Academy will however, where appropriate, take into account the aim of providing particular support for certain important fields, either emerging areas of scholarship or areas of research that are endangered or under threat. The word limit for this optional section is 300 words.

This is an optional field and the limit is 500 words.

### **5.15 Ethical Issues \***

This field is mandatory and must be addressed by all applicants.

Are there any special ethical issues arising from your proposal that are not covered by the relevant professional Code of Practice? Have you obtained, or will you obtain, ethical approval from your employing institution or other relevant authority?

It is not expected that any special ethical issues will arise that are not already covered by relevant professional Codes of Practice. The normal expectation, therefore, will be that applicants should answer the pair of questions with the answers no and no.

If there are any special issues arising, but they have already been cleared by approval from a relevant authority, please answer yes and yes.

If any special issues arise and approval has not yet been obtained, please answer yes and no, and provide more explanation.

#### 5.16 **Source of Funding**

Please provide details of other support given or applied for in connection with the current proposal.

Please indicate whether any other grant applications relating to this project have been submitted, either to the British Academy or to any other funder. Applications submitted to the Academy by separate applicants will not be accepted if it is considered that both (or all, if more than two) applications relate to the same project, whose components would not be viable as independent pieces of research.

The Academy has no objection to its grants being held in conjunction with awards from other bodies, provided that there is no duplication of expenditure. **Applicants are requested to keep the Academy informed of the outcomes of any other applications (by email to [grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)).** Failure to do so may jeopardise the application's prospects of success. In cases where simultaneous applications to the Academy and to another funding agency covering the same elements of a project are both successful, the applicant will be asked to choose which award to accept. Only if there is no duplication and no unnecessary inflation of a project will an applicant be permitted to retain both awards (subsequent requests to alter the plan of research simply to allow the applicant to retain both awards are unlikely to be considered favourably).

---

## 6 Page 3: Lead Applicant Details

---

### 6.1 Lead Applicant Contact Details \*

Please take care to review and complete your personal details accurately. Errors in this section can cause difficulties in the processing of your application.

---

## 7 Page 4: Lead Applicant Career Summary

---

### 7.1 Statement of qualifications and career \*

Please give details of up to 4 relevant appointments and qualifications, in particular the award of the PhD, in reverse chronological order.

### 7.2 Present Appointment, Employing Institution and Present Department \*

Please give details of your current appointment. Applications are welcomed from independent or retired scholars, and such applicants should indicate 'Independent Scholar' here. 'Approval' of their application will be given by the BA as appropriate.

### 7.3 PhD Confirmation \*

**Applicants working towards a PhD or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections are not eligible to apply.**

Please therefore confirm that you have a PhD by answering yes. If you are an established scholar with relevant equivalent experience, but no doctorate, please select 'no' and indicate in the 'personal statement' field why you should be eligible for consideration.

### 7.4 Personal Statement

This field is optional, but may be used, for example, in providing information regarding interruptions to an academic career. The limit on this field is 500 words.

### 7.5 ORCID ID \*

Please use this space to insert your ORCID ID number.

The British Academy now **requires** all academics to be registered with ORCID when applying for grants. This is a free to use service which connects researchers to their outputs in place of traditional publication lists.

If you do not already have an ORCID ID, you can register for the service [on their website](#).

## 7.6 Unpublished Research \*

Please list any unpublished studies previously funded by any agency, including but not restricted to the British Academy. Please give details of planned publication dates or explain why the research has not yet been published. Assessors may take backlogs of publication into account.

## 7.7 Previous Support Dates

An application will not be eligible for consideration if there is a report outstanding on any previous research grant awarded by the Academy to the applicant or any co-applicant.

**Failure to follow this guidance will result in your application being withdrawn from this round of competition.**

Please give details of any research applications submitted to the British Academy within the last five years. In the case of a further application for continuing research which has received previous Academy support, **please note that a full report and statement of expenditure for the previous grant must be submitted**, before further funding can be considered.

## 7.8 Where did you hear of this scheme? \*

This field is optional. It helps the British Academy to target appropriate resources towards the promotion of the scheme to know where an applicant hears about it. As appropriate please state BA website; BA literature; PhD supervisor; University Research Office; Twitter, Other, Colleague etc.

---

## 8 Page 5: Co-Applicant Career Summary

---

### 8.1 Specify Co-Applicant

If applicable, please enter all the details of your Co-Applicant by clicking 'Contributors' tab on the Application's 'Summary' page. Please click on the 'Invite' button, enter the Co-Applicant's email address and then click 'Send Invitation'. **Only one Co-Applicant may be named on a Stein-Arnold Research Grant.**

Once you have clicked on the 'Send Invitation' button, your Co-Applicant will be able to view your application and, depending on permissions, amend and submit your application.

---

## 9 Page 6: Financial Details

---

### 9.1 Financial Details/Justification \*

Please provide details of funding in the relevant fields.

Applicants should prepare accurate costings for the proposed research expenses and should be particularly careful not to overestimate the resources required. Applicants are advised that competition for funds can be fierce, and proposals on the margin for award may have a greater chance of success if they are modestly costed.

Costs should be clearly itemised and justified in terms of the research programme. If the Academy is being asked to support only a proportion of the total costs, please explain this clearly under proposed programme on the proposal tab.

It is advised that travel costs should be clearly justified; that the length of time for which subsistence is sought should be justified in the application; that per diem rates should be explained; that hourly or monthly rates of research assistants should be specified; and that the period of employment needed for a research assistant should be fully justified. If a claim for childcare is included, please supply sufficient justification for the case to be assessed.

In cases where funds are sought for the costs of illustrative material, please note that if there is an agreement for commercial publication, further information may be sought about the general finances for the volume(s). Requests for reproduction fees (for text or image) will only be considered if a publishing contract is in place.

Please note that no payments can be made to the principal investigator or co-investigator(s) either for their own salary costs or for replacement teaching.

Please note that grants are cash-limited, and there is no scope for supplementation of an award. Projects should be fully costed from the outset.

Please do not use '£' signs in the amount boxes.

---

## 10 Page 7: Equal Opportunities

---

### 10.1 Equal Opportunities

This section is optional; however, the Academy would greatly appreciate it if you can complete the details to assist us in our diversity monitoring.

The British Academy is committed to its policy of Equal Opportunity in the provision of its grants and awards. Please help us to monitor the effectiveness of this policy by providing information concerning your age, gender, ethnic origin and disabilities (if any).

**This information will be kept separately from the rest of your application and will not be seen by those involved in making decisions in the selection process, including referees etc.**

---

## 11 Page 8: Nominated Referee

---

### 11.1 Referee \*

Applicants are required to nominate one referee and ensure that the supporting statement from their chosen referee is submitted on the British Academy GMS before the deadline. Please note that the reference must be received before you can formally submit the application for approval, and you are strongly advised to ensure that your referee submits the reference well in advance of the formal applicant deadline for this round of competition, which will be 5pm (UK time) on 7 January 2026. **Please note this deadline is final.**

Your referee should be familiar with your project and able to comment on its significance and feasibility, and on your abilities. The reference may be supplied by a scholar based outside the UK if you wish. Your referee **must**

be drawn from outside your own employing institution and that of your Co-Applicant(s), if any.

Before listing your referee on your application form, you should seek permission from them that they are happy to provide this by the applicant deadline. **It is essential that you enter the correct email address for your referee otherwise your referee will not receive the automated messages delivered from the British Academy GMS.**

An application cannot be considered for an award unless the proposal and reference have been submitted on time.

---

## 12 Guidance for Referees

---

- 12.1 When supporting an application as a referee there is some general guidance we recommend following:

We recommend initially using the invitation link sent to you for the referee statement of the application. After accepting the invitation via this link, you will then need to log directly into your Flexi-Grant account to complete the referee statement.

You can log into Flexi-Grant each time you need to access the application by using the exact same email listed on the application. Please make sure to use the exact same email address, as the system does not recognise an email as correct even if it links to the same inbox, i.e. it would consider Newcastle.ac.uk as a different email to ncl.ac.uk. By logging in each time with the email address written as it is in the application, this can be avoided.

After logging in, go to the application portal and then click 'My Applications' on the left hand-side. This is where you will find all applications, regardless of if you are applying, or contributing to an application. Here you will see an 'applications in progress' section, this should be at the top, but you may need to scroll down. If you are supporting the application as a referee, it will show as having 1 page to complete.

We highly recommend that you create a separate document on your computer to answer the reference questions into. Flexi-Grant does not have an auto save function so to avoid losing your work, it is recommended that you answer the questions on another document and copy them in. Please make sure that you submit your response and 'complete' your contribution.

Once this is complete, the system should notify the applicant that their proposal is ready to submit, though we would also recommend notifying them yourself.

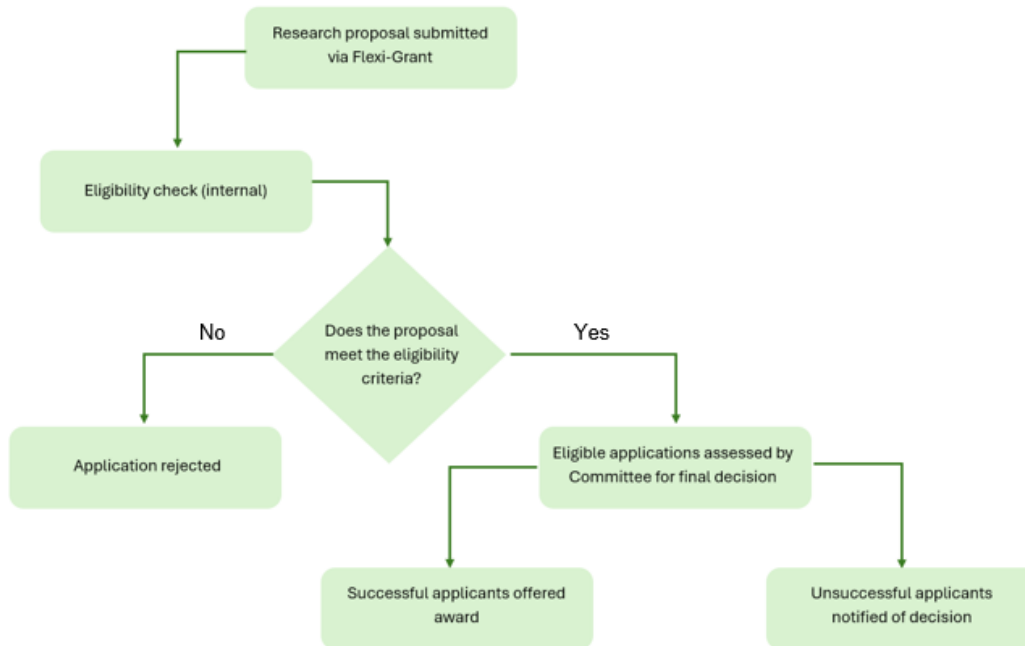
---

## 13 Submission of Application

---

- 13.1 Once you have submitted your application for approval by your host organisation, automatic emails will be sent to your employing organisation's approver asking them to log on to the system. You will not be able to edit your application after it has been submitted for approval. The organisation approver will either: approve and submit your application, 'send back' your application and contact you to request modifications or decline your application and contact you.
- 13.2 Please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure that you complete your application in time for your organisation to process it (including requesting changes) and provide their approval by the closing date. It is recommended that you allow at least five working days for this process, but please check with institution as their internal timetables may require earlier submission.**
- 13.3 If your employing organisation approver requests modifications through the British Academy GMS email facility, they can unlock your application, allowing you to edit it. They can do this by selecting 'Return to Applicant'. An automatic e-mail will be sent to you alerting you of this fact. Once you have completed and saved the requested changes, please re-submit your application for approval by your host organisation.
- 13.4 Once your host organisation has approved your application and submitted it to the British Academy it will not be possible to make any changes.
- 13.5 Please note that once the closing date has passed, organisation approvers cannot approve applications and submit them to the British Academy and unapproved applications are removed from consideration. No late applications will be accepted.**
- 13.6 It is recommended that you check that your application is submitted in time. To see the details of the host organisation approver and to check the status of your application, you should log into the British Academy GMS and click on the link to the Application Portal where a summary of your application will be displayed.
- 13.7 Please see the flowchart below for an overview of the application to award process:

## Stein-Arnold Exploration Fund



## 14 Outcome of Application

- 14.1 Once your application has been submitted and approved, you will not be contacted again by the British Academy until the decisions have been made, and you will not be required to do anything further in the GMS system.
- 14.2 You can track the progress of your application by clicking on the link in the Application Portal where a summary of your application will be displayed. Please note the eligibility stage is an internal process and you do not need to do anything for this. Whilst your application is under consideration, the 'Formal Offer' status will read as 'Decision Pending'. This means that a final decision has not yet been made. Results are issued by email to the Lead Applicant.

Applicants in any doubt about their eligibility or any other aspect of their application are advised to contact the Research Funding office at the Academy, where staff will be pleased to assist [grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)