

# Neil Ker Memorial Fund Application Guidance 2025-2026

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

**The academy will only process complete, submitted applications.**

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## 1 New British Academy Policy

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- 1.1 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.
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## 2 Application Guidance

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- 2.1 Please refer to the Flexi-Grant guidance notes for full application guidance, available here: [British Academy Flexi-Grant® Guidance Notes | The British Academy](#)

You should not have multiple browser windows/tabs of your application open at the same time as this may cause information to be lost. Only one user should edit an application at a time, otherwise changes may be lost.

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## 3 Completing the Application Form

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- 3.1 The application can be completed by using the navigation tabs on the application summary page, with each page categorised as follows:

Page 1: Eligibility Declaration Page  
Page 2: Research Proposal  
Page 3: Contact Details  
Page 4: Lead Applicant Career Summary  
Page 5: Co-Applicant Career Summary  
Page 6: Financial Details

- 3.2** A full list of question fields to be completed as part of the application can be found in the following table. Each box in the table represents a page of the application form: the left-hand column contains the questions within each of these pages as set out in the form; the right-hand column contains useful guidance on its completion. A red asterisk (\*) indicates which questions are mandatory and therefore must be complete before the application can be submitted.
- 3.3** Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.
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## **4** Summary

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### **4.1** Summary table \*

When your application form is complete, all sections on this summary table will be marked as 'Complete'. The 'Complete' status will only appear when all the mandatory fields in that section have been completed. All mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk '\*'. Only then will a 'Submit' button appear for you to be able to submit your application.

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## **5** Page 1: Eligibility Declaration Page

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### **5.1** Primary and Secondary Subjects \*

Your application must be within the remit of the Neil Ker Memorial Fund. Please select the primary and secondary subject areas of your application from the drop-down list.

### **5.2** Time Period, Audiences, Regional Interests \*

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

### **5.3** Employing Organisation \*

Please enter the organisation at which you are employed. If you are either applying as an Independent Scholar or as a scholar employed by an organisation based outside of the United Kingdom, please enter "Independent Scholar" as your organisation.

If you cannot find your organisation in Flexi-Grant, 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.

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 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.

#### **5.4 Co-Applicants**

If there is more than one applicant, or the research involves other partners, please complete this section.

A 'Co-Applicant' is a joint director of the project with equal responsibility for the academic management of the project. Therefore, they will also be subject to Academy eligibility conditions.

Any participants in the project whose involvement does not equate to be a 'Co-Applicant' should be named in the 'Other Participants' section on the Research Proposal page.

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## **6 Page 2: Research Proposal**

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### **6.1 Subject Area \***

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

### **6.2 Title of Research 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.

### **6.3 Abstract \***

Please provide a short abstract summarising your proposed research in terms suitable for an informed general audience, not one specialised in your field. (Word limit: 150 words)

### **6.4 Start date/end date \***

To select a date in the future using the calendar feature, click on the month and year in between the two arrows at the top of the box. To change the year keep clicking on the box – a second click will produce a decade. Use

the arrows to move back or forward in time. To change the month, a second box will appear where you can select the month you wish and then you can type the year you require in the box provided. Click on the date and the calendar will take you to the month and year you have selected where you can select the relevant date for display.

Please note that awards may be held over a period of up to 12 months from a starting date not earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 and no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

## 6.5 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) 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.

If applicants wish to include a reference list/ bibliography, then this should be included as part of the main text – **you cannot upload this as an additional document**. Please note it is not a mandatory requirement that you include a list of references.

The word limit for the Proposed Programme section is 1,500 words, and the limit for the Plan of Action is 800 words.

## **6.6 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. In assessing value for money, the assessors may consider 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 the Planned Research Output is 300 words, while for Plans for Publication and Dissemination it is 500 words.

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

Digital resources created as a result of research funded by the Academy should be deposited in an appropriately accessible repository. Of course, we do not expect confidential data to be readily available.

If applicable to your project, you will need to provide details of how and where any electronic or digital data (including datasets) developed during the project will be stored, along with details on the appropriate methods of access.

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.

## **6.8 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 International Research Institutes. 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 [our website](#) for list of organisations with which the Academy has links).

## **6.9 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?

## **6.10 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).

### **6.11 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.

### **6.12 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.

### **6.13 Endangered or Emerging Subject Areas**

Applicants for the Neil Ker Memorial Fund grant should be intending to pursue original, independent research in any field of study within the humanities or social sciences. 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 limit for this optional section is 300 words.

### **6.14 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.

#### **6.15 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, if 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).

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## 7 Page 3: Lead Applicant Details

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### 7.1 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.

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## 8 Page 4: Lead Applicant Career Summary

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### 8.1 Statement of Qualifications and Career \*

Please give details of up to 4 qualifications **in reverse chronological order**.

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

Please give details of your current appointment.

Applications are welcomed from independent or retired scholars, and such applicants should indicate 'independent scholar' here and select this as their 'organisation' in the eligibility section. 'Approval' of their application will be given by the BA as appropriate.

### 8.3 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.

### 8.4 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.

### 8.5 ORCID ID \*

Please use this space to insert you 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](#).

#### **8.6 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.

#### **8.7 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, noting if successful. 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.**

#### **8.8 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.

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## 9 Page 5: Co-applicant Career Summary

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### 9.1 Specify Co-Applicant

**In this scheme one co-applicant can be named.**

Your co-applicant will need to register themselves on the British Academy GMS before they are able to complete this section.

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'. If necessary, it is possible to enter additional co-applicants by repeating the instructions above.

Once you have clicked on the 'Send Invitation' button, your co-applicant will be able to view your application amend the relevant co-applicant career summary page.

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## 10 Page 6: Financial Details

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### 10.1 Financial Details/Justification \*

**If you include ineligible costs your application will be withdrawn from this competition.**

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 child or

parental care is included, please supply sufficient justification for the case to be assessed.

In terms of subsistence (food, accommodation and travel) away from home, applicants are asked to quote realistic daily rates, bearing in mind that the Academy reserves the right to reduce the amount requested if it is thought excessive. In all cases the Academy is looking to ensure value for money.

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-applicant(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.**

There is no word limit for the Justification section.

**Please see the Appendix for a list of eligible costs.**

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## 11 Page 7: Nominated Referee

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### 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 Flexi-Grant® GMS well in advance of the deadline for the submission of your application.

Please enter all the details of your referee by clicking ‘Contributors’ tab on the Application’s ‘Summary’ page. After your referee has registered on Flexi-Grant, please click on the ‘Invite’ button, enter the referee’s email address and then click ‘Send Invitation’.

Please note that the reference must be submitted into the British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS **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 deadline for the submission of your application.

**Please be aware that the deadline as it appears to the referee is the same deadline as the submission of your application, and you also need to allow time for approval to be given by your employing organisation. 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 from outside the employing institution 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 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 Flexi-Grant® GMS.

We strongly advise that you alert your referee as early as possible to allow them enough time to provide their reference in the system. Note that the deadline shown to the referee is the deadline for the whole application to be submitted. The application needs to be approved before the same deadline, and it cannot be submitted for approval before the reference is submitted.

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

Please note that references **must** be provided through the British Academy Flexi-Grant® GMS, they cannot be provided as an email attachment nor sent by post in hard copy. **Any references received after the deadline, or outside of the system, or by another academic at the same institution as you or a co-applicant(s) will not be accepted, and your application will be withdrawn from this competition.**

It maybe of note to your referee that all statement boxes have a word limit of 500 words with the exception of Overall Comments which has no word limit.

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## 12 Guidance for Referees

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**The following section contains guidance intended for your referee, please be sure to pass on this guidance to them.**

**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.

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## 13 Submission of Application

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- 13.1** Once you have submitted your application for approval by your host organisation, automatic emails will be sent to your host organisation approver asking them to log on to the system. **You will not be able to edit your application after it has been submitted to your host organisation for approval.** The host 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.

Please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure that you complete your application in time for your host 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 your proposed host institution as their internal timetables may require earlier submission.

If your host organisation approver requests modifications through the British Academy Flexi-Grant® 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.

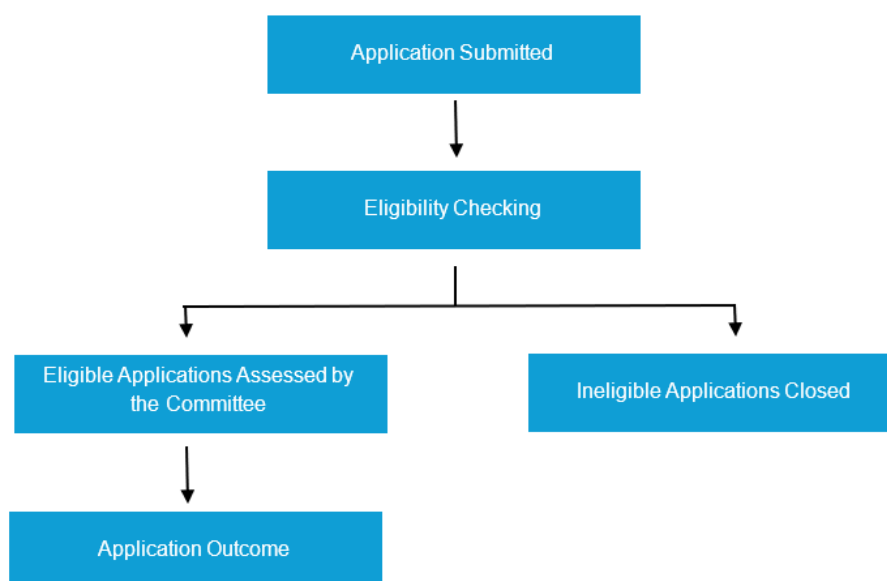
Once your host organisation has approved your application and submitted it to the British Academy it will not be possible to make any changes.

**Please note that once the closing date has passed, host organisation approvers cannot approve applications and submit them to the British Academy; unapproved applications are removed from consideration. No late applications will be accepted.**

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 Flexi-Grant® GMS and click on the link to the Application Portal where a summary of your application will be displayed.

NB. The administration of the scheme is undertaken solely by the British Academy and all aspects of the application process, assessment process and award management is undertaken by the Academy.

## 13.2 Flowchart giving an overview of the application to award process



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## 14 Outcome of Application

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- 14.1** Once your application has been submitted, complete with the reference, and it has been approved, you will not be contacted again by the British Academy until the decisions have been made. You can track the progress of your application by logging in again to the Flexi-Grant system at any time. Results are issued by email.

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

Due to remote working, we recommend contacting us by email only.

### Important dates

**Deadline for submission and organisational approval:** 7 January 2026, 5pm UK  
**Results announced by email to applicants:** 31 March 2026

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## 15 Appendix: Items Eligible for Funding from the Neil Ker Memorial Fund

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### 15.1 Eligible Costs:

- Travel and maintenance away from home
- Research assistance
- Consumables (i.e. purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc., and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the project)
- Specialist software (excluding commonly available office packages) and web development costs (for the duration of the award period)
- Costs of interpreters in the field
- Project planning and development costs
- Short-term consultancy or salary costs of expert staff
- The costs of preparing illustrations, including photography, acquisition of images, draughtsmanship and cartography or other bespoke illustrative material; and the costs of reproduction rights for text or images (please see note 1)
- Incidental translation expenses (please see note 1)

### 15.2 Ineligible Costs

- Computer hardware, including laptops, tablets, electronic notebooks, digital cameras etc.
- Books and publications
- Permanent resources and equipment or any elements that should properly be ascribed to departmental or university overheads (instead, making a justified case for hiring or reusing this equipment within the department, would be eligible)
- The preparation of camera-ready copy, copy-editing, proof-reading, indexing, or any other editorial task
- Subventions for direct production costs (printing, binding, distribution, marketing etc.)
- Costs of publication in electronic media or journal submission fees
- Payment to the principal/co-researcher(s) in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home
- Replacement teaching costs
- Travel /maintenance expenses for purposes such as lecture tours, or writing up results of research
- Attendance at or organisation of conferences either in the UK or abroad to disseminate the results of research
- Institutional overheads

### **15.3 Note 1**

The case made must be explicitly approved by the Academy.