

Talent Development Awards 2026-27

Frequently Asked Questions

In this document you will find the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) relating to the Talent Development Awards, 2026-27 competition. Please read this document, the Scheme Guidance Notes and the Application Guidance Notes carefully.

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Applicant Eligibility

I have just completed my PhD Can I apply for a Talent Development Award?

The Academy welcomes applications from recent postdoctoral scholars. In order to be eligible, you must have successfully passed your viva voce examination and completed any corrections. You must be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom with a current long-term appointment at a UK-based Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Independent Research Organisation (IRO), which will continue for the full duration of the proposed award.

I do not have a PhD Can I apply for a Talent Development Award?

We do accept applications from those who have equivalent experience, for example an individual in an established post, curator, cataloguer, conservator, someone who has other teaching experience and/or a track record of publications in their relevant field is eligible to apply.

The only restriction to this would be if you are currently registered as a PhD student whilst in your academic post, as PhD students are not eligible to apply.

I am on a fixed-term employment contract, can I apply through my institution?

If your employment contract lasts the duration of your research project, or is likely to be extended, then you may apply via your institution if you wish to do so. If your employment contract will end before or during your research period, we would recommend contacting your Research Office to find out if your institution is happy to support your application and administer any potential award.

I am currently a Principal or Co-applicant on another British Academy grant. Am I eligible to apply?

1. You can apply to both the Talent Development Awards and the following schemes, and hold both awards, if successful, provided that there is no duplication of costs: Postdoctoral Fellowships, Mid-Career Fellowships, Senior Research Fellowships, BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants.
2. Please note, that the Talent Development Awards and BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants are schemes with distinct aims and objectives. Applicants applying for the same project under both schemes will not be accepted, as all applications must be aligned with the respective scheme.

There must be no duplication of funding for the same purpose. Applicants may not hold more than one British Academy award of a comparable nature at any one time

Please note that an application cannot be accepted if there is a report outstanding on any previous research grant awarded by the Academy to the Lead Applicant or Co-applicant(s) named in the current proposal. Failure to follow this guidance will result in your application being withdrawn from this round of competition. Duplicate applications for the same purpose to more than one Academy scheme will not be accepted.

I am unsure whether my work would be considered to fall within the Humanities and Social Sciences. Am I eligible to apply?

It is for you to determine if your work is within the Humanities and/or Social Sciences. If your methodology is relevant to the Humanities and/or Social Sciences then this will be eligible. You should clearly define and justify the relevance of your research within the application form.

Co-applicant(s)

Does my Co-applicant(s) have to be based in the UK?

No, a Co-applicant can be based overseas, provided there is a UK-based Lead Applicant.

I am not sure whether to list someone as a Co-applicant or other participant. What is the difference?

The Co-applicant(s) will be directly involved in the delivery of the activity that is proposed by the Lead Applicant. Lead Applicants may specify other participants who do not equate to being a Co-applicant. Other participants will be engaged in the activity proposed by the Lead Applicant, but will not be directly involved with the organisation of activity.

Nominated Referee

Does my referee have to be based in the UK?

No, references written in English from appropriate overseas referees are welcomed by the Academy. The nominated referee must **not** be based at the same employing institution as the Lead Applicant or Co-applicant(s), if any. Referees should be as separate from the application and applicant as reasonably practicable. Owing to this, referees should not hold any position at the applicant's university. This includes both paid and honorary positions. Nominated references from the Lead Applicant's former/current supervisor (including PhD supervisor) will not be accepted. The referee must not be a member of the [British Academy's Council](#). The reference must be submitted in English. If a reference is not submitted in English, it will not be accepted and may render the application ineligible.

What information will my referee have to provide?

Your referee is asked to respond to a series of short statements, commenting upon the potential of the award-holder to benefit from this scheme and the value that this award will bring to the award-holder's current and future research direction and ambition.

Development Proposal

What is meant by a 'Development Proposal'?

As the Talent Development Awards are designed to fund researchers to build their skills and capacities, not to fund skills and methods they already possess, applicants are required to submit a Development Proposal instead of a Research Proposal. The Development Proposal should outline the ways in which the applicant intends to develop their own skills or capacities, as well as how they plan to share these skills with wider groups within, and beyond, academia.

Can I include publications that are under submission?

You may include publications that are under submission, but you should make this clear in the application form.

When I apply for funding through any of the schemes offered by the British Academy, can I include in the application the cost of APCs (Article Processing Charges) to enable any articles that may arise from the research to be published in learned journals that offer a 'Gold' open access option?

No. Currently the Academy's position is that costs of publication are not eligible costs.

Does the Academy require the outputs of the research it funds to be made available in any open access format?

No, this is not currently a stipulation of any Academy award.

What do you mean by endangered or emerging subjects?

The definition around this is broad and typically endangered or emerging subject areas are those that are newly formed, becoming more prominent or those that are in danger of becoming lost.

Can I include a bibliography/reference list and, if so, where should I place this?

It is not a mandatory requirement that you include a reference list. If you choose to include this as part of your application, then it should be placed as part of the main text in your development proposal – you cannot upload this as an additional document.

I am unable to obtain ethical approval for this project until funding for this award is guaranteed, is this an issue?

No, this is not an issue. The Academy will be in touch with you in due course to follow-up. Appropriate ethical approval will need to be obtained before the award can proceed.

Use of Funding

Can I use the funds to pay for my salary or time?

No. Talent Development Award funds cannot be used to pay for the salary or the time of the Lead Applicant.

Can I use the funds to pay for my Co-I's salary or time?

The following is eligible: a salary contribution or payment of professional fees for the Co-applicant(s), only if they are providing consultancy for/guidance to the activity being proposed.

Can I use the funds to make honorarium payments to guest speakers?

Yes, this could be considered an eligible cost. We assume that those involved with the award would benefit from the expertise of guest speakers. The cost should be fully justified in the application form.

Can I use the funds to attend a conference?

It is possible to use Talent Development Award funds to attend a conference, however within the application, you must fully justify how attending a conference will contribute to the development of the skills and capacities that are the focus of your development proposal. Conference attendance costs that are not fully justified in terms of the development proposal will not be funded.

What is meant by ‘tuition fees for accredited short courses?’

Tuition fees for accredited short courses to develop new skills are eligible costs for the scheme. ‘Accredited’ should be taken to mean courses that are associated with a relevant established training provider, or subject association. You may not however use the funds to undertake a course which would result in a postgraduate qualification. Applicants seeking funding to cover the cost of training courses are recommended to identify alternative options should their preferred course no longer be available if their application is successful.