

Who is eligible to apply for an Award?

The Awards are open to all of the following **based in the UK**:

- Secondary schools (all types)
- FE and Sixth Form Colleges
- Supplementary or complementary schools*
- Organisations providing support to any of the above
- Partnerships involving one or more of the above with other organisations

Primary schools and Higher Education Institutions may also apply if they intend to work in partnership with one or more of the above organisations.

*Weekend or after hours schools which provide additional teaching to that provided in mainstream education. Of particular relevance here are those run by voluntary groups providing teaching in the languages and cultures of local communities.

We welcome applications from all parts of the UK.

Which languages do the Awards cover?

All languages count. The British Academy is strongly committed to helping to increase the range of languages learnt as well as encouraging greater numbers of students to take those which are commonly taught in schools and colleges. The only limitation is that projects may only involve English if it is being learnt in conjunction with another language.

How can I apply for an Award?

[Register your interest by 4 May 2015 and get one-to-one help in putting together your application](#) (email: baslas@britac.ac.uk)

You will need to complete a simple online application form:

- [Access the application form here](#)

We suggest that you prepare your application using a word version of the questions and, when you are happy with your answers, copy and paste them into the online form.

- Word version of [mainstream application form](#)
- Word version of [supplementary school application form](#)
- Word version of [other institutions application form](#)

What information is needed?

Download the relevant word document containing the list of questions. You can use this to prepare your application, then cut and paste your responses into the online form.

- Word version of [mainstream application form](#)
- Word version of [supplementary school application form](#)
- Word version of [other institutions application form](#)

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What is the deadline for applications?

30 June 2015

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Why is the British Academy offering these Awards?

[The British Academy wants to see increased numbers of students taking languages to a higher level.](#) This will bring benefits for:

- the students themselves - employability and international opportunities
- the health of language study in the university sector
- British employers and the UK economy as a whole.

The British Academy Language Awards are designed to support schools to implement imaginative new ways of encouraging more students to take language learning to higher levels, and to address the social imbalance in the profile of language learners at higher level. The Award scheme seeks to identify and stimulate good practice in this area which can be shared more widely.

See also [Speak to the Future](#), the campaign for languages, also supported by the British Academy.

How will the applications be judged?

By a committee of judges appointed by the British Academy. The criteria will be:

1. **Imagination and creativity** (25%) Maximum points will be awarded for projects which are highly original and demonstrate imagination in improving take up of languages at higher levels. If your idea is not necessarily new, but you are applying it in a new context in a creative way (e.g through cross-curricular activities) you will be awarded points for that.
2. **Quality and lasting value for money** (25%). To gain maximum points in this area you will need to show evidence of strong project management with clear, realistic objectives and well-chosen activities which you can demonstrate you have the capacity to deliver. The judges will be looking for projects which will have long-lasting benefits after the money has run out. For example, projects which plan to use the Award money purely to fund visits and exchanges are not likely to be deemed value for money.

3. **Impact through partnerships building and dissemination** (25%). To gain maximum points you will need to show how you will share the benefits of your project with others. What partnerships will you build? How will you collaborate with others and showcase your work? How will others be able to implement some of your ideas without access to additional funding?
4. **Targeting disadvantage** (25%) To gain maximum points in this area you will need to show how your project addresses disadvantage in language learning, either because you are working in challenging circumstances or because you are specifically targeting learners who are disadvantaged.

You will need to gain a minimum number of points under criteria 1, 2 and 3 in order for your project to be considered eligible for an award.

A small number of projects will be selected to receive a visit from a member of the organising team in order to verify the information provided and capacity of the applicant to implement the proposed project.

What sort of activity is eligible?

Any activity, or combinations of activities, which will move your students on to higher levels and motivate them in their language learning. For example:

- Different teaching approaches or curricular arrangements (intrinsic motivation)
- Cross-curricular projects, for example combining languages and STEM subjects
- Partnerships between universities/colleges and schools/colleges, or between different types of school
- Education-business partnerships
- Careers activities or work experience (extrinsic motivation)
- Specific interventions to combat drop out
- Extra-curricular clubs or projects
- Visits, exchanges, masterclasses, etc.
- Combinations of any of the above.

Please note that projects which involve English are not eligible unless English is taught in combination with other languages.

For examples of winning projects, see the [2014](#), [2013](#) and [2012 winners](#).

Which groups of students should projects target?

The activities can involve GCSE/Standard Grade students, Sixth Formers or younger pupils, as long as the ultimate goal is to increase numbers studying languages beyond the age of 16.

We will also consider proposals in which students pick up a new language in the Sixth Form (S5/S6), as long as the ultimate aim is for them to take it beyond beginners level.

Does the project have to have been started already, or can it be a new idea?

You need to show that the way you want to use the £4,000 is going to be effective, so if it is something you have already successfully trialled, that will help to make the case, but it's not essential.

The judges welcome new ideas too, but you must be able to convince them that your school is committed to making a success of them.

When will I be informed whether my school has won an Award?

All applications will be acknowledged by 31 July 2015. Winners will be notified by 30 September 2015.

How will the Awards be distributed?

7 x Awards of £4000 each for mainstream schools and colleges, distributed regionally

7 x Awards of £4,000 each for supplementary or complementary schools, on merit UK-wide

Two overall winners, one working with mainstream schools, the other working in the supplementary sector, will receive an extra award each of £2,000 = £6,000 altogether.

The British Academy reserves the right not to make the full number of awards if the quality of applications is not judged high enough.

What will my school receive if it wins an Award?

Winners will be notified in September 2015 and the funds will be released in two stages:

1. 50% in November 2015
2. 50% in February 2016 on receipt of a progress report

In addition to the cash prize, your school will be invited to an Award Ceremony at the British Academy in London. (An allowance for travel and subsistence will be paid). Winners will also receive a trophy and a certificate.

Your project will be promoted in the press and other media, and you will be expected to publicise it locally and take part in dissemination activities.

Are there any conditions to fulfil if we receive an Award?

You will be required to provide a short progress report (January 2016) and a final report on the success of your project in achieving its aims. A form will be provided for that purpose.

You may also receive a follow up visit from a member of the project team or a Fellow of the British Academy.

Your project will be promoted in the press and other media, and you will be expected to publicise it locally and take part in dissemination activities.

Can my school apply if it was a winner in a previous year?

Winners of Awards in 2014 are not eligible to apply.

Winners of previous years may apply if they can show that their project is different from or adds a new dimension to what they previously achieved with their prize money.

How can I find out about projects that won Awards last year?

[Examples of last year's winners are provided here.](#)

What if we don't have a Sixth Form?

You can still apply, if you can show that more of your learners are going on to study languages elsewhere.

Information for applicants from Scotland

In Scotland, proposals seeking to increase uptake for languages in S5 and S6 (Higher and Advanced Higher), as well as through into university, are eligible.

Information for supplementary schools

There are 7 Awards set aside specifically for supplementary schools. You will not be competing with mainstream schools for the chance to win an award and we understand that your situation will be rather different.

In order to win an award, you will need to tell us how you would spend the £4000 prize money and who this would lead to more of your students taking the language(s) they are learning to a higher level. This might involve, for example:

- Working with a university, a business, a mainstream school or a cultural organisation
- Working with other supplementary schools
- Training teachers
- Producing new resources
- Providing your students with opportunities to take part in work experience involving their languages or higher level language and cultural activities.

Please [get in touch with us](#) if you require any further advice on putting together your application.

What if there are no advanced level exams in the languages we teach?

Teachers can measure progression to higher levels of competence by using the [Common European Framework of Reference](#), the [Languages Ladder](#), or other types of certification available in this country or abroad.

We welcome applications relating to all languages!

Can someone answer a question I have which is not covered in these FAQs?

Please email your question to: baslas@britac.ac.uk