

Roger Bowers Teacher Participation Grants

The document is intended to give background information about the Roger Bowers Teacher Participation Grants and to explain the application process. Please read it carefully before submitting a proposal for project funding.

Important Change in scheme terms

Starting from 01 July 2026 applications will be accepted round the year. Received applications will be considered for award in two batches in a year - those received till 30 June, and those till 31 December. Decisions will be communicated within two months of these cut-off dates. Please plan and apply sufficiently in advance to receive grant amounts in time for your scheduled events.

About the A.S. Hornby Educational Trust

The chief object of the A.S. Hornby Educational Trust is to promote the teaching and learning of English for speakers of other languages, especially by providing scholarships and grants. Since 1961, the Trust has supported the professional development of a significant number of teachers in the Global South via individual scholarships to study on MA programmes in the UK (the 'Hornby Scholars' scheme), regional workshops ('Hornby Schools' or 'Hornby Workshops') and via small-scale project funding to alumni and to Teacher Associations.

Background to the Scheme

Dr Roger Bowers, CMG OBE, who died in 2020, was influential in English language teaching (ELT) for nearly five decades. For around half of his 32 years with the British Council, he led their English language teaching project work and continued his interest in the Council's role in English language work internationally on becoming one of its Assistant Directors-General. After ten years' service as a Hornby Trustee, he became Chair in 2007, a role which he held with distinction until 2014. He worked for some 12 years in Ghana, India and Egypt in the 1970s and 1980s, and while in the UK, travelled widely to countries where English had status as a principal or second language. During this time he came to value the experiences and opinions of teachers working with limited resources and saw the wisdom of giving these priority over commercially-driven fashions in methodology and materials.

The *Roger Bowers Teacher Participation Grants* have been set up to celebrate his contribution to ELT and the work that he did in support of teachers of English world-wide.

This new initiative builds on the experience of the *Hornby Teacher Association Project Award Scheme* and aims to widen participation in conferences, workshops and other teacher development events organised by Teacher Associations.

Roger Bowers Teacher Participation Grants

Under this scheme Teacher Associations (TAs) are provided funds (from £200 up to a maximum of £500) to enable them to widen participation of teachers in any events they are organising in their country.

The aims of the grants are as follows:

With a view to enhance the quality of English teaching in public education systems in low- and middle-income countries, to enable wider local participation of teachers in TAs, English teacher groups or networks, and through such widening of participation help:

- promote the development of marginalized or under-represented groups within TAs, English teacher groups or networks
- promote identification, nurturing and sharing of local expertise
- stimulate contextually appropriate thinking on ELT methodology, materials, assessment, etc.

Applying for a Grant

Bona fide TAs are invited to apply for funds explaining the value of attending the event, the teachers they would like to target, and how they propose to use the grant to support these teachers to participate in the event.

Who can apply?

Teacher Associations for teachers of English from the least developed, low- or lower-middle-income countries (see [THIS LIST](#) for eligible countries).

How can the grants be used?

The grants can be used by TAs to support their members to participate in a specific teacher development event (a conference, a workshop etc.) through subsidising the cost of attendance for teachers who would not otherwise be able to participate. The event may be one that is being organised by the applicant TA, or by others that they would like their members to attend.

What costs can the grant cover?

The funds can be used to cover the cost of participation such as travel, accommodation, registration fees.

What can the grant not fund?

- The costs of organising an event
- Expenses of the event organisers or TA leadership
- Expenses of overseas participants
- Significant sums of money that benefit only a small number of people

Reporting

Please note that end-of-project reports will be required from the applicant TA, using a template which will be provided. It should be a brief report, focussing on the gains for the TA and the teacher beneficiaries.

Criteria for evaluation

Successful applications will fulfil the following criteria. They will:

- match one or more of the project aims above (essential)
- give a clear description of the TA event – aims and objectives of the event, date & location, number and nature of presentations/ workshops/ etc, brief description of target participants, expected numbers
- show how the grants will be used to widen participation from local teacher communities (e.g. free or reduced registration, travel and accommodation costs.)
- demonstrate that an optimum number of teachers are able to benefit
- describe post-event follow-up plans with the teachers supported with the grants

How to apply

Please use the standard application form (attached and also available at <https://www.hornby-trust.org.uk/roger-bowers-teacher-participation-grants/>), and ensure that your proposal meets the scheme criteria above.

Before preparing the proposal, make sure you have considered these questions:

- What event(s) do you wish this application to support?
- Who and how many people do you wish to support, and why?
- How do you expect them, the TA and the event to benefit from their participation?

Once you have completed your application form, please send it to rogerbowers-tmgrants@hornby-trust.org.uk.

Important Note

Applications are accepted round the year and considered for award twice in a year. For applications received till 30 June, decisions will be communicated by 31 August. For applications received till 31 December, decisions will be communicated by 28 February. Please plan and apply sufficiently in advance, so that successful applicants may receive grant amounts in time for their scheduled events.