

A.S. Hornby Dictionary Research Awards

Call for Proposals 2024

The A.S. Hornby Educational Trust (ASHET) is pleased to announce a call for research proposals under the A.S.Hornby Dictionary Research Awards initiative (ASHDRA).

Through these annual awards we aim to facilitate innovative research into areas of lexicography and dictionary use which will reflect and extend the pioneering contributions of A.S. Hornby within the field of English language education. Each year ASHDRA will make funding available for original research that aims to produce clear practical benefits for learners of English.

For the purposes of ASHDRA, we define research as original investigation undertaken in order to gain and extend knowledge and understanding.

Each award will be for a research project lasting not longer than two years. Continued funding for the second year of a two-year project will be subject to submission and acceptance of a research progress report on an agreed date.

The *maximum* amount for any one award will be £15,000, to be paid over one or two years as relevant. However, the amount which you apply for will depend on the scale of your project: previous awards have ranged from less than £1,000 up to the maximum amount of £15,000. Do not request more funding than you really need to undertake your project.

Award holders will be asked to produce a report on their project on completion of their research. In the case of two-year projects, researchers will be asked to produce a research progress report towards the end of the first year. All reports must be in English, and would normally include a brief background to your research, a description of what you did, a presentation and evaluation of the results and reflections on possible next steps. A template for producing your report will be supplied when needed, and we are happy to offer additional advice.

Researchers are encouraged to disseminate the results of their research through other media (including articles in peer-reviewed journals, conference papers etc.) and, where relevant, to share their insights with teachers and students. In the event of outcomes from the project being published, authors are expected to acknowledge ASHDRA support.

Who may apply?

Applications will be accepted from any individual or team with an affiliation to an educational institution which has official recognition by appropriate authorities in the state in which it is constituted. The award agreement will normally be with the institution.

We welcome applications from students. Student applicants should include a statement from their supervisor in support of their application.

Where more than one researcher is involved, one person should be designated as Principal Applicant and will be responsible for reporting to the ASHDRA Expert Panel on the project.

What type of research can be considered?

Proposals for any research activity relating directly to the use of dictionary resources in the learning or teaching of English as a foreign, second, or additional language will be considered.

We will give priority to new lines of enquiry which cannot be pursued without ASHDRA funding.

We are particularly interested in the following areas of research:

- Research into low-cost lexicographic resources to improve the learning and teaching of English in under-resourced classrooms in public education contexts
- Classroom research into how learners currently use dictionaries with a view to making recommendations to improve classroom practice
- Research geared to the development of teacher and / or learner training in the use of dictionaries and other lexicographic resources to enhance English language learning
- Critical evaluation of available lexicographic resources (electronic or paper) with proposals and accompanying materials for improving their pedagogical effectiveness
- Research into dictionaries and/or other lexicographic resources developed for learners (both children and adults) who are living in English-speaking countries and for whom English is an additional language
- Research into dictionaries and/or other lexicographic resources which represent different varieties of English
- Research geared to the development of lexicographic resources which go beyond the scope of conventional dictionaries and are of practical use for EL learners

You can get a good idea of the areas of research we support by looking at reports of previous projects on the Hornby website.

<https://www.hornby-trust.org.uk/projects>

You might also find it useful to look at these two blog posts, to get an idea of what the ASHDRA panel mean by 'research' – and how to avoid some common pitfalls when making an application.

<https://lexicoblog.blogspot.com/2024/01/is-there-enough-research-in-your.html>

<https://lexicoblog.blogspot.com/2021/06/then-well-write-dictionary.html>

We encourage applicants to provide proof that they have already undertaken a pilot study, or that they plan to do so in the early stages of their project. This is especially important for large projects.

What types of research are *not* supported by the scheme?

- ASHDRA funding should not be used to cover research activities that could be funded by existing awards or other sources.
- Researchers / institutions currently in receipt of ASHDRA funding cannot apply for a new award to run at the same time.

- We welcome proposals to pilot sample dictionary entries, as a first step towards the development of a full-scale dictionary. However, ASHDRA funding should not normally be used to cover the cost of developing a full-scale dictionary.

Please note that ASHDRA funding is not intended to cover Full Economic Costing (FEC) for the institution.

Further information

For more information, see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at the end of this document.

How can I apply?

Applications must be submitted using the ASHDRA application form, which can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.hornby-trust.org.uk>

The deadline for applications is 15 May 2024.

When you have completed your application, please save it as a Word document or pdf and e-mail it to:

ashornbyashdra@gmail.com

All data will be handled in accordance with our Privacy guidelines which can be found on the Trust's website:

<http://www.hornby-trust.org.uk/privacy>

Applications will be scrutinised by experts from relevant fields of research (the 'ASHDRA Expert Panel').

We aim to notify applicants of the decision of the ASHDRA Expert Panel by 15 June 2024. We expect the first year of project activities to be conducted in the period from 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

ASHDRA 2024 awards: FAQ's for applicants

1. Can I apply for a project in which more than one researcher will be involved?
 - Yes: the awards can support the work of a research team, but the application must come from a single person who is designated as the Principal Applicant
2. Can my project relate to a language other than English?
 - No: we do support projects relating to bilingual or multilingual resources, but only where English is the target language. The ASHDRA scheme does not support research whose sole focus is a language other than English
3. I am a classroom teacher, not an academic: am I eligible to apply for an award?
 - Yes: we welcome classroom-based research.
4. I am a student: am I eligible to apply for an award?
 - Yes: we welcome applications from students. Your application must be supported by a statement from your supervisor.
5. Can my project be in the field of corpus linguistics or computational linguistics?
 - Yes, but you must demonstrate the practical impact of your research in educational settings.
6. Can I apply for an award in order to fund part of a larger project or an ongoing programme of research?
 - Yes: we are happy to consider applications of this type. However, we will give priority to new lines of enquiry which cannot be pursued without ASHDRA funding.
7. Do I have to apply for the maximum funding amount of £15,000?
 - No: the amount you apply for depends on the scale of your research, and you should not apply for more funding than you need in order to undertake your project. (Previous awards have ranged from less than £1,000 up to the maximum of £15,000.)
9. Does my application need to include a letter of support?
 - Yes: this should come from someone who is familiar with your work and with the proposed project. If you are a student, your support letter should come from your supervisor.