

# PESGB Large Grants Scheme

## Guide for Applicants

The Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain promotes the study, teaching and application of philosophy of education. The Society welcomes applications for grants to support activities that further these aims.

In particular, the Society seeks to support:

- high quality research projects with a substantial philosophical component and with relevance for educational practice or policy;
- advanced scholarship and study in philosophy of education;
- seminars, meetings and other activities aimed at the sharing, application and further development of scholarly work in the philosophy of education.

### What types of grant are available?

#### *Research Project Grants*

- *Aim:* support for collaborative or interdisciplinary educational research projects with a substantial philosophical component and with relevance for educational practice or policy.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* up to £100,000. Awards at the top end of the scale will be made only exceptionally. Please note that salary costs for permanent staff are not eligible for funding. Only direct research costs can be supported.
- *Frequency:* annually; awards will be made only when and if outstanding proposals are received, and depending on availability of funds.
- *Applications accepted from:* 1 October 2011
- *Deadline for applications:* 1 December 2011
- *Results expected:* 1 April 2012
- *Research to take place on or after:* 1 May 2012

#### *Research Fellowships*

- *Aim:* support for individuals, who are current employees of (normally) a UK higher education institution, to further philosophical research and write an original and substantial piece of work in the philosophy of education, or work that incorporates philosophy of education to a substantial extent.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* up to £20,000. The award aims to cover salary and associated costs for three to four months, but no equipment costs. Proposals aimed at carrying out further/new empirical research are not eligible under this scheme. Evidence of institutional support for any proposed research and writing leave is required.
- *Frequency:* annually, subject to availability of funding.
- *Applications accepted from:* 1 October 2011
- *Deadline for applications:* 1 December 2011
- *Results expected:* 1 April 2012
- *Work to take place on or after:* 1 May 2012

### ***Seminar Series Grants***

- *Aim:* support for the organisation of seminar series in the philosophy of education.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* up to £10,000 to cover venue and equipment rental, catering, speaker travel and accommodation, and consumables and dissemination costs. Costs not eligible for support include: speaker fees, the purchase of equipment, and indirect costs.
- *Frequency:* annually.
- *Applications accepted from:* 1 October 2011
- *Deadline for applications:* 1 December 2011
- *Results expected:* 1 April 2012
- *Research/ meetings to take place on or after:* 1 May 2012

### ***Doctoral Studentships***

- *Aim:* tuition fee support for full-time and part-time students pursuing doctorates in philosophy of education or doctorates in education which involve a substantial amount of work in the philosophy of education, normally at UK universities.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* for full-time students, up to £4000 tuition fee costs per annum for up to three years. For part-time students, the grant would be up to £2,000 per annum for up to five years. No subsistence, fieldwork or equipment costs are eligible for support. Please note that awards start in October of the next academic year and do not apply retroactively.
- *Eligibility:* Eligible applicants include beginning doctoral students and those in their first year of doctoral study. Confirmation of status by the host institution is required.
- *Frequency:* one new studentship is available annually, subject to availability of funding.
- *Applications accepted from:* 1 October 2011
- *Deadline for applications:* 1 December 2011
- *Results expected:* 1 April 2012
- *Tuition fees covered from:* October 2012

### ***Miscellaneous Grants***

- *Aim:* support for initiatives not covered by the other categories but aimed at the sharing, application and/or further development of scholarly work in the philosophy of education.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* up to £3000 one-off grants to support one-off seminars, seedcorn research meetings, and other qualifying initiatives. Occasionally, awards may be made to assist research students in philosophy of education who are not in receipt of PESGB doctoral studentships, provided that a strong case for support is made.
- *Frequency:* annually, depending on availability of funds.
- *Applications accepted from:* 1 October 2011
- *Deadline for applications:* 1 December 2011
- *Results expected:* 1 April 2012
- *Activities to take place on or after:* 1 May 2012

## **Who can apply?**

All members of the PESGB who have held membership for at least one year at the date of submitting the application are eligible to apply. Please see the section headed 'Multiple applications and return applicants' for further details on eligibility.

The Society takes no account of applicants' age in determining eligibility for its awards. Applicants are normally expected to be affiliated to a UK-based higher education institution and to be able to demonstrate an ongoing interest in the proposed field of research. In the case of applications for doctoral studies support, confirmation of doctoral student status or an offer of a place to study for a doctorate, normally in a UK HEI, is required. For all other types of awards researchers at all stages of their career are eligible to apply.

Applications from all sub-fields of philosophy of education are welcome, provided that they meet the assessment criteria outlined under 'Assessment of proposals' below.

## How and when do I apply?

### *Timeline*

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2011. The review process is expected to take between six and ten weeks, depending on the type of grant. Final decisions will be made in March 2012 and applicants will be informed of the outcomes as soon as possible thereafter.

### *Submission*

Complete applications should be sent electronically to [pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk), to arrive on or before 1 December. The receipt of the application will be acknowledged as soon as possible thereafter.

### *Documents required*

**Standard applications** (those for Research Project Grants, Research Fellowships, Seminar Series Grants and Miscellaneous Grants) should consist of the following documents:

1. Cover page (download [here](#))
2. Case for support (up to six sides of A4)
3. Justification of resources solicited (up to one side of A4)
4. Evidence of support by the host institution (up to one side of A4)
5. Brief CV of the applicant (up to two sides of A4)

Optional items may include:

6. Evidence of existent offers for matched funding
7. Letters of support from proposed partners
8. Bibliography

Please do not send any other documents.

**Doctoral Studentship applications** should consist of the following documents:

1. Cover page (download [here](#))
2. Confirmation of doctoral student status
3. Case for support (up to four sides of A4)
4. Justification of resources solicited (up to one side of A4)
5. Brief CV of the applicant (up to two sides of A4)
6. Two reference letters, one being from the applicant's supervisor

Please do not send any other documents.

**All applications** should be typed in a legible font size (e.g. Times New Roman 12, or equivalent), with at least 2cm margins all around.

***Multiple applications and return applicants***

Applicants may submit only one PESGB large grant application in any given year.

Applicants are welcome to submit applications in consecutive years, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. the applicant will not be in receipt of a previously awarded PESGB large grant during the period for which funding is sought;
2. the application is not a re-submission of a previously unsuccessful application.

## What should I include in the application?

### Standard applications

#### *Cover sheet*

Please use the form provided [here](#) for the one-page cover sheet, which will include a 100-word summary of the proposed work, written in a style suitable for web publication.

#### *Case for support*

##### **Research Project Grant applications**

The case for support should be no longer than six sides A4 and should include clear information about:

- The background to the proposed work, including a clear description of the topic, focus and scope of the proposed work, and a brief account of linkages with relevant existing literature, as appropriate
- The aims and intended contribution of the proposed work to philosophical thinking and application and, as appropriate, to empirical evidence about the proposed area of work
- The educational relevance of the proposed work, including relevance to/ implications for educational practice or policy
- The approach to be adopted, including the philosophical and theoretical frameworks and approaches and the balance between the philosophical and empirical components of the proposed work
- The schedule of the proposed work, clarifying the different phases of work and the collaborative arrangements, as appropriate
- Project management arrangements
- Expected outputs and arrangements for communicating the work and enabling its application and/or practical development, as appropriate

##### **Research Fellowship applications**

The case for support should be no longer than six sides A4 and should include:

- Background information, including a clear description of the topic, focus and scope of the proposed work, and a brief account of linkages with relevant existing literature, as appropriate
- A summary of applicant's relevant work to date. Relevant work may be a single, substantial piece or work, which is to be further developed during the fellowship, or a focused, longer-term research effort, to be brought to fruition during the fellowship. In both cases any necessary empirical research should have been completed prior to the start of the fellowship. The summary should include an indication of the original aims, approaches, and outcomes of this work, as well as an account of its philosophical and empirical contribution and of its educational relevance.
- An account of how the fellowship would contribute to the further development of this work, including a clear description of the nature of work to be undertaken

during the fellowship and of the intended outputs. Please note that fellowship awards do not aim to support further empirical research.

- The schedule of the proposed work, clarifying the different phases of work and the collaborative arrangements, as appropriate
- Expected outputs and detailed publication and communication plans, including any plans for facilitating the application and/or practical development of the work, as appropriate. If the proposed work involves completing the writing of a book, details about the structure and content of the book and about publication arrangements and schedules should be included.

### **Seminar Series Grant applications**

The case for support should be no longer than six sides A4 and should include:

- The rationale for convening the series, including the relevant research, practical and policy background, and a brief account of linkages with relevant existing literature and of similar recent or forthcoming events, as appropriate
- A description of the topic, focus and scope of the proposed seminar series
- The aims and intended contribution of the seminar series, e.g. to philosophical and empirical research, to policy and practice, to enhancing cross-disciplinary collaboration, etc. Please note that the seminar series funding scheme encourages educationally-relevant initiatives that involve cross-disciplinary collaboration whilst retaining a strong philosophical component
- The proposed programme of seminars, including details of the proposed times and venues, speakers, audience, administrative arrangements, and advertising
- Expected outputs and arrangements for further communicating the work and enabling its application and/or practical development, as appropriate

### ***Justification of resources solicited***

All standard applications (for Research Project Grants, Research Fellowships, Seminar Series Grants or Miscellaneous Grants) should provide a budget for the work proposed, with explication and justification of every cost for which support is solicited. Please see the section headed ‘What costs can be supported?’ for information on eligible costs. The justification of resources should be no longer than one side of A4.

### ***Evidence of support from the host institution***

**Research Project Grant applications:** a cover page bearing the stamp and authorised signature on behalf of the host institution would suffice as evidence of support.

**Research Fellowship applications:** applicants should submit a letter signed by the head of their institution, confirming that the proposed arrangements for research leave are acceptable to the applicant’s institution.

**Seminar Series Grant applications:** applicants should submit a letter of support signed by an authorised person on behalf of the host institution. Please note that the Society does not fund seminars that are part of an institution’s regular seminar programme. Please

detail any matched funding or other contributions to be made by the institution or by other funding bodies to the seminar series.

### ***Curriculum Vitae***

Please ensure that the CV for each of the applicants is no longer than two sides of A4 for all applications. Please note that individual track record is not a criterion in the assessment of proposals. Applications will be assessed on the basis of their academic merit and educational relevance (please see section headed ‘Grant criteria’). The CV will only serve to confirm the applicant’s status and affiliation at the stage of eligibility screening, and as confirmation of ongoing interest in the proposed field of work.

### ***Other documents***

Optional documents, with the exception of the bibliography, will only be taken into account once an application is deemed of suitable academic quality. The bibliography should only include works referenced in the case for support.

## **Doctoral studentship applications**

### ***Cover sheet***

The one-page cover sheet [here](#) should include a 100-word summary of the applicant’s doctoral project, written in a style suitable for web publication.

### ***Confirmation of doctoral student status***

Acceptable documents include:

- copy of the offer letter of a place to study for a doctorate
- copy of the transfer of status confirmation letter
- dated and signed confirmation letter from supervisor
- dated, signed, and stamped confirmation of doctoral student status letter from the applicant’s institution.

### ***Case for support***

The case for support should be no longer than four sides of A4 and should include:

- Background information, including a clear description of the topic, focus and scope of the applicant’s doctoral work, and a brief account of relevant existing literature, as appropriate
- The aims and questions guiding the applicant’s doctoral work
- The approach adopted, including the philosophical and theoretical frameworks and approaches and the balance between philosophical and empirical components of the work, as appropriate
- The potential contributions of the work to educational research, and its relevance to policy or practice

- The schedule of the applicant's doctoral programme, including clear indication of work carried out so far, the enrolment date, and the expected completion date
- Details of any existing doctoral funding support received or secured by the candidate and of any ongoing applications for doctoral funding, together with expected decision dates
- Brief statement of future career plans of the applicant.

### ***Justification of resources solicited***

All doctoral studentship applications should include an indication of what the annual tuition fees are at the host institution and thus how much of the £4,000 per annum available is being sought. The justification of resources should be no longer than one side of A4.

### ***Curriculum Vitae***

Please ensure that the CV is no longer than two sides of A4.

### ***Reference letters***

Please arrange for two reference letters, one being from the applicant's supervisor, to be sent to the address below, to arrive by 1 December 2011.

*PESGB Large Grants Scheme – Doctoral Studentships  
PESGB Office  
c/o SAS Event Management  
The Old George Brewery  
Rollestone Street  
Salisbury SP1 1DX.*

## How will the proposal be assessed?

### *Grant criteria*

Applications are assessed primarily on the basis of academic merit and educational relevance. Successful applications are expected to propose high quality work with a substantial philosophical component, and to make a strong case for relevance to educational practice or policy. The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

#### **Core criteria:**

1. *Is the proposed activity of outstanding academic merit?*  
Reviewers will consider whether the proposed work: is appropriately linked to existing relevant research and scholarship; is original; is rigorous in design and argumentation; evidences quality of design and appropriate conceptual and theoretical frameworks; is ethically defensible; and will make a worthwhile contribution to knowledge and/or research capacity.
2. *Is the proposed activity appropriately philosophical in character?*  
Reviewers will consider the extent to which the philosophical component of the proposal is substantial and is clearly and appropriately reflected in the aims of the activity and in its organisation and design.
3. *Is the proposed activity educationally relevant?*  
Reviewers may wish to comment on the overall relevance of the proposed work, on plans for application, development and engagement with other communities, and on the potential audiences for the research. Original, well thought-out ways of articulating philosophical work with practice are particularly welcomed.

#### **Additional criteria:**

4. *Suitability of host institution*  
The reviewers will look for some evidence in the application of the willingness and capacity of the proposed institution to host the activity, for which support is being sought. A good environment may involve a long-term tradition of the host institution in philosophy of education and/or in the substantive field of research proposed, but also a more recent commitment to develop these fields as emergent areas of research.
5. *Appropriate project organisation and management, including time scales (as appropriate)*
6. *Appropriate level and use of resources (except for doctoral scholarship applications).*

## **Grading scale**

Reviewers will grade the proposal on each of the above criteria using the following scale:

4 – Excellent

3 – Good

2 – Satisfactory

1 – Poor

NG – Not graded (owing to insufficient information in the application or limited reviewer expertise)

## ***The review and decision process***

Applications are reviewed, and grants decided, by the Large Grants Subcommittee of the PESGB Executive Committee. Members of the Subcommittee are appointed annually by the Executive Committee and are excluded from applying for large grants for the period of their service. The Subcommittee is responsible for final decisions on all large grant applications.

All applications are reviewed by at least two members of the Subcommittee. In addition, proposals for Research Project Grants and Research Fellowships are sent out in anonymised form for external review. All reviewers are asked to grade and comment on applications using the criteria and grading scale outlined above.

The Subcommittee reserves the right to request additional information from applicants about the project or activity for which financial support is being sought.

The Large Grants Subcommittee decides which applications to fund based on the reviewers' grades and comments, in light of the quality of the competition and the budget available. Note that priority is given to the core criteria; the additional criteria are used only where proposals are highly graded against the core criteria. This reflects the Society's commitment to awarding large grants on the basis of academic merit and educational relevance.

## ***Final decision***

Decisions will be communicated to applicants by 1 April 2012. Decisions are final and the Society will not enter into any further correspondence about unsuccessful applications.

## ***Feedback***

Applicants for Research Project Grants and Research Fellowships will receive the comments made on their proposals by external reviewers. This feedback is for information only and is offered on the understanding that the views expressed are those

of the reviewers, not of the Society. Feedback will not be provided on applications for Seminar Series Grants, Doctoral Studentships or Miscellaneous Grants.

## **What kinds of costs can be supported?**

Please note that, with the exception of research leave under the fellowship scheme, salary costs for permanent staff are not eligible for funding.

The awards will cover direct costs connected with the activity proposed, but no estates or other indirect costs.

### ***Eligible costs***

Depending on the type of grant, eligible costs may include (please refer to the “What types of grant are available?” section for full details on costs that are eligible or not eligible for each particular scheme):

- research assistance
- travel and subsistence for fieldwork and for seminar speakers
- consumables and communication
- venue and equipment hire for events
- consultancy (but not seminar speaker) fees
- essential project management and administration assistance (but not contributions to the salaries of permanent administrative staff in institutions)
- essential equipment directly connected with carrying out research to be supported under the large research projects scheme
- replacement teaching (for fellowship grants).

The request for support for each type of cost needs to be clearly justified in the application.

### ***Non-eligible costs***

Non-eligible costs in all standard applications include:

- estates/ indirect costs

Please note that costs involved in carrying out new empirical research are not supported under the fellowship scheme.

### ***Doctoral studentships***

Doctoral studentships meet tuition fee costs of up to £4,000 per annum for up to three years (or up to £2,000 per annum for up to five years, in the case of part-time students). No other costs are eligible for support under this type of grant.

## What happens after an application is accepted for support?

### *Terms and conditions*

Research Project Grants, Research Fellowships, Seminar Series Grants and Miscellaneous Grants will normally be paid into a university account specified by the principal investigator. In the case of research projects lasting longer than a year, payment will be made in instalments linked to milestones agreed with the principal investigator.

Doctoral Studentships will be paid directly to the student. Payments are made annually on receipt of a satisfactory progress report. Should the student fail to make satisfactory progress or cease to be registered for a doctoral degree, the studentship will be terminated.

Outputs emerging from projects funded by the Large Grants Scheme should include an appropriate reference to the support of the Society.

### *End of award report*

All successful applicants are expected to submit an end of award report on completion of the activity supported by a PESGB grant.

### **Research Project Grants**

A 6000-word research report should be submitted, including details on background, aims and questions, approach and design, research process, findings/conclusions, communication and engagement activities, outcomes and outputs.

### **Research Fellowships**

Fellows are expected to submit a 3000-word report, including confirmation of research and writing leave taken, a description of the activities supported by the grant, and a list of publications and other outputs generated.

### **Seminar Series Grants**

A 1000-word report should be submitted, summarising the proceedings of the seminars convened. The full programme of all seminars convened should be appended.

### **Doctoral Studentships**

A 500-word progress report, accompanied by a letter from the supervisor confirming satisfactory progress, should be submitted annually, by 1 June, for the duration of the studentship. A notification of completion, together with a copy of the final thesis title and abstract, should be submitted on award of the doctorate.

### **Miscellaneous Grants**

A 1000-word report confirming completion of the activity and describing any outputs or outcomes should be submitted.

## **How do I contact the PESGB?**

This guide, together with the application form, should have provided all the information you need to apply for a grant from the PESGB. However, if you do have specific questions that cannot be answered using the information in this guide and on the website, or if you have any suggestions or complaints, please email [pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk).