

Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain

PESGB Large Grants Scheme

Guide for Applicants (2026)

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 with a substantial philosophical component and with educational relevance;
- advanced scholarship and study in philosophy of education producing books, articles, podcasts etc;
- seminars, meetings and other activities aimed at the sharing, application and further development of scholarly work in the philosophy of education;
- projects which link philosophy of education directly with areas of policy and practice including teacher education;
- early and mid-career academics to produce publications and lead high-profile seminars;
- projects which link philosophy of education directly with other areas of educational research in the social sciences and humanities

The Large Grants Scheme comprises four categories:

- 1. Doctoral Studentships and overseas doctoral support grants**
- 2. Staff-Led Doctoral Studentships**
- 3. Seminar Series Grants**
- 4. Miscellaneous Grants**

We are also delighted to partner in the British Academy Special Funds.

British Academy Special Funds

The British Academy has a number of special funds, from which grants are made for particular and restricted purposes. The majority of these funds are administered through the BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants scheme. Details of the funding available and how to apply are [here](#). Please note that our collaboration seeks to

support projects that are primarily philosophical and that do not themselves comprise empirical research.

Doctoral Studentships

- *Aim:* tuition fee contribution 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 or the Republic of Ireland.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* Varies. The Society will normally distribute up to £20,000 in total for doctoral support in one year. Grants will be made on a yearly basis; students in receipt of a grant will be eligible to apply the following year for further support subject to receipt of a satisfactory report on the previous grant. Students who are likely to stay in the UK will be prioritised. 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:* Grants are available to students whatever their stage of completion and whatever their status as full or part-time. Confirmation of status by the host institution is required.
- *Frequency:* Annually, subject to availability of funding.
- *Applications accepted from:* 20th December 2025
- *Deadline for applications:* 20th March 2026
- *Results expected:* May 2026
- *Tuition fees covered from:* October 2026

Overseas Doctoral Support Grants

- *Aim:* tuition fee contribution 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 who are studying at institutions outside of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* Varies. The Society will normally distribute up to £8,000 in total for doctoral support in one year. Normally these will be limited to £4000 per grantee per year. Grants will be made on a yearly basis. Students in receipt of a grant will be eligible to apply the following year for further support subject to receipt of a satisfactory report on the previous grant. No subsistence, fieldwork or equipment costs are eligible for support. Please note that awards start at the beginning of the next academic year and do not apply retrospectively.
- *Eligibility:* Grants are available to students whatever their stage of completion and whatever their status as full or part-time. Confirmation of status by the host institution is required.
- *Frequency:* Annually, subject to availability of funding

- *Applications accepted from:* 20th December 2025
- *Deadline for applications:* 20th March 2026
- *Results expected:* May 2026
- *Tuition fees covered from:* October 2026

Staff-Led Doctoral Studentships

- *Aim:* Staff-led doctoral studentships are intended to cover tuition fees at the home student rate (or contribute to tuition fees at the international student rate) for a PhD in philosophy of education at a UK or Republic of Ireland university. Studentships are awarded on the strength of a doctoral project proposal designed and submitted by the prospective lead supervisor. The lead supervisor is then responsible for advertising the funded project and recruiting a suitable student. Studentships are paid directly to the recruited student. The studentship is paid on a rolling annual basis for 3 years (subject to satisfactory progression on the doctoral programme).
- *Size of award and eligible costs:* Studentships cover the home student tuition fee for three years of full-time study or six years of part-time study (or make a contribution of £5,000 per annum to the international student tuition fee for three years of full-time study). No subsistence, fieldwork or equipment costs are eligible for support.
- *Eligibility:* Proposed projects must be wholly or primarily in the field of philosophy of education. Only new doctoral projects will be funded: staff-led doctoral studentships cannot be used to support existing students or projects already underway. Lead supervisors must hold a permanent academic post at a UK university, must have published in philosophy of education, and must meet their university's eligibility requirements for lead supervision.
- *Applications accepted from:* 20th December 2025
- *Deadline for applications:* 20th March 2026
- *Lead supervisors notified of outcomes:* May 2026
- *Deadline for recruitment of students:* August 2026
- *Studentships start date:* October 2026

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. This award is designed to support focused collaborative study; priority will be given to proposals which can demonstrate a clear plan for publication, e.g. a proposal for a themed Special Issue *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, or a proposal for a 'Suite' of papers

(suites typically comprise five or six papers on a topic or theme; larger suites may be published across consecutive issues).

- *Frequency*: annually.
- *Applications accepted from*: 20th December 2025
- *Deadline for applications*: 20th March 2026
- *Results expected*: May 2026
- *Activities to take place on or after*: May 2026

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, seed corn 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*: 20th December 2025
- *Deadline for applications*: 20th March 2026
- *Results expected*: May 2026
- *Activities to take place on or after*: May 2026

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.

Applicants are normally expected to be affiliated to a 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 (including applicants for the overseas doctoral support grants), confirmation of doctoral student status or an offer of a place to study for a doctorate is required. For all other types of awards researchers at all stages of their career are eligible to apply, but please note the conditions for Lead Supervision under 'Staff-Led Doctoral Scheme'.

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 20th March 2026. The review process is expected to take between six and ten weeks. Final decisions will be made in May 2026 and applicants will be informed of the outcomes as soon as possible thereafter.

Submission

Applications should be submitted via the [application form on the website here](#). The receipt of the application will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Documents required

Applications for **Doctoral Studentships and Overseas Doctoral Support Grants** should include the following documents:

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

Candidates applying for the **Overseas Doctoral Support Grants** should provide evidence that they do not benefit from additional financial support or funding sources.

Please upload documents as one PDF-file. Please do not send any other documents.

Applications for **Staff-Led Doctoral Studentships** should consist of the following documents:

1. Case for support (up to four sides of A4)
2. Justification of resources solicited (up to one side of A4)
3. Evidence of Support by the host institution (up to one side of A4)
4. Brief CV of the Lead Supervisor and any second/additional supervisors (up to two sides of A4)

Please upload documents as one PDF-file. Please do not send any other documents.

Applications for **Seminar Series Grants** and **Miscellaneous Grants** should consist of the following documents:

1. Case for support (up to six sides of A4)
2. Justification of resources solicited (up to one side of A4)
3. Evidence of support by the host institution (up to one side of A4)

4. Brief CV of the applicant (up to two sides of A4)

Optional items may include:

5. Evidence of confirmed offers for matched funding
6. Letters of support from proposed partners
7. Bibliography

Please upload documents as one PDF-file. 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 unless requested by the judging committee.

What should I include in the application?

Doctoral studentship applications and Overseas doctoral support grants

1. Online application form

The [online application form](#) includes a 100-word summary of the applicant's doctoral project, written in a style suitable for web publication.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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 per annum is being sought. The justification of resources should be no longer than one side of A4 and can be simply a short statement confirming their institutions PhD tuition for home and international students. Candidates applying for the **Overseas Doctoral Support Grants** should additionally provide evidence that they do not benefit from additional financial support or funding sources.

5. Curriculum Vitae

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

6. 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 20th March 2025 or upload when applying.

Email: pesgb@sasevents.co.uk

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

Staff-Led Doctoral Scheme

1. Online application form

The [online application form](#) includes a 100-word summary of the proposed activity, written in a style suitable for web publication.

2. Case for support

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

- Background information, including a clear description of the topic, focus and scope of doctoral work, and a brief account of relevant existing literature, as appropriate
- The aims and questions guiding the doctoral project
- 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 doctoral programme, including clear indication of recruitment strategy to the studentship, expected enrolment date, and the expected completion date
- Details of the expertise of the Lead Supervisor, clear indication of the Lead Supervisor's capacity to support doctoral research in the designated area.

3. Justification of resources solicited

All staff-led doctoral studentship applications should include an indication of what the annual tuition fees are at the host institution and thus how much per annum is being sought. The justification of resources should be no longer than one side of A4 and can be simply a short statement confirming their institutions PhD tuition for home and international students.

4. Evidence of support from the host institution

Applicants should submit a letter of support signed by an authorised person on behalf of the host institution.

5. Curriculum Vitae

Please ensure that the CV for the Lead Supervisor and any second/additional supervisors are 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.

Seminar Series Grant and Miscellaneous Grant applications

1. Online application form

The [online application form](#) includes a 100-word summary of the proposed activity, written in a style suitable for web publication.

2. Case for support

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/or 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. It is expected that applicants seeking support for Seminar Series and Miscellaneous Grants will approach the *Journal of Philosophy of Education* about the publication of outputs in the first instance. Further details on how to submit proposals for Special Issues and Suites of papers to the *Journal of Philosophy of Education* can be found [here](#). Please indicate details of plans within your application. Please note that receipt of a Large Grant from PESGB is not a guarantee of having a proposal to the *Journal of Philosophy of Education* accepted.

3. Justification of resources solicited

Applications for 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.

4. Evidence of support from the host institution

Seminar Series Grant applications only: 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 through the Large Grants Scheme. Please detail any matched funding or other contributions to be made to the Seminar Series by the institution or by other funding bodies.

5. 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.

6. 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.

How will the application 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 educational relevance. 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 activity is appropriately linked to existing relevant research and scholarship; is original; is rigorous in design and argumentation; and promises to make a worthwhile contribution to knowledge.
- 2. Is the proposed activity appropriately philosophical in character?*
Reviewers will consider the extent to which the philosophical component of the proposal is substantial, quantitatively and qualitatively. They will take into account how far it exhibits such qualities as coherence of argument, originality, depth, fertility, familiarity with relevant literature, critical ability.
- 3. Is the proposed activity educationally relevant?*
Reviewers will consider the overall educational relevance of the proposed activity, plans for application, development and engagement with other communities, and potential audiences. Original, well thought-out ways of articulating philosophical work with policy or 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). Proposals for Seminar Series and Miscellaneous Grants should take into account the PESGB Sustainability Policy available [here](#).*
7. *Involvement of early and mid-career researchers in the project is desirable as are indications of impact on the wider educational community.*
8. *An indication of the expected outcome will be expected such as a publication of some kind.*

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 all members of the Subcommittee. All reviewers are asked to grade and comment on applications using the criteria and grading scale

outlined above. All reviewers will be asked to state if they have any personal knowledge of the proposer or financial interest in the outcome.

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.

The Subcommittee may invite the proposer to re-submit where a relatively minor adjustment would make the proposal acceptable but without any guarantee of acceptance.

Final decision

Decisions will be communicated to applicants by the end of May 2026. Decisions are final and the Society will not enter into any further correspondence about unsuccessful applications.

What kinds of costs can be supported?

Please note that 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

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):

- travel and subsistence 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)
- childcare provision that enables the work of the grant holder(s) and/or other participants

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
- substantial travel costs

Doctoral studentships and Doctoral Studentships – Staff Led Scheme

Doctoral studentships meet a contribution to tuition fee costs of up to £20,000 per annum.

What happens after an application is accepted for support?

Terms and conditions

Seminar Series Grants and Miscellaneous Grants will normally be paid into a university account specified by the principal investigator.

Doctoral Studentships (including staff-led doctoral studentship scheme) 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. The end of grant reports should also report on the publication strategy.

Where a funded activity comes in under budget, grant recipients may either return the balance to the Society or request permission from the Large Grants Committee to use the balance for dissemination or follow-up work directly related to the activity. Such requests should be submitted by email to the chair of the Large Grants Committee, with a clear description of how the remaining funds are to be spent. Where grant recipients are not able to undertake the funded activity at all, the full grant should be returned to the Society.'

End of award report

All award recipients are expected to submit an end of award report on completion of the supported activity.

Doctoral Studentships (student-led scheme)

A 500-word progress report should be submitted by 1st June 2027, followed by a letter from the supervisor confirming satisfactory progress by the end of June 2027. A notification of completion, together with a copy of the final thesis title and abstract, should be submitted on award of the doctorate.

Doctoral Studentships (staff-led scheme)

A 500-word progress report should be submitted by 1st June 2027, co-authored by the lead supervisor and student. The progress report should confirm satisfactory progress by the end of June 2027 and progression to year 2 of the studentship. At the end of the studentship, a notification of completion, together with a copy of the final thesis title and abstract, should be submitted to the PESGB.

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.

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 should provide 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.