Call for Applications 2025/26

BAAL Applied Linguistics Fund

Engaging users in the research process and generating impact are important parts of the applied linguistics research agenda. The BAAL Applied Linguistics Fund supports members by offering up to £25,000 to carry out innovative activities which link research and impact/public engagement.

Applications are invited from any members of BAAL. In the case of joint applications, the lead applicant must be a member of BAAL. Funded activities can take place in the UK or overseas, from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027.

The fund will be available for a single activity or a series of connected activities that bring BAAL members (including students) together with research users (e.g., community groups, policy makers, teachers, companies, lawyers, health workers, charities) in innovative ways.

Given the challenges that our discipline, along with other SHAPE subjects, is facing in the current Higher Education landscape, we particularly encourage applications seeking to advocate for, or promote, applied linguistics. Applications with this theme may be related to one or more of the following:

- Engagement with, and impact on, national and international debates related to language, language teaching and language use.
- Successful lobbying of decision-makers on matters of concern to applied linguists.
- The delivery and evaluation of an applied linguistic research project whose benefits are widely disseminated and clearly understood by the public.
- The promotion/showcasing of applied linguistics as a valuable source of theory and methods for use in various contexts, including, for example: education, translation, language planning and policy, (mental) health, the heritage sector, and legal and law enforcement contexts.
- Any other research designed to raise awareness of the role of applied linguistics in solving individual and societal problems in which language is believed to be part of the issue, and the evaluating of these solutions together with the people experiencing the problem.

Further examples of successful applications from previous rounds are available at the BAAL website (https://www.baal.org.uk/what-we-do/funding/baal-applying-linguistics-fund/)

Eligibility

- Applicant (or lead applicant if more than one) must be a member of BAAL (Note that this includes both student and solidarity members.)
- For applications from student members, please note that while the fund cannot cover costs relating to core dissertation or thesis work, we welcome applications from student members who might use this fund to augment or enhance connections with research end-users. Student applicants should include a statement from their supervisor in support of the application.

Criteria for selecting proposals

- Demonstration of relevance and significance of the activity to the user group.
- Evidence of enthusiasm for and intention to participate in activity from the user group, e.g. letter of support.
- Demonstration of relevance to the theme of advocacy for applied linguistics.
- Demonstration of holistic consideration of EDI issues in the design of the proposal through active engagement with BAAL's EDI Statement (https://www.baal.org.uk/baal-statement-on-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-within-applied-linguistics/)
- Quality of the activity proposed: achievable goals, realistic costing, nature of the activity (e.g. innovation, impact, scope).
- Clear and realistic expectations of the nature of the link between research and impact/public engagement through detailed outputs and outcomes.
- Clear and actionable proposal for evaluating the impact of the proposed activity.

Recommendations for good practice in Applied Linguistics are available online at: https://www.baal.org.uk/who-we-are/resources/.

Funds

You may apply for the full amount of £25,000 or for a smaller amount depending on the scale of your activity. However, in the past, BAAL has typically divided the fund available between three or four different projects.

Please note that, as BAAL is a charity, we do not fund the full economic cost (FEC) of research.

The Fund may be used to cover expenses that are directly related to the proposed project, such as travel and subsistence, events, and research assistants' time. We do not, however, cover the cost of replacement teaching, payment in lieu of salary, or research equipment.

All funds must be processed through an institution and not through individuals. It is the responsibility of the lead applicant's institution (as named on the application form) to manage, and cover the costs of, the distribution of the grant to any other institutions or individuals involved in the project, and to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant by those institutions/individuals.

For BAAL members who are based outside of the UK, the cost of transferring the funds to the lead applicant's institution must be included in the amount of funding requested.

How to apply

Applications should be made on the BAAL Applied Linguistics Fund application form and should clearly show how the proposed project meets the criteria. The lead applicant should email a summary CV of no more than one page as an appendix. Letters of support from potential user groups may also be included as appendices.

A detailed budget should also be emailed. Please note applicants must specify any funds already received or applied for which relate to their application.

The form must be completed and supporting documentation emailed to funding@baal.org.uk by the deadline of **1st April, 2026**

Successful applicants will be required to:

- produce a short report of 1,000 words within three months of the completion of the project. This will be published in the BAAL newsletter.
- create an additional output, which can be linked to on the BAAL website. This could be a short online video which presents the outline of the study, a related journal article or book chapter, etc.
- write a short report on the use of the funds for the BAAL Treasurer.

Awardees are also encouraged to give an oral presentation at the BAAL conference on completion of the activities; abstracts are not required to go through the normal review process.

Contact for queries

If you have any queries about the call, please contact funding@baal.org.uk. You can also watch the Applied Linguistics Fund 2022 workshop on YouTube, where we explain the history and aims of the Fund.

Timeline

December 2025	Call distributed
February 2026	Online workshop for prospective applicants
1 April 2026	**Deadline for applications**
Mid-June 2026	All applicants are notified
August 2026 to July 2027	All research activities carried out
September 2027	Presentation at the BAAL conference
Within 3 months of completion	1,000-word report and one additional output
February 2027	Invitation to participate in online workshop