



ACTA Research Grant 2023

ACTA is pleased to announce details of the 2023 Research Grant and encourages submissions.

ACTA, the Australian Council of TESOL Associations, is the national peak professional body for all associations of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other languages (TESOL) across Australia.

ACTA's Objectives are:

- to represent and support the interests of teachers of English to speakers of other languages and dialects and their students
- to ensure access to appropriate English language instruction for speakers of other languages and dialects
- to encourage implementation and delivery of quality professional programs at all levels
- to promote study, research and development of TESOL at local, regional, national and international levels.

Information and guidelines

Aim & Background

ACTA is offering a research grant to support research in the field of TESOL in Australia.

ACTA Research Grant is for the amount of \$10,000

ACTA aims to promote research that is of National significance and that speaks to National interests and priorities in the EAL/D field. It is expected that the research will have the potential to be up scaled for further research grant opportunities.

The research project needs to contribute to one of the following five priority areas as outlined in ACTA Advocacy agenda and documents found at <https://tesol.org.au/advocacy/>

The six strands reflect ACTA's EAL/D education priorities and research agenda in the areas of:

1. Early Childhood Education
The *Early Childhood Education Principles* are a statement of ACTA's beliefs and values about home language-based EAL/D education in the early childhood years .
2. Schools EAL/D Education – This strand reflects ACTA's EAL/D education priorities and research agenda as outlined in its *National Roadmap for EAL/D Education in Schools*. Research applications should contribute to one or more of the three Directions in the Roadmap.
3. Indigenous EAL/D Education
4. Adult EAL/D Education - ACTA values programs which result in better outcomes for adult learners
5. Teacher Education
6. Digital Technology

ACTA Research Grant – Information

Important Dates

2023	September 2023 – Grant applications open February 16th 2024 – Applications close ACTA AGM - April 2024 – Successful application announced
2024	Conduct Research Project
2025	01 April 2025 – An interim report to be provided to ACTA by the Grant recipients
2025/2026	Dissemination of findings/outcomes of project: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Written report to ACTA which articulates contribution to ACTA advocacy agenda2. Presentation at ACTA Inter/national conference in Melbourne in September 30 - October 2 20253. <i>TESOL in Context</i> journal article to be drafted

ACTA Research Grant – Information

Distribution of the grant.

The grant will be distributed to a researcher or research team on granting and acceptance of the award.

Eligibility criteria

1. All members of the research team or the researcher are current members of ACTA (either individual or institutional).
2. The research project's major milestones will be achieved within two years of the grant being awarded.
3. The research team or the researcher will work in partnership with an educational institution that could be an early childhood centre, a school, or an accredited education provider in the adult sector. Consultation will be sought from an ACTA critical friend with regards to research methodology and rationale, if required.
4. A clear understanding and appreciation of the needs of EAL/D learners.
5. There is no conflict of interest for the research team members or the researcher involved in undertaking the ACTA-funded research.

Contribution to ACTA Advocacy agenda

Criteria for evaluation of proposals

Grant applications will be evaluated by the ACTA Research Grant Advisory Group according to the following criteria:

1. The research has national significance and contributes to knowledge practice in one of the priority strands
2. The research will provide data that informs improved practice and decision-making in relation to the provision for the needs of EAL/D programs.
3. The proposal identifies an area of EAL/D need for students that provides a rationale for a strategy to address that need.
4. A clear description of the strategy and the anticipated outcomes of the strategy
5. A well informed and explicitly presented statement of the nature of the data to be collected and analysed, and how this data will contribute to a better understanding of the issue addressed, and the results of the strategy.
6. It is anticipated that research teams will include classroom teachers as well as members who have research expertise and experience (who may also be classroom teachers).

*The ACTA Research Grant Advisory Group consists of members from the ACTA executive and co-opted experienced and expert practitioners and researchers from the TESOL field.

** The Advisory Group will recommend that the Research Grant be awarded to one particular applicant (researcher or research team), based on the evaluation criteria. There will be no avenue to appeal the decision.

Research Proposal

(3-4 pages max)

In submitting a proposal, the researcher or research team needs to provide a considered, well-structured project framework that addresses the criteria on which the application will be judged. Research proposals must be submitted on the pro forma provided.

ACTA Research Grant – Information

Budget

Funding will be considered for the following items *

- Teaching/marking release
- Travel expenses (It is anticipated that the maximum will be \$500. If a higher amount is requested, an explanation and rationale needs to be provided.)
- Materials/equipment (It is anticipated that the maximum will be \$1500. If a higher amount is requested, an explanation and rationale needs to be provided.)
- Software (It is anticipated that the maximum will be \$1500. If a higher amount is requested, an explanation and rationale needs to be provided.)
- CRT release for teaching staff
- Transcriptions
- Variations to budget to be negotiated

* N.B. A case can be made for items not listed