

International Teacher Award

Oracy in Education



Notes for applicants and nominating ESUs

About

The English-Speaking Union is an international membership organisation and educational charity dedicated to helping people realise their potential through giving them the skills and confidence in communication to articulate their ideas and share them with others. The ESU has a network of over 50 International ESUs, which help to deliver our educational programmes and organise events across the globe, encouraging international understanding and cultural exchange through the use of the English language. The ESU works principally with young people, providing opportunities for them to develop their communication and critical thinking skills and, thus, encouraging them to realise their full potential. Across our programmes, there is a focus on oracy - the development of speaking and listening skills - ranging from formal public speaking and debate training in schools, or awards which recognise innovation in ELT resources, to professional development opportunities for people to share new ideas and articulate them with others.

The International Teacher Award recognises educational excellence and outreach in the field of Oracy across the diverse ESU global network, and seeks to help recipients further the impact and awareness of their work in the field. Through this award, we aim to recognise, encourage and develop the work of international teachers who are generating social impact through the advancement of English oracy skills in their students.

Eligibility

International ESUs may nominate any number of working teachers who teach children that are in compulsory schooling, or are between the ages of five and eighteen. The Award is open to teachers in every kind of school and, subject to local laws, in every country that has an officially registered ESU. The individual candidates will be required to complete an application form and personal statement, and submit these along with a professional reference and a letter of endorsement from their local ESU.

Judging Criteria:

The judging panel will look for evidence of:

- An understanding of the importance of oracy skills and applying this to their practice.
- Employing effective, innovative practices, which are inspiring to students.
- In the case of 'English as an additional language learners', seeking to ensure that the development of oracy skills is given at least equal importance to literacy skills in the learning of the language.
- Seeking to empower students from less advantaged backgrounds through their development as confident users of spoken English.
- Seeking to develop the confidence of students to use spoken English as a way to explore and share their developing views and opinions.
- Seeking to use the development of English oracy skills to develop students' awareness and willingness to take positive action with regard to global and local social issues.

Guidelines for the personal statement

The personal statement (1000-1500 words) is the most important part of the application. In their statement, candidates should include details of their reasons for applying, their professional history in the field (including examples) and how they would hope to develop their practice if successful. **The personal statement should seek to cover each of the judging criteria listed above.** Candidates should also describe the anticipated impact of the award on the wider community in which they work. Relevant pictures and/or video footage may be included to support the application.

The Award

The panel will award up to £2000 to the winners, which may be given to a single candidate, or split across multiple applications. In addition, the nominating ESU(s) will receive a grant of up to £500, to be put towards their own ESU activities, on the proviso that they continue to support the work of the winning candidate.

Upon receipt of the award, and to ensure that the influence of the award can be as far reaching as possible, recipients are expected to:

- Submit a full and detailed report.
- Give talks and presentations to conferences, ESUs and other relevant teacher groups and organisations.
- Create or contribute to relevant blogs or other social media outlets which can encourage the wider profession to engage with the topics in question.

Report

Within 12 months of receiving the award, recipients are required to submit a report detailing how the money has been spent, what the candidate has learnt from the experience and how their own practice has developed as a consequence. Reports should include:

- An introduction
- Any relevant background information
- Details of how the money was spent
- Learnings from the experience
- Relevant conclusions

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