

VicTESOL Research Grant 2026

VicTESOL is pleased to announce details of the 2026 VicTESOL Research Grant and encourages all interested parties to submit an application.

The VicTESOL Research Grant will offer funds of \$10,000 in 2026 to a research team to conduct research into the TESOL field. The project must involve researchers and practitioners as research partners. The research team will work collaboratively with VicTESOL to report their findings in a manner that is relevant to the VicTESOL membership, other EAL/TESOL practitioners and researchers in Victoria and potentially to other members of TESOL communities nationally and internationally.

Information & Guidelines

Aim & Background

VicTESOL is offering a research grant to support research into the field of TESOL. The VicTESOL Research Grant for the amount of \$10,000 will be awarded on the basis of proposals submitted by teams consisting of researchers and practitioners to undertake research into an existing or developing EAL focused program. The aims of the research is to evaluate and enhance or develop a program directed at addressing EAL learning needs.

The VicTESOL Research Grant aims to strengthen VicTESOL's capacity to provide expertise and professional learning opportunities for VicTESOL members and the broader TESOL community. VicTESOL also expects the grant will support the generation of data that can inform decision making and practice in relation to the support of EAL programs.

Research Intent

It is important that the research fulfills VicTESOL's aim of promoting excellence in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and fostering and supporting cultural and linguistic diversity through high quality multicultural education.

Important Dates

2026	8 May- VicTESOL Research Grant applications open 7 August - Applications close 30 October - Successful application announced
2027	Conduct Research Project 1 October - An interim report to be provided to VicTESOL by the VicTESOL Research Grant recipients



2028	Dissemination of findings/outcomes of project: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Written report2. VicTESOL workshop/symposium workshop conducted3. <i>TESOL in Context</i> journal article submitted
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Distribution of the VicTESOL Research Grant.

The VicTESOL Research Grant will be distributed to the research team on granting and acceptance of the award.

Eligibility criteria

1. All members of the research team are current members of VicTESOL (either individual or institutional).
2. The research is framed in a Victorian context.
3. The research project's major milestones will be achieved within two years of the VicTESOL Research Grant being awarded.
4. The research team 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 a VicTESOL critical friend with regards to research methodology and rationale, if required.
5. A clear understanding and appreciation of the needs of EAL learners.
6. There is no conflict of interest for team members involved in undertaking the VicTESOL-funded research.

Criteria for evaluation of applications

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

1. The research team incorporates and fosters a partnership between classroom teachers and members with research expertise and/or experience.
2. The proposal identifies an area of need for EAL students and a well-informed rationale is provided for the strategy proposed to address that need as well as how the project will benefit the TESOL profession.
3. A clear description of the methodology and the anticipated outcomes appear and align with each other and the intended aims of the project.
4. The nature of the data to be collected and analysed is outlined and a clear explanation of how that data contributes to a better understanding of the issue appears.
5. The scope, sequence and funding allocations of the project are achievable and reasonable.

*The VicTESOL Research Grant Advisory Group consists of members from the VicTESOL 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, based on the evaluation criteria. There will be no avenue to appeal the decision.



VicTESOL Research Grant Application

(3-4 pages max)

In submitting a proposal, the 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.

Budget

Funding will be considered for the following items *

- Teaching/marking release
- 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

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

VicTESOL Research Grant Advisory Group Code of Conduct & Procedures

Invitees to the panel (VicTESOL Research Grant Advisory Group) are required to sign an agreement that in performance of their role they agree to:

- consider each application on its merits in light of the published criteria, drawing on their professional expertise and experience, and refraining from advocacy of particular perspectives or interests
- keep confidential the contents of the applications they work with and the nature of panel discussions other, than the published report about the decision made
- destroying all hard and electronic copies of applications and documents related to the applications following completion of the deliberations of the panel
- declare any real or potential conflicts of interest that may arise
- agree to withdraw should any event render them unable to perform these duties or meet the stated expectations.

Conflicts of interest are considered as-

- When a selection panel member, or someone close to them, or an organisation they work for, is also connected in some way to an application.

This could include when the panel member:

- is named in an application, whether there is a financial benefit from the grant or not;



- has provided a letter of support for an application/applicant, but is not involved in the project;
- is in a contractual or other significant dispute with someone mentioned in an application;
- has worked closely with or collaborated with someone mentioned in an application in the previous two years, works closely with them currently, or will work closely with them in the near future*;
- has a close and/or long standing personal friendship with someone named in an application.

If unsure, panelists should declare any possible conflict of interest to the Executive convener for consideration by the VicTESOL Executive Committee.

* In general, membership of the VicTESOL General Committee or Executive Committee is not considered to be a conflict of interest, provided such an applicant is not currently serving on the selection panel.

Procedures related to the processing and evaluation of the applications:

- All communication with applicants about the applications are made through the VicTESOL Association Officer or VicTESOL Executive convener of the annual panel.
- All applications are de-identified to remove identification of people and institutions, prior to being distributed to panel members.
- In the event the panel considers no application to be completely satisfactory, it may request an applicant to make specified minor revisions to address perceived shortcomings of the application, prior to making a final decision.
- The panel will write a short report on their deliberations, including a brief statement of what they regarded as the strengths and shortcomings (if any) of each application, to be communicated to the applicant in relation to their own application.
- The panel may ask an external evaluator, to review these documents in order to affirm the soundness of the decision making in relation to the criteria and the soundness of the reasoning presented in the report and the comments to applicants.
- Should the Research Panel be unable to determine a successful application, all applicants will receive feedback on their proposals, and be invited to resubmit.

