

The Leverhulme Trust



The Trust and its schemes – opportunities
for funding

Dr Anne Dean
Assistant Director

The Leverhulme Trust

The Trust was established in 1925...

A proportion of Lord Leverhulme's interest in Lever Brothers (which later became Unilever plc) left in trust for specific beneficiaries:

Certain trade charities (grocers, commercial travellers and chemists) - undergraduate bursaries
Trade Charities Trust

....but the bulk of the money allocated to

**Scholarships for the purposes of
research and education**

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The Trustees

Five Trustees

All businessmen from diverse, international backgrounds

All drawn from senior management of Unilever plc
(Chairman or Director level)

Extensive appraisal experience - spotting potential and
quality

Reliant on advice received by peer reviewers

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Scholarships for the purposes of research and education:

- support for the gifted individual - excellence and originality of idea; compelling ability of applicant to undertake project; realising potential; individual vision...
- normally postgraduate level
- all subjects*
- PhD studentships not supported unless fully justified as part of a Research Project Grant

The Trust is an almost exclusively 'responsive mode' organisation, the choice of topic always lying with the applicant

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* The Trust tends to avoid funding bids in those disciplines which other Trusts or agencies (such as Wellcome, the MRC, Department for Education and Skills, ESRC etc. are disposed to support). In particular:

Medicine and general school
education

....but might consider bids such as those which concentrate on the sociological, philosophical, economic, legal or psychological aspects of medicine or education...

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the suitability of the research for support by the Trust...

- ❑ the originality of the proposed work
- ❑ courageous research (avoidance of the incremental and the applicant's ability to take informed risk/blue skies research)
- ❑ usually, a mixture of disciplines (blurring boundaries/lateral impact)
- ❑ individual exploration (hesitation with data banks/cataloguing)
- ❑ the impact of the research outcome on other fields of study and within the immediate field of research
- ❑ the extent to which the research design transcends traditional boundaries
- ❑ the extent to which a proposal represents a refreshing departure from the established working patterns either of the individual or of the discipline

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Trust's view on bids rejected by research councils -

...depends very much on reasons for rejection....

Too 'blue skies'/risky, multi-disciplinary or not within research council's current interests? Might be worth applying. Trustees welcome exciting and challenging proposals.

If proposal has been rejected on basis of lack of quality, then extremely unlikely to be considered by Trust.

With c. £30M available each year, the Trust cannot act as funder of last resort for a government system with
£3 billion p.a.

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Under the terms of the Founder's Will, the Trust is unable to engage in

FULL ECONOMIC COSTING.

Therefore, overheads and similar costs cannot be supported. Trust supports research, travel and subsistence costs, salaries and bursaries...

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All awards made to institutions (such as universities, arts training organisations, galleries and museums) are made via a 2-stage process which involve an Outline and Full Application stage. Three deadlines each year for successful Outlines - **1 September, 1 December and 21 March.**

For awards made to individuals (such as most Fellowships and Studentships), a one-stage process applies.

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The following provides a brief summary of awards offered by the Trust:

Research Project Grants (majority of awards made by the Trust)

Programme Grants (up to £1.75M for selected themes) - for 2008, the topics are: Reality, The Management of Cultural Diversity, Networks and Security and Liberty

Various Fellowships (Early Career, Research, Emeritus) and Study Abroad - and Major Research Fellowships in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Study Abroad studentships

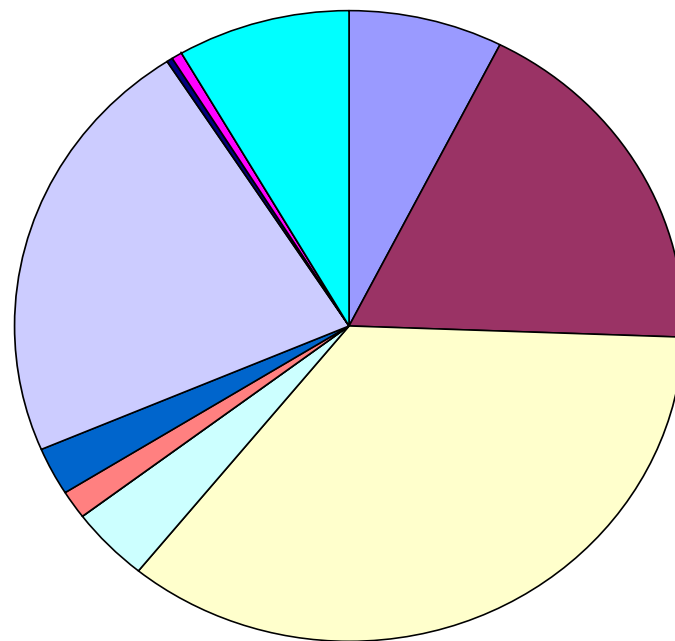
Academic Collaboration - International Networks, Visiting Professorships

Philip Leverhulme Prizes

Training and Professional Development scheme (including Artists in Residence)

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Portfolio of the 1294 direct awards active in 2007



- Applied Sciences/Architecture
- Arts
- Basic Sciences
- Business Studies, Industrial relations and economics
- Combined Sciences
- Education
- Government, Law and International Relations
- Humanities
- Libraries, Archives & Museums
- Medicine
- Regional Studies

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The application process

'Institutional' awards

Each year, the Trust receives c. 1,500 Outline proposals for **Research Project Grants** (including **International Networks**).

A small proportion are deemed ineligible i.e. they fall within those areas generally not supported by the Trust, or are received from ineligible institutions. The great majority go forward for peer review - the Leverhulme Advisory Panel (LAP).

Awards made to individuals

For these grants, a one-stage process is used, and responsibility is devolved to the Research Awards Advisory Committee (RAAC) who make recommendations for awards. Once a year rounds - individual deadlines.

Decisions for all Trust awards are made on advice received from peer reviewers.

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For awards made to institutions of any kind

Up to 12 weeks – average 6 weeks

Three deadlines each year: 21 March, 1 September and 1 December

Outline Application Form

There are no closing dates for the submission of Outline Applications to the Trust

Outline Application undergoes initial review

Outline Application rejected on grounds of eligibility or quality

Recommendation that applicant be invited to make a Full Application

Applicant submits Full Application with two named referees. Closing dates for Full Applications: 21 March, 1 September, 1 December

Independent referees and the applicant's named referees are consulted by the Trust

The proposal and the comments of referees are submitted to the Trustees for decision

Application Rejected

Application Approved

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Full details of all schemes can be found on our website

www.leverhulme.ac.uk

or (in hard copy) in our *Guide for Applicants*, available upon request to:

The Leverhulme Trust
1 Pemberton Row
London EC4A 3BG

Tel: 020 7822 5220