2019 Collaborative Research Grant

VATE is offering an annual collaborative research grant for up to $5,000 to enable researchers and teachers to work together to conduct collaborative inquiries into significant contemporary issues related to teaching and learning in secondary school English.

Purpose:

- To contribute to the development of insight into students' learning in English;
- To promote research collaborations between teachers and researchers;
- To enhance the quality of English teaching through professional learning and research connections;
- To promote and disseminate research related to the teaching of English in contemporary educational contexts.

Requirements:

The inquiry will take place during the year and will culminate in a presentation at the VATE or AATE Conference and with a paper ready to be considered for publication in *English in Australia* or another peer reviewed journal.

A representative from the team must attend at least one VATE Professional Learning and Research (PLR) Committee meeting during the course of the year and a written report on progress must be presented to the Committee. Note: Digital attendance via Zoom software is permitted.

A panel, including one member of the VATE PLR Committee, one VATE Council member (who is not a member of the PLR Committee), and the VATE Education Officer will make a recommendation to Council. The Council reserve the right to make no award if there are no applications which satisfactorily meet the criteria.

Funding can be used for research assistance, travel and accommodation, CRT coverage, transcription services and to facilitate meetings. Funds cannot be used for equipment or conference attendance.The successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with VATE.

Applications addressing the selection criteria and using the attached template must be submitted to VATE by May 31, 2019.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must all be VATE members;
- Applicants must include researchers and teachers collaborating across at least two different Victorian contexts e.g. different schools, universities or systems.
- At least one of the applicants must show a track record of conducting research leading to publication.
- Researchers/teachers work across at least two different educational contexts

Selection Criteria:

- Capacity of the applicants to conduct collaborative research
- Strong rationale for the research which relates to teaching and learning in the subject English
- Potential to contribute insight and/or impact related to teaching and learning English
- Research plan is well considered and viable and includes a written and/or verbal progress report , and final written report presented to the VATE Professional Learning and Research Committee.
- Reasonableness of budget.

For further information please contact plr@vate.org.au

Application: VATE Collaborative Research Grant

Project Title
Participants, contact details, and professional backgrounds
Description of the research context/s
Rationale and significance of the research project
Project Outline
Project Outcomes
Timeline
Budget

Signatures of Research Partners

Addressing the criteria

You can fill out the preceding digital form as the fields expand to fit your content, and/or you can provide responses to the eligibility and selection criteria in a separate document. Be sure to use clear headings and formatting. Some prompts and sample content are provided below as illustrations.

Application prompts: VATE Collaborative Research Grant

Project Title
A good title captures the following information: *1. What problem is the research addressing? 2. How will the research address the issue or help to understand it more? 3. Who is helped by this research? 4. What format is the research taking?* *e.g Engaging reluctant middle years readers (1; 3) through reflective journals (2) – a comparative study (4) in two regional schools (3).*
List of participants, contact details, and professional backgrounds
Full name, position title, organisation, email address, work phone number, relevant qualifications, current teaching allotment or responsibilities, relevant publications, awards, presentations and teaching and/or experience. A curriculum vitae is not required; the panel is most interested in how the expertise and experience of the team demonstrates capacity to conduct collaborative research.
Description of the research context/s (up to 150 words)
Outline relevant characteristics of the research context, such as: *School(s) or learning environment(s), year level, gender(s), subject area(s), metropolitan/regional/rural/remote, socioeconomic status, school resources, government/Catholic/independent/special, school size (number of students and staff)* *School culture (students, support staff, teaching staff, parents, stakeholders)* How does the research context inform the research, or benefit from the project/grant assistance? Who are the specific stakeholders involved and benefitting from the research? *e.g. students, teachers, faculty heads, educational support staff, initial teacher educators, principals, academics, policy makers*
Rationale and significance of the research project (up to 200 words)
Why is this research important? What value does it add to practice, policy or theory? What impact will the findings have? Can you justify your claims with evidence from school/organisation statistics, newspaper articles, journal articles, industry or government reports, etc.? Please include a reference list where appropriate. Are there any reasons why this research is timely, opportune or well-suited to your school/organisational context or situation? Do the potential gains of the findings outweight the cost of the research? Why? Does the rationale for the research relate to teaching and learning in subject English? What is the potential of this research to contribute insight and/or impact related to teaching and learning English?

Project Outline (up to 300 words)

Using your research question, research context and rationale, tell us how your project will deliver the desired outcomes.

Explain each step of the project, and justify why it is necessary, any associated costs and how long it will take.

Explain your methodology. Are you using surveys, interviews, observations, analysis of student work, data collection. Why is this method most suitable for your purposes. What data will it generate and how will this be used to draw conclusions?

Are there any risks, ethical issues or opportunities for errors associated with your method? How can you be sure that your data collection instrument is reliable and valid? (e.g. student and teacher observation can be subjective and biased. What measures could be put in place to negate these drawbacks?)

Project Outcomes

What are the intended outcomes? These may be at the individual student or teacher level, class level, year level, or school level, for example. What are the contributions to practice, to policy and to theory?

How will you report your outcomes and prove their existence?
E.g. survey results, charts, photos, journals, test scores, interviews.

Are there any initiatives proposed to continue the progress or build on the findings of the research beyond the completion of the project?

Timeline

You can provide a timeline in a list, table, calendar format or GANTT chart. Two samples are included below. You do not necessarily need to follow these same structures:

Sample 1
Stage 1- Planning
This stage will occur via online meetings in the lead up to the term 3 holidays. At this stage, Researcher 1 will travel to [school] to spend 2 days with the [school] team developing the unit of work for delivery.

Stage 2 - Teaching
The teaching of the unit will take place during the first 6 weeks of Term 4. Reflections from teachers involved in the unit will be collected by [Academic].

Stage 3 – Collecting data and analysing results
Following the unit of work, data will be collated and analysed to determine the success of the unit of work. Challenges, opportunities and limitations will be addressed.

Stage 4 - Reporting findings
Findings from the collaboration will be collated and reported to relevant stakeholders through a number of forums. A brief reflective piece will be produced for the VATE journal Idiom, and a more academically orientated paper will be produced for the AATE publication, English in Australia. A conference presentation of a more practical nature will be prepared and delivered at either a state of national English teacher conference.

Sample 2

Time	Task
Month 1	Refine research proposal. Seek ethical approval via University's Human Research Ethics Committee. Finalise research plan.
Month 2	Invite VATE members to take part in survey when Ethics approved. Send out survey. Commence literature review.
Month 3	Complete literature review.
Month 4	Survey results due. **Report One to VATE PL&R committee.**
Month 5	Collaborative analysis of survey results by research team. Select and invite teachers/schools for interview.
Month 6	Conduct interviews.
Month 7	Collaborative analysis of data by research team. **Report Two to VATE PL&R Committee.**
Month 8	Development of typology.
Month 9	Commence writing outputs.
Month 10	Continue writing outputs.
Month 11	Continue writing outputs.
Month 12	Submission of writing outputs. Presentation at forum at next VATE conference. **Final written and verbal report to VATE PL&R Committee.**

Budget

The budget can be used for a variety of items, but it cannot be used for equipment or assets to be kept by the academic, teachers or school/organisation. It is not necessary to use the full $5000 but equally, no preference is given to applications that request fewer funds. Please itemise the requested funds, showing your calculations where appropriate. A sample is included below, but please note that items and rates are samples only:

Budget Item and Justification	Cost (incl. GST)
Research assistance – 10 hours @ $108 (Level B) Data collection and statistical analysis	$1080
Research assistance – 20 hours @ $54 (Level A) Survey creation and data coding	$1080
Travel (Academic visits to school: 4*40km* $0.66/km	$106
Accommodation	$150
Transcription of interview recordings (12 hours*$25/hr)	$300
CRT cover (2 half day workshops x 4 teachers*$240)	$1920
Survey Monkey subscription ($25*6 months)	$150
Refreshments for 4 school sessions ($20*4)	$80
TOTAL	**$4866**

Please note: successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with VATE. This agreement will outline payment information and milestone dates. All funding not expended in the agreed timeframe will revert to VATE.