



Pearson

2016 Research call

Purpose

This Research Call is published by the Global Scale of English unit at Pearson English. One of Pearson's driving goals is to ensure our teaching and testing materials comply with the highest standards and quality. At Pearson, research is carried out as part of our on-going validation programme, with the aim of obtaining independent advice and assessment of our products by experts in the areas of language testing, second/foreign language education, linguistics, applied linguistics, and other related fields. Faculty members, doctoral students as well as qualified freelance researchers are invited to submit proposals to investigate the validity of the Global Scale of English (Pearson metric of English language proficiency, aligned to the CEFR) and its related learning, teaching, and assessment resources or products.

Research areas

The purpose of the call is to promote independent research about:

1. *The GSE Learning Objectives* (http://www.english.com/gse/learning_objectives)

Research areas where we are looking to gather external feedback and evaluation are:

- The degree of correspondence between learning outcomes and the inferred Target Language Use (TLU) domains
- Alignment studies between the GSE learning objectives and the CEFR, other CEFR-based resources, or test specifications of major English language tests

2. *Pearson Test of English Academic* (<http://pearsonpte.com>) or

3. *Progress* (<http://product.pearsonelt.com/progress>)

- The relation between learning hours and score gains on the Global Scale of English
- Linguistic and/or extra-linguistic parameters accounting for progress in proficiency on the GSE

- The relation between test-takers' performance and their demographic characteristics
- The contexts of test use in assessment, for example in assessment for learning, in academic admission, and particularly for the purpose of migration
- Concurrent validity as evidenced from comparing test outcomes of PTE Academic or Progress with one or more other major English language tests

Data, funding, and duration of projects

Pearson will provide researchers with the *GSE Learning Objectives* data or test data/vouchers from *PTE Academic* and *Progress*.

Available funding is 2,000£ for small-scale projects, up to 5,000£ for medium-scale projects, and up to 10,000£ for large-scale projects.

The maximum duration of projects is 1 year.

How to apply

Applicants are requested to send their curriculum vitae and a well-structured research proposal to sqoffice@pearson.com. The deadline for receipt of applications is 30th September 2016. The proposal should clearly indicate:

Title of research proposal

Name/s of researcher/s

Research goal

Theoretical background

Required data and sample size

Methodology and instruments

Contribution to the field of second/foreign language testing

Project's schedule, timeline and required budget.

In case of any queries regarding the application process, please contact us at the above email address before submission.

Vetting process

Each proposal will be rated internally according to the following criteria:

Match with the Research Call

Sound theoretical foundation

Clear methodology

Feasibility of the research, given the budget and timeline

Compliance with data protection & ethics standards

The shortlisted applicants will be notified and may be contacted to provide further details about their proposal. Applicants will be notified if there are any delays to the timetable for the vetting process.

Notification to Applicants

Pearson will notify all applicants - successful and unsuccessful - by the 15th November 2016.

Accepted Proposals

Following the signature of an agreement between the researcher/s and Pearson, the researcher will commit to send Pearson regular reports on the project and to submit a paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal at the end of the project. All projects will start by January 2017.

Timetable

30 September 2016: Last date for receipt of all application materials

15 November 2016: Notification of acceptance or non-acceptance

January 2017: Latest date for start of projects