BELMAS LEADERSHIP & PRACTITIONER BURSARY 2026/2027

Introduction

The British Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society has established a programme of bursaries to promote advanced study and research that contributes to the production of theoretical and professional knowledge and understanding about practice in the UK and internationally in relation to educational leadership, management and administration.

The Award – of £1,000 – is available for a maximum of two years for practitioners and researchers registered at United Kingdom or international Universities and schools.

Eligibility

Applications for this BELMAS award may be made by Research Practitioners and Researchers who:

- are members of BELMAS
- are engaged in leadership research or leadership practices

The Award

The award will be for £1,000, available for a maximum of two years, depending on the proposed scale of the project and subject to the recommendations of the review panel.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be judged solely in terms of a proposal's merit, i.e., its potential to make an original and significant contribution to knowledge, policy and/or practice in the field of educational leadership, management and administration.

In judging applications, attention will be paid to:

- The quality of aims proposed focus or key questions of investigation
- Demonstrated understanding of the body of existing knowledge on which the project builds
- The design of the project and its approaches or methods proposed
- The likely contribution to knowledge, policy and/or practice
- The likelihood that the work will be completed in a timely manner

The decision to grant the Award would be made by the Awards, Bursaries and Grants (ABG) Committee formed by Trustee Board members, a committee appointed by BELMAS Trustees, who will oversee these awards and monitor the project's progress (see below).

The Award will be made solely on the basis of the quality of the submission received and will not take into consideration issues related to financial or other circumstances of the applicant. The decision of the ABG committee will be verified and approved by the BELMAS Trustee Board, and all decisions will be final.

Expectations of Award Holders

Award holders would be required to:

- Acknowledge the financial support of BELMAS in their work regarding the project via presentations and other dissemination opportunities.
- Submit to BELMAS a short progress report of the project annually.
- Submit a blog post of 800 words to the BELMAS blog about the progress of your project. This will be subject to review by the BELMAS Blog Editorial Board.
- Present your project via a BELMAS RIG event within two years of being awarded the bursary.
- Acknowledge BELMAS in any other future presentations and publications regarding the project by including the BELMAS logo (which you can obtain by emailing info@belmas.org.uk) and informing the BELMAS office of how your work will be disseminated.
- Submit a paper based on their project to Management in Education. For more details on this, please following the link: Manuscript Submission Guidelines: Management in Education: Sage Journals (sagepub.com)

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- Management in Education: Sage Journals (sagepub.com) and a blog of 800 words, please follow the link for more details: https://www.belmas.org.uk/news/blog-guidelines/
- All BELMAS publications are subject to a rigorous peer review process, and it is important to look at the criteria for each publication carefully.

Applications

Applications should be submitted to the BELMAS website and should include:

Contact details of Lead Organiser This should be the primary contact for the project and a BELMAS member.

Title of the Activity Please enter as concise a title as possible. Fuller details of the rationale and context of the project can be provided elsewhere in the application form.

Amount Required The L&P Bursary is for up to £1,000. Enter the total amount requested. This should equal the total set out in the financial plan (see below).

Summary of Funding Request Specific objectives relating to the project/research should be recorded here, including the background and context of the project, the key aims and objectives underpinning the work and full details of methodology and participants, including a timetable (maximum 500 words).

Funding Plan Please set out an itemised financial plan and indicate whether additional funding has been secured from other organisations/institutions. The total of funds itemised here should equal the amount required entered above and should be phased by calendar year. Plans should allow for expenditure over a maximum of two years. The Panel reserves the right to reject applications which do not provide adequate and justifiable costs. You have the option to upload supporting documents for this.

Intended Outcome of Activity Please provide full details of the intended outcomes and anticipated benefits to individuals, involved organisations and the wider BELMAS membership arising from the project (at least 400, maximum 500 words).

Dissemination – of the outcomes of the project is a key requirement of the award and your detailed plans for dissemination should be included here (maximum 500 words).

The final instalment of the bursary will not normally be paid until the dissemination phase has been successfully completed and a final report provided. This report will normally be shared on the BELMAS website.

A template for the report will be provided at the appropriate time.

Dissemination plans will normally involve submitting a blog post of 800 words about the progress of your project/research to the BELMAS Blog (subject to review by the BELMAS Blog Editorial Group) but may also include presentations at relevant BELMAS RIG events and conferences.

Where appropriate, you may also include plans to publish the outcomes in one of the Society's peer reviewed journals Educational Management, Administration and Leadership or Management in Education.

BELMAS RIG event or conference presentations, journals, blog publication and podcasts will be subject to normal peer review refereeing processes. Costs of dissemination activities should be included in the project plan or covered from other sources.

Any dissemination activity and any communication relating to the project should acknowledge that it has been funded by a BELMAS Development and Research Grant. The BELMAS logo needs to be used for presentations, reports and other ways of dissemination practices to acknowledge BELMAS' support.

Proposal – of no more than 1,000 words (including references) outlining the focus, aims, a summary of your rationale and expected contribution to leadership practice.

Applicants are asked to consider the dimensions of equality and access in their proposals if these are likely to have an impact on the nature, scope and implementation of the project.

References can be cited of what underpins and informs your practice, and this needs to be included in your word count if you wish to include it.

Payment Currently, bursaries are paid by bank transfer in instalments, through educational institutions on receipt of an invoice.

If your application is successful reference of two referees will be requested from the two referees specified on your application by the BELMAS office after the review process.

Please note, BELMAS Trustees are not permitted to apply for BELMAS Grants and Bursaries in line with the Charity Commission's Guidance.

Applications must be submitted on the BELMAS website by Monday 30th November 2026.