

Schools' Liaison Fund for French and French History, supported by ASMCF and SSFH

Terms and Conditions [November 2024]

Overview

The Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF) and the Society for the Study of French History (SSFH) have joined together to welcome funding proposals to promote and support the study of French language, literature, culture and history in primary, post-primary and further education.

The Fund promotes learning French and learning about the French-speaking world in its various historical, social, political and cultural contexts to enthuse students about languages, societies and cultures and to prepare them for UK degree-level study. The fund supports members of the ASMCF and SSFH in their initiatives to promote French Studies and History teaching in schools and FE colleges, and acts as a forum for keeping members up to date with curricular developments. We particularly welcome applications that will connect with schools and colleges and/or create teaching materials on overlooked histories and cultures of the French-speaking world, for example, projects related to colonialism, class and gender histories, etc.

The fund is also designed to assist teachers who wish to engage in personal intellectual development in their subjects, which will enrich provision and enable them to help students bridge the gap between school/college and university.

The Fund welcomes applications ranging from £500 to £1500 for projects lasting up to 36 months.

Aims and objectives of the fund

This funding initiative is offered in the light of the commitment of the ASMCF and SSFH to:

- Promote the learning of French and about France in its social, political, historical and cultural contexts, in order to enthuse students about these topics and prepare them for current UK degree-level study.
- Promote the study of histories, cultures and societies that are lesser studied at primary, post-primary and FE level, for example, the French empire, the Haitian revolution, gender history and class histories.
- Assist teachers who wish to engage in personal intellectual development in their subjects, which will enrich their provision and enable them to help students to bridge the gap between school and university.
- Support members of the ASMCF and SSFH in their initiatives to promote such teaching in schools and FE colleges.

- Foster sustainable outreach activities and collaborations between educators and scholars in primary, post-primary, further and higher education.

The ASMCF and SSFH will consider proposals for teacher- or student-focused events and/or the production of resources that engage teachers and/or students in French and French History at primary, post-primary and FE level.

At primary level, the proposal should address relevant components of the primary curriculum in the country/nation in question. These include:

- History and Languages (England);
- Languages and Social Studies (Scotland);
- Languages, Literacy and Communication and Humanities (Wales);
- The World Around Us (NI);
- Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (RoI);

Proposals could also engage with existing Primary Languages initiatives (Routes into Languages, Languages Connect, etc).

At post-primary and FE level, the proposal should deal with subjects pertinent to French and/or French History syllabi of relevant qualifications and examining boards. For example, in French Studies, applicants could consider:

- Research skills and methodologies in French Studies to support research-based projects at post-primary and FE level
- The current AS/A level in England, Northern Ireland and Wales includes topics such as: immigration, integration and multiculturalism; contemporary youth culture; France 1940-50; the Occupation and Resistance; and the context of set films. The content of the event and/or materials is also expected to reflect the academic areas of concern of one or both of the sponsoring societies.
- The current Highers/Advanced Highers in Scotland includes topics concerning society, culture, literature and film.
- The current GCSE in England, Northern Ireland and Wales includes topics such as: identity and culture; local, national and global areas of interest; current and future study and employment.
- The current N5 in Scotland includes topics concerning society, culture, literature and film.
- The current Leaving Certificate in the Republic of Ireland includes topics such as: customs and traditions; national stereotypes; the European Union; the arts and entertainment; the range and role of mass media; teenager culture.

In History, applicants could consider:

- Research skills and methodologies in History to support research-based projects and post-primary and FE level.
- The current GCSE in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and the N5 in Scotland includes topics such as: The 'Hundred Years War'; France in the First World War; France in the Cold War; French history as it relates to the rise of fascism and dictatorship in 20th century Europe.

- The current A level in England, Northern Ireland and Wales includes topics such as: The Crusades; The Angevin Empire; Louis XIV; The French Revolution and Napoleon; France and the American Revolution; France 1814-1870; France's role in the unification of Italy and Germany; and the Cold War in Europe.
- The Highers/Advanced Highers in Scotland includes topics concerning Europe and the World, and the Atlantic slave trade.
- The current Leaving Certificate in the Republic of Ireland includes topics such as: Empires in revolution, 1775-1815; Nationalism and state formation in Europe, 1815-1871; Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920; Dictatorship and democracy in Europe, 1920-1945; Division and realignment in Europe, 1945-1992; European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990.

Applicants are not limited to topics listed above. Excluded is support for events which are part of existing recruitment activities for the institution(s) concerned.

Eligibility

Academics and teachers of French and/or History, based in the UK and Ireland, are eligible to apply for the prize. We strongly encourage teachers, PhD students (with the support of an academic mentor) and early career scholars to apply. Please contact us if you have any questions about eligibility asmcf-outreach@protonmail.com.

Applications must be put forward by a member of the ASMCF and/or SSFH. We strongly encourage organising teams to include partners from the primary, post-primary, further and higher education sectors. Within this network a main applicant should be identified as the principal organiser with whom the ASMCF/SSFH will correspond.

French and History teachers and academics are equally welcome to apply as main applicants.

Funding

The Fund has a rolling deadline. Applicants can apply for amounts between £500-£1500 for projects lasting up to 36 months.

In the spirit of collaboration and interdisciplinary working, we welcome match funding applications across language areas (i.e. applications where multiple learned societies contribute funding), provided that the French and/or French History represent a core component of the event programme, or materials produced.

While we acknowledge the importance of hospitality at in-person outreach events, given the primary objectives of the Fund set out above, we ask that catering costs be limited to 25% of the total funding requested.

The number of awards made per year will be dependent on funding available and the quality of applications. The ASMCF/SSFH reserves the right not to make an award in any given year if the quality of the applications received does not warrant such.

Criteria for selection

The principal criteria for selection will be:

- The coherence of the theme and activities proposed for the event and their relevance to the aims as outlined above.
- The legacy of the award, be it through the collaborative networks across primary, post-primary, further and higher education enabled by the funded event, or the ongoing impact of resources created using the funding.
- The plans for promoting the event and thereby the work of the ASMCF and SSFH, including via social media. If the applicant does not use social media, they must consider how they might promote the event with the social media support of ASMCF and SSFH.

The application

Applicants should include in their application:

- A summary of the proposed event/resource(s) including a brief rationale for its theme and content. [200 words]
- A description of the target audience and anticipated numbers of participants/users. [200 words]
- How the event or resource(s) will be of benefit to schools, students and/or teachers. [200 words]
- A proposed date, time and location of the event or timescale for creation and release of the resource(s). [200 words]
- Plans for advertising and recruiting to the event, or promoting/utilising the resource(s). [200 words]
- Details of the organising team members and their institutions. [200 words]
- Details of any professionals/practitioners to be involved/invited. [200 words]
- Plans to follow up on the networks established by the event, or further use of the resource(s) created. [200 words]

Please note: this fund is not intended to be used for events that are part of existing recruitment activities for the institution(s) concerned.

There is an expectation that the institutions concerned will supplement the prize in terms of the costs involved in organising the event (for example, provision of rooms, basic administrative costs, including staffing costs, etc.). The level of additional support offered will be taken into consideration in the allocation of the award.

The Fund has a rolling deadline for applications.

After the application

Successful applicants will be expected to fully promote the ASMCF and SSFH to all those attending the event/drawing upon the resource(s).

Successful applicants will be expected to produce a short blog post describing the event/resource(s) and its outcomes. This will be in a form suited to easy diffusion via the ASMCF and SSFH websites and social media channels. Any images included are to be cleared for social media usage.