



ASSOCIATION FOR
ACADEMIC
LANGUAGE AND
LEARNING

Empowering students
to succeed

Tips on preparing an AALL Grant application

The forms are reasonably easy to complete, but applications need care and attention to detail. The grant review process is competitive and assessors have to rank the applications on their merits. Effective applications are relevant, specific, realistic, collaborative, extend ALL scope and promote its role in Australian tertiary education.

Strengths we've welcomed

Weaknesses we've seen

All sections are conscientiously addressed	Some sections ignored or skimped
Explains how project furthers AALL mission and goal(s)	Motherhood statement THAT project addresses AALL goals/mission, but not HOW
Is clearly beyond normal institutional responsibilities to support (but if they give partial support that is a plus)	Seeks funding for something the institution should normally be paying for
Is explicitly relevant to current discussions in scholarship, profession, govt agendas, institutional responses	Is of narrow interest
Extends the ways things are currently done	Seeks to apply rather than extend practices elsewhere
Fosters collaboration across parts of a university or better yet, across institutions	Participation is narrowly based
Promotes AALL interests, concerns, practices beyond the applicant's own context	Only focuses on applicant's own context or institution
Produces something that is widely of use to AALL practitioners and makes it freely accessible to AALL	Produces something that only the applicant's institution is going to use
Is realistic, in re recruitment of participants, size of samples (if relevant), timeline is feasible, people yet to be invited will have time to plan – applicants have considered practicalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is already underway and applicant just hopes for extra money • Project unlikely to be done satisfactorily in time proposed • Depends on cooperation of parties who haven't been part of planning
Is clear and explicit about method	Is vague, creating doubts in assessors
Contextualises project in relevant literature	Is unaware that the thing's been done already, or doesn't relate to the lit it cites....
Budget is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic • Comprehensive • Specific & Itemised • Necessary • Economical • Adds up! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants haven't thought about all kinds of costs, or haven't researched specific amounts • Asks for unnecessary or mystery items (stationery for project done online; coffee for focus group not mentioned in application; research assistant for unspecified activities; travel allowance when project can be done via zoom.....) • Items don't add up to total
Has been proofread to ensure it is clear, concise and relevant	Come on, people.....