

■ The Prizes

The Trust awards five **Philip Leverhulme Prizes** annually in each of the five disciplines selected for awards in that year.

Each prize provides £70,000 for purposes of research as identified by the prize-holder.

The prizes seek to recognise research workers whose achievement has already brought a convincing degree of international recognition but whose career is at a stage where the greatest contributions are still to be anticipated.



■ The Criteria

The First Viscount Leverhulme placed emphasis throughout his life on the crucial role of the individual in advancing communal well-being. In keeping with this strong belief, his legacy can be seen as providing necessary support to outstandingly talented individuals, be they researchers, students or artists, so that their aspirations can be brought to fruition.

The criteria used for the selection of the bids to be supported reflect this ambition.

There must first be **compelling ability** on the part of the applicant in the work to be conducted. The work should itself be linked to the **personal vision** of the applicant in terms of its design and conduct.

The work should contribute to the life of the community either because of its **intrinsic interest**, its **intellectual quality**, or its **addressing of a significant issue**.

The work should call upon the full set of skills required for the resolution of the selected problem, **surmounting the barriers between the traditional disciplines**. Work of an incremental nature within one of the established disciplines is less likely to match the requirements of the Trust.

It is recognised that there are greater degrees of risk in undertaking work outside the bounds of steady advance within traditional patterns of activity; as a consequence the Trust is sympathetic to those who seek to undertake work involving **notable challenge**.



William Hesketh Lever was born in Bolton, Lancashire, in 1851. Building on his early experiences in the family grocery business, and thriving on the family traditions of ‘liberalism, nonconformity, and abstinence,’ he made dramatic progress in the marketing and

manufacture of soap. This culminated in the creation of the factory and model village of Port Sunlight. The village itself was inaugurated in 1888 by Mrs Lever, the former Elizabeth Hulme, whom he had married in 1874.

Lever’s enterprise rapidly spread beyond the UK, resulting in the diversity of interests represented first by Lever Brothers and subsequently by Unilever. The stipulations of his Will relate both to the objectives of the Trust and to the requirements placed on its five Trustees, namely that they shall all be drawn from the highest levels of management within the company.

Lever’s career is characterised by an unwavering resolve in the acquisition of great wealth and by an equally unwavering resolve in its generous disposition. His many addresses to schools, youth groups, workers and congregations bear witness to his conviction that individual effort is the crucial ingredient for progress and communal benefit.

How to apply

Full details of all schemes can be found on the Trust’s website:

www.leverhulme.ac.uk

or in our Guide for Applicants, available on request from the Trust’s office

1 Pemberton Row
London
EC4A 3BG

Tel: 020 7042 9888



The images in this leaflet have been kindly provided by Leverhulme award winners:

Sam Chapman, Historical performance on early plucked instruments – Switzerland;
Dr John Tchalenko, University of the Arts London – Eye tracking Humphrey Ocean painting
Portrait of Ruby;
Jeanne Salje, Investigating bacterial plasmid-DNA segregation using cryoelectron tomography – Japan;
Prof. Frederic Fol Leymarie and **Patrick Tresset**, Goldsmiths College, Computing Dept – “Alkon ii” project: www.aikon-gold.com

“...scholarships for purposes of research and education...”



The Leverhulme Trust

■ The Trust

The Leverhulme Trust was established in 1925 under the Will of the First Viscount Leverhulme with the instruction that its resources should be used to support “scholarships for the purposes of research and education.”

Since that time, the Trust has provided funding for research projects, fellowships, studentships, bursaries and prizes; it operates across all the academic disciplines, the ambition being to support talented individuals as they realise their personal vision in research and professional training.

With annual funding of some £50 million, the Trust is amongst the largest all-subject providers of research funding in the UK.



■ Types of Awards

The Trust seeks to provide mechanisms for the support of researchers and students which can be effective at all stages in their careers.

The awards fall into three main categories:

- those for the undertaking of specific **research projects**;
- those for research or study undertaken by individuals holding **fellowships, studentships, or bursaries**;
- those for the recognition of individual research achievement by way of **prizes**.



■ Projects

Outline proposals for **Research Project Grants** can be submitted to the Trust at any time. The choice of theme and the design of the research method lie entirely with the applicant. Proposals are favoured which reflect the personal vision of the applicant, which ignore traditional disciplinary boundaries in seeking to tackle a fascinating theme and which involve a high degree of challenge. The resources requested must be predominantly (at least 75%) for the provision of research staff (research assistants; students). All topics are considered with the exception of those for which specialist research support agencies are persuasively active, e.g. medicine.

Following approval of the outline bid, applicants are invited to submit a full application for one of the three annual submission dates (1 September; 1 December; 21 March). The success rate for applications which have progressed through both stages is c.20%. The time for the overall review process (from ‘outline’ to ‘result’) is typically six months.

The great majority of awards involve a spend of up to £250,000 over a duration of two to three years. If compelling evidence is provided, awards may be made for sums between £250,000 and £500,000 for research over a period of up to five years.

The Trust additionally awards two **Research Programme Grants** each year, these being for the conduct of up to five years of research on themes put forward by the Trustees. Each award is to a sum of up to £1.75 million. The themes are announced in July of each year with the result being announced in July of the following year.

Support is also provided for **International Networks** where the research theme requires the participation of researchers drawn from different countries.

■ Fellowships and Studentships

Awards are made to individuals to allow them to undertake research, study or professional training. The research theme or the form of study are for the applicant’s choosing. Recognising the variety of requirements, a variety of support schemes are offered.

The **Research Fellowships** provide support for up to two years of research where the applicant’s current routine duties inhibit progress.

The **Early Career Fellowships** seek to provide a bridge to a subsequent academic career. The Trust provides support for a two or three year appointment where the host institution provides a matching contribution.

The **Study Abroad Awards** make it possible for Fellows (for a period of between 3 and 12 months) or Students (for a period of between 12 and 24 months) to conduct work at research or study centres overseas.



The **Emeritus Fellowships** provide support for up to two years of research to be conducted by the applicant following normal retirement from an academic career.

The **Major Research Fellowships in the Humanities and Social Sciences** provide up to three years of full-time teaching replacement so that the applicant can concentrate on a piece of research, typically bringing it forward to publication as a monograph.

Senior Research Fellowships are administered on behalf of the trust by the Royal Society, the British Academy and the Royal Academy of Engineering. They enable mid-career applicants to undertake a period of concentrated research activity (up to 12 months).

Visiting Professorships are awarded in response to bids from UK institutions seeking to invite an eminent researcher from overseas whose activity can be recognised as particularly advantageous for the progress of the receiving group.

The Trust awards **Bursaries for Students in the Fine and Performing Arts**. The awards are made to institutions offering the highest levels of training in music, visual arts, dance, drama, and similar professional activity. The bursaries are then allocated by the institutions concerned.

Awards are made for **Artists in Residence** where these can be seen to provide a genuine mixing of contrasting cultures.