

## **Applicant Guidance for the 2026-27 Hornby Scholarship at the University of Exeter**

Please read this guidance carefully when completing your application for the Hornby Scholarship at the University of Exeter. It is recommended that you write and save your responses to questions 10-14 in software such as Word (or equivalent) and copy these into the application form to prevent data loss.

1. State your surname as it appears on your passport or other official document (e.g., identity card).
2. State your given names (first and, if applicable, middle name[s]) as they appear on your passport or other official document.
3. State your contact email address. Please enter this carefully. Note that you will be communicated the outcome of this application to this e-mail address. The Hornby Trust and the University of Exeter are not responsible for any delays or other issues with your application should you not input the correct email address.
4. State whether you have been shortlisted for interview in a previous application cycle for the Hornby Scholarship. Please note, having been shortlisted for interview for the Scholarship on one or more occasion does not automatically exclude you in this round of applications.
5. If applicable, provide the year(s) when you were shortlisted for interview.
6. Confirm whether you are a resident of, and work in a country defined as Least Developed, Low Income, Lower Middle Income, or Upper Middle Income according to the OECD DAC list which can be downloaded at [this link](#). Please note, if you are not a resident of and work in a country on this list, you are not eligible to be awarded a Hornby Scholarship.
7. Select your country of citizenship (as per your passport or other official document) from the drop-down list.
8. Select your country of residence from the drop-down list.
9. Confirm whether you have three years' full-time experience teaching English (or other relevant professional experience). Note that this experience could be across three straight years or, in the event of part-time working or periods of unemployment, this could be stretched across multiple years. Please note, your response to this question should be consistent with that of question 10.
10. Provide an outline of your employment history in English language teaching (or other relevant professional area). List each position and clearly state:
  - The dates of your employment (in months/years, e.g., Feb 2015 - Dec 2024)
  - The name of your employer
  - The address of your employer
  - The position(s) you held

11. Select the highest level of academic qualification which you have been awarded or are working towards. Note that eligible applicants must:

- already hold an undergraduate degree or equivalent (with grades equivalent to UK upper 2nd class honours or higher).
- not already be a holder of a doctoral degree in TESOL, applied linguistics, English, or related area
- not already be a holder of a master's degree in TESOL, applied linguistics, English, or related area from a UK university.

12. State the names of the academic qualification(s) that you have been awarded (or are working towards) and the awarding institution(s). Do not provide the details of any qualifications below level 6 according to [the UK government's qualifications levels](#) or any training courses.

13. We are looking for applications from academically talented and experienced English language teaching (ELT) professionals with a high level of awareness of the issues and concerns in their institutional and wider context. As part of the process of shortlisting and selection, we ask applicants to submit a two-part cover letter. The cover letter should not be generic. Instead, it should address the requirements of questions 13 and 14 on the application form. Please carefully consider the requirements of both questions.

A key feature of question 13 is that we would like you to tell us about **one** initiative you have undertaken. We appreciate that you may be a seasoned professional with much experience in ELT, perhaps even in a management and coordination capacity. However, we would like to hear about just one initiative, in order for you to provide sufficient description and explanation so that your role, way(s) of working, and contribution are clear.

The initiative you write about should be focused on teaching and/or learning in an English language education or other relevant context. It does not matter if this is in an English as a foreign, second, or additional language context or with young learners or adults. Appropriate initiatives may encompass a project, event, programme or other relevant undertaking where you focused on managing change to make teaching and/or learning more meaningful or useful. This could be relatively small-scale initiative (we appreciate that teachers are working in contexts where they may have limited autonomy) or a larger undertaking.

We provide some example categories of initiative that you might want to address, including teaching materials, the classroom approach, and assessment (which does not necessarily equate to testing). If your initiative does not 'fit' within these categories, you are welcome to write about something else.

You are advised to address the five stated question prompts to help structure your response. Make sure to avoid assuming too much contextual knowledge on the part of the selection panel (who may be unfamiliar with your context).

14. An important element in the second part of the cover letter is to tell us what it is about the MEd TESOL programme at the University of Exeter **specifically** that could help you enact meaningful/useful change in ELT in your context. We advise

applicants to consult the following page and to learn about the programme prior to writing this part of the cover letter

(<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/education/tesolmed/>). Another important aspect is how being a Hornby Scholar could help facilitate your future impact in your context. We urge applicants to read about the Hornby Scholarship (<https://www.hornby-trust.org.uk/ma-tesol-scholarships/>), including the profiles of current and past scholars to see if/how they align with your own.

15. State whether you think you currently meet the English language proficiency requirements for the MEd TESOL programme (available to view [here](#)).

16. If applicable, state the name of the evidence you have (e.g., the name of the qualification or test). Please only state valid evidence. For example, if you took the IELTS test more than two years ago, the test result would no longer be valid.

17. Please indicate that you agree to taking the necessary steps as outlined to you to provide all supporting documentation for the MEd TESOL at the University of Exeter (including English language requirements, if applicable) if you were to be shortlisted for interview. Please note, there is no need to apply for the MEd TESOL programme at this stage. Applicants progressing to round 2 of shortlisting will be invited by email to apply to the programme.

18. Indicate whether you accept the terms and conditions of the award. Please note that being awarded the Hornby Scholarship is contingent upon accepting the terms and conditions of the award.