



## **TIRF CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Kathleen M. Bailey Teacher-Research Award**

TIRF invites proposals for the **Kathleen M. Bailey Teacher-Research Award**  
(**TIRF Bailey Award**) 2026

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
**(11:59pm Pacific Daylight Time – Canada/USA)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The International Research Foundation for English Language Education (TIRF) was founded in 1999 as an international, non-profit organization. Its aim is to generate new knowledge and to collect and organize existing knowledge about the teaching and learning of English for the purposes of informing educational policy; improving classroom practices; and, ultimately, expanding educational, occupational, and social opportunities for individuals in a global society.

TIRF is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees composed of scholars, authors, and individuals working in the corporate sector, and is supported by charitable donations. TIRF is committed to developing and implementing an innovative, proactive applied research program to help ensure that English as a second, foreign, or additional language is taught, learned, and tested in a manner that is demonstrably effective, expedient, and economical. TIRF is also committed to strengthening links among theory, practice, and policy, and to fostering partnerships among researchers around the world. One of the activities TIRF undertakes to advance its mission is the funding of research.

#### **Description of the Award**

The Foundation is pleased to announce the call for proposals for the **TIRF Kathleen M. Bailey Teacher-Research Award** (hereafter, the TIRF Bailey Award). It honors Dr. Kathleen M. Bailey, who served as TIRF's President and Chair of the Board of Trustees for over a decade, from 2009 to 2022. The award recognizes Dr. Bailey's research, her lifelong commitment to teaching, and her desire to support and encourage research carried out by practicing English language teachers, as well as honor her commitment to TIRF. The award is designed to encourage, support, and recognize research conducted by teachers. It also serves as a vehicle for the creation of new knowledge about language teaching and learning as well as the development of research skills for both new and experienced teachers.



## Eligibility

To be eligible for the TIRF Bailey Award, applicants must be currently practicing teachers of English as a second/foreign/additional language, including dual language immersion teachers in two-way programs with English learners, and their research must involve a teaching context. The award is open to teachers of English worldwide. Teachers can be working with English language learners of any age, language background, nationality, or proficiency level in both academic and non-academic programs. In addition, TIRF welcomes proposals from teachers at all levels of instruction who have varying degrees of teaching experience. A team of two or more teachers may also apply together. There are no restrictions on citizenship.

## Research Topics

Proposals for the TIRF Bailey Award can address any research topic that is of interest to applicants. TIRF is particularly interested in funding research that furthers our understanding of language learning in classroom contexts. TIRF will fund proposals related to one or more of its Research Topics. A detailed explanation of TIRF's Research Topics and the areas of focus can be found by [clicking here](#).

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Content-based Instruction
- Digital Technology in Language Education
- English as a Medium of Instruction
- English for Specific Purposes
- Individual Learner Differences and Effective Language Education
- Language Assessment
- Migrants and Refugees: Teaching and Assessing English
- Plurilingualism and Multilingualism in Business, Industry, the Professions, and Educational Contexts
- Revitalization of Endangered Indigenous Languages
- Teaching Second and Foreign Languages to Young Learners

When considering whether to submit a proposal for a TIRF Bailey Award, teachers should have a specific question in mind that they would like to answer about learners and learning in their classrooms. Research mentoring may be an option for all teachers who receive a TIRF Bailey Award and would like support in designing and carrying out their research.

## Features of the TIRF Bailey Awards

- TIRF Bailey Awards are for US \$1,000 per proposal. A pair or small team of teachers may submit a joint proposal and distribute the funds appropriately between/among themselves. In the case of a joint proposal, please identify one individual who will correspond with TIRF and communicate with co-researchers. All awardees will be recognized on the TIRF website.
- Monies may be spent on actual costs for carrying out the research or on expenses for professional development, such as registration fees for a conference, hotel accommodations, and transportation.



- Additional sources of funding applied for or received to fund the same research project should be declared. Seeking or obtaining other sources of funding for the project does not disqualify a teacher from receiving a TIRF Bailey Award.
- TIRF Bailey Award proposals should be related directly to English language education, have strong implications for teaching, and answer questions that have important implications for learners.
- TIRF Bailey Award proposals, applications, and required products must be written in English.
- TIRF strongly encourages the dissemination of findings. Final products for the TIRF Bailey Awards are as follows: Award recipients will submit a final report and participate in an exit interview with TIRF at the conclusion of their project. Final reports follow a template provided by TIRF and should be sent to [info@tirfonline.org](mailto:info@tirfonline.org). TIRF also encourages awardees (a) to make a presentation, such as giving a conference talk or workshop or webinar, for other teachers, or (b) to write a paper for publication in a professional journal, book, or newsletter. All awardees will acknowledge TIRF in all forms of dissemination, including conference presentations and published papers.
- Only one, singular proposal containing both the application form and CV(s) of the applicant(s) should be submitted. (Note: Please do not submit anything except the application form and CV(s).)
- Successful applicants (i.e., award recipients) must wait five years before applying again.
- Applicants must be currently practicing teachers of ESL, EFL, or English as an additional language, and their proposals must involve a teaching context.
- A person may only have one application under submission for the Bailey Award.

### Characteristics of Successful Proposals

A successful proposal for a TIRF Bailey Award is complete and includes all information on the proposal form. The proposal should be written in clear and precise language. The proposal form will ask applicants to do the following:

- Identify a research question(s) that has important implications for language learners in classroom contexts;
- Describe the type of data you need to answer the question(s);
- Provide specific ideas for how data are to be collected;
- Explain what data analysis methods would be used;
- Explain how the research methods (data collection and analysis) are appropriate for answering the research question(s); and
- Create a timeline for the research project that is manageable and can be completed in one year.

### TIRF Bailey Award Application Procedures

- The deadline for receipt of complete proposals is **Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026** (11:59 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time — Canada/USA). Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Submit a completed TIRF Bailey Award application form [via TIRF's website](#). (See proposal/application notes below.)



- Please check your application submission carefully. You may not submit more than once in any given competition year. If multiple copies of an applicant’s proposal are submitted, only the first one received will be processed.
- Acknowledgement of the receipt of an application will be sent to the email address provided by the applicant within five business days after the file is uploaded. If an applicant has not had his/her application acknowledged within five business days of sending it, he/she should contact [info@tirfonline.org](mailto:info@tirfonline.org) using the subject heading “TIRF Bailey Award Application Received?”
- If an applicant has any difficulties submitting his/her proposal electronically, he/she should send an email to [info@tirfonline.org](mailto:info@tirfonline.org) using the subject heading “TIRF Bailey Award 2026 Application – Technical Difficulty.”
- Applications that are incomplete or that do not follow the stated guidelines cannot be processed and will be rejected.

### **Adjudication of TIRF Bailey Award Proposals**

Proposals for TIRF Bailey Awards will be adjudicated by scholars in the field who have agreed to serve as external reviewers. Each proposal is considered by at least two reviewers. If the two reviewers are not in agreement as to the merits of the proposal, the proposal will be sent to a third reviewer. TIRF’s Research Advisory Committee retains final authority over all decisions concerning recommendations for funding.

TIRF is unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants for the TIRF Bailey Awards regarding the reasons for which they were not funded. Unfortunately, because of the limited grant money available, not all applications worthy of support are approved for funding.

### **Notification of Results and Disbursement of Funds**

Notification of results for the TIRF Bailey Award will be made by late **August 2026**. The project summaries of successful proposals and photographs of grant recipients will be posted on TIRF’s website.

1. Funding is paid in two installments. Once awardees accept a TIRF Bailey Award, they will receive the first installment, which is 30% of the award. In the case of joint proposals, award monies are sent to the individual designated to correspond with TIRF. When the research project has been completed and the awardee has submitted the required products, the final payment (i.e., 70% of the grant) will be sent to the awardee. Awardees should write to [info@tirfonline.org](mailto:info@tirfonline.org) to request the final report template upon completing their research projects. Final reports should be sent to [info@tirfonline.org](mailto:info@tirfonline.org).
2. Research is meant to be completed and final products submitted within 12 months. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be approved by TIRF; otherwise, monies for final payments may not be provided.
3. TIRF’s preferred method of payment is by check. However, for grantees who cannot cash checks drawn on a U.S.-based bank account, we will transmit payments via PayPal. Grant recipients living outside the United States will need to create a PayPal account to accept payment. Should an awardee request a direct, bank-to-bank wire transfer, the fees associated for such a transfer will be deducted from the grantee’s award. Such fees are



determined when a transaction is initiated. TIRF is unable to provide a grantee with the transference audit trail of award monies.

TIRF reserves the right to use information from project proposal summaries, professional products resulting from the Award, and final reports, including the grant recipient's photograph and email address, for dissemination on its website and in other media. Information about publications and presentations resulting from TIRF-funded research should be emailed to TIRF's Chief Operating Officer, Ryan Damerow, at [ryan.damerow@tirfonline.org](mailto:ryan.damerow@tirfonline.org). In addition, all publications and professional presentations resulting from the TIRF Bailey Awards must acknowledge the support of TIRF.

## Mentoring Timeline for Successful Applicants

The mentoring timeline for 2026 TIRF Bailey Awardees is anticipated to follow the schedule below:

- **September 2026:** Mentors meet with award recipients to discuss needs, goals, and deliverables.
- **October – November 2026:** Award recipients and mentors discuss research methods, as needed. Topics include (but are not limited to) identifying a research gap or problem, reviewing the relevant literature, articulating appropriate research questions, defining key terms, determining data to be collected, and deciding how those data will be collected and analyzed.
- **December 2026 – January 2027:** Work continues on research methods, as needed, to include the points listed for October and November above, but also focuses more closely on determining the data to be collected, and deciding how the data will be analyzed.
- **February – March 2027:** At this stage, there should be a specific focus on developing a plan for analyzing the data and a discussion on interpreting analyses. The deliverables should begin being drafted or outlined by the award recipients.
- **April – June 2027:** The mentors help guide the award recipients in finishing the projects. The mentoring period is drawing to an end in June. Final guidance is offered to the award recipients.
- **July 2027:** The mentoring period is complete.
- **December 1, 2027:** The deliverables from the award recipients are due to TIRF.

## Helpful Links

[Click here](#) to download the TIRF Bailey Award proposal form.

[Click here](#) to submit your TIRF Bailey Award proposal.