

Learner Development SIG Wider Membership & Participation Scheme

Summary

In 2012 the SIG is planning to offer the following types of grant to encourage and support wider membership and participation in Learner Development SIG events, publications, and activities. For all grants, we welcome applications from teachers from diverse teaching contexts (not just university) - including elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, distance learning and language school settings - and teachers teaching languages other than English.

	What?	Who for?
1	10 First-time LD SIG membership starter grants	JALT members interested in joining the SIG
2	10 First-time LD SIG subscription grants	Non-JALT members interested in joining the SIG
3	2 Tohoku JALT+LD SIG membership grants	Teachers working in the affected areas
4	2 Pan SIG conference grants	25,000 each for JALT+LD SIG members
5	2 LD SIG research grants	25,000 yen each for JALT+LD SIG members
6	2 National conference grants	40,000 yen each for JALT+LD SIG members

Your feedback on the proposed grants (more details below) would be very welcome, as would your suggestions for publicizing these grants beyond the Learner Development SIG.

If you have any comments or suggestions to make, please share them on the Learner Development SIG discussion list (LD-discuss) or send them by January 25 2012 to the SIG co-coordinators:

Andy Barfield barfield.and AT MARK gmail.com

Richard Silver richinwit AT MARK hotmail.com.

Many thanks!

Types of grants

(1) First-time LD SIG memberships for JALT members: The SIG offers 10 free memberships of the SIG to JALT members who are interested in joining the SIG for the first time for a year to see if it is their cup of tea. The awardees will, for simplicity, be called first-time grant winners from April 2012 to March 2013, but their free SIG membership will correspond with their JALT membership over an appropriate period of time (details to be decided on a case-by-case basis).

In return

Each awardee of a SIG membership is asked to choose between:

- (a) writing a few hundred words about their interest in learner development/learner autonomy, and what they hope to get from taking being a member of the SIG for a year (for publication in the SIG newsletter *Learning Learning* - with an optional follow-up later in the year);
- (b) getting involved in the SIG in some practical way (such as coming along to a local area get-together or other SIG event in 2012);
- (c) helping evaluate the usefulness/accessibility of the SIG's publications, events, website, communication for their professional development interests in learner development/autonomy.

Target areas of education - membership starter grants for:

- * 2 elementary school teachers / teachers of children
- * 2 junior high school teachers
- * 2 senior high school teachers
- * 2 language school teachers
- * 2 teachers currently doing graduate studies

(Teachers who are not in these target categories are still welcome to apply.)

- Applications can be written in Japanese or English.
- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality and Japanese/non-Japanese balance in the awarding of grants.

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- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 20 2012 with proof of current JALT membership
- Selection to be completed by mid-April
- Announcements made with the start of the new academic year
- Reflections for *Learning Learning* can be written in either Japanese or English.

These LD SIG membership grants can be publicized through:

- (a) local get-together meetings
- (b) Teachers College Columbia MA programme Autonomy class
- (c) Birmingham MA list
- (d) JALT Junior and Senior High School SIG
- (e) JALT Japanese as a Second Language SIG
- (f) JALT Teaching Children SIG
- (g) ETJ
- (h) ...

(2) LD SIG subscription starter grants for non-JALT members: The SIG offers 10 free subscriptions of the SIG to non-JALT members who are interested in subscribing to the SIG for a year (without being members of JALT) to see if it is their cup of tea. An annual subscription to the Learner Development SIG is 2000 yen, so these grants are worth 2000 yen each. Subscribers have access to *Learning Learning* and receive announcements of LD SIG events and publications, but they do not receive any other benefits (i.e., 'membership benefits') that would come from being a member of JALT and the LD SIG. Thus, subscribers cannot pay reduced fees for JALT and/or LD SIG events; they cannot apply for other types of grant that are open to LD SIG members; nor can they buy SIG publications at reduced rates if a publication is published by the LD SIG itself rather than a publisher.

In return

Each awardee of a SIG subscription is asked to choose between:

- (a) writing a few hundred words about their interest in learner development/learner autonomy, and what they hope to get from being a member of the SIG for a year (for publication in *Learning Learning* - with optional follow-up later in the year);
- (b) getting involved in the SIG in some practical way (such as coming along to a local area get-together or other SIG event);
- (c) helping evaluate the usefulness/accessibility of the SIG's publications, events, website, communication for their professional development interests in learner development.

Target areas of education – SIG subscriptions for:

- * 2 elementary school teachers / teachers of children
 - * 2 junior high school teachers
 - * 2 senior high school teachers
 - * 2 language school teachers
 - * 2 teachers currently doing graduate studies
- (Teachers who are not in these target categories are still welcome to apply.)

These LD subscription grants can be publicized through:

- (a) local LD get-together meetings
- (b) Filipino English Teachers of Japan group (FETJ) <http://fetj.org/>
- (c) Community of Friendly Filipino English Teachers (CoFFET) <http://www.coffet.org/>
- (d) Nationwide seminar groups organized and attended mainly by junior/senior high school Japanese teachers of English, who have a weekly "e-mail magazine". They may agree to introduce The Learner Development website and access to *Learning Learning* in their "e-mail magazine".
- (e) 新英研 (New English Teachers' Association) <http://www.shin-eiken.com/>
- (f) ...

Guideline

- Applications can be written in Japanese or English.
- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality and Japanese/non-Japanese balance in the awarding of grants.
- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 20 2012
- Announcements to be made with the start of the new academic year

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- Reflections for *Learning Learning* can be written in either Japanese or English.

(3) LD SIG Tohoku membership grants: The SIG offers two free one-year memberships of JALT and the Learner Development SIG to colleagues working in the affected areas (to join the JALT Iwate chapter, Sendai chapter, or Yamagata chapter).

In return

The quid pro quo is that awardees of the JALT + SIG membership grant are asked to write a short article/reflection about themselves and learner development/learner autonomy – for example, what their interest in learner development/learner autonomy is, how 3/11 and its aftermath has affected them and their learners, what they hope to get from taking being a member of the SIG for a year. They are also invited to contribute to SIG discussions about a longer-term SIG project for Tohoku so that this project can be grounded in the realities of the local context as lived by learners and teachers there.

Guideline

- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality in the awarding of grants and Japanese/non-Japanese balance.
- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 20 2012
- Selection to be completed by mid-April
- Announcements to be made with the start of the new academic year
- Reflections for *Learning Learning* can be written in either Japanese or English.

Possibilities

- Arrange this through the local chapter or local contacts in Tohoku.
- Do a SIG retreat in Tohoku to bring people into the area to see for themselves what is happening, and it might be good for Tohoku teachers to get the chance to host an event, rather than simply be the recipients of charity; a retreat might be non-threatening and more accessible to people rather than a conference, perhaps: especially for Japanese teachers.

These Tohoku grants can be publicized through:

- (a) JACET Tohoku chapter
- (b) The local JALT chapters in Tohoku
- (c) ...

(4) Pan SIG grants: The SIG offers 2 conference grants of 25,000 each to Learner Development SIG members to support their conference participation in the Pan SIG conference in Hiroshima. Priority would be given to teachers who do not have access to institutional financial support for research or travelling to conferences

In return

Awardees are asked to write an article exploring their research interests in learner development / learner autonomy and their conference learning experiences (for *Learning Learning* and can be written in either Japanese or English).

Guideline

- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality in the awarding of grants and Japanese/non-Japanese balance.
- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 20 2012
- Selection completed by mid-April.
- Announcements made with the start of the new academic year

These Pan SIG grants can be publicised through:

- (a) mailings to the LD SIG membership
- (b) local area get-together meetings
- (c) ...

(5) LD SIG research grants: The SIG offers 2 research grants of 25,000 yen each – the awards could be spent on research equipment, books to read, conference attendance, travel to local get-togethers, etc. Priority will be given to teachers who do not have access to institutional financial support for

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research or travelling to conferences.

- Applicants can be individual or group; in the case of a group-based grant, a local-area group could use the money to help fund room rentals for meetings during the year.
- The SIG encourages early-career Japanese researchers to join the SIG and apply for these grants.

Guideline

- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality in the awarding of grants and Japanese/non-Japanese balance.
- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 20 2012
- Selection completed by mid-April.
- Announcements made with the start of the new academic year

In return

Awardees are asked to write a conference report or an article exploring their research interests in learner development / learner autonomy and/or their conference learning experiences (for *Learning Learning* and can be written in either Japanese or English).

These LD SIG research grants can be publicised through:

- (a) mailings to the LD SIG membership
- (b) local area get-together meetings
- (c) ...

(6) National conference grants: The SIG offers 2 national conference grants of 40,000 yen each – the awards could be spent on conference costs (travel, accommodation) and attendance. Priority would be given to teachers who do not have access to institutional financial support for research or travelling to conferences.

In return

Awardees are asked to write a conference report or an article exploring their interests in learner development / learner autonomy and/or their conference learning experiences (for *Learning Learning* and can be written in either Japanese or English).

Guideline

- As far as possible, the as-yet-to-be-decided grants committee will seek to achieve gender equality in the awarding of grants and Japanese/non-Japanese balance.
- Period for applications to be submitted February 1 to March 15 2012
- Selection completed by mid-April.
- Announcements made with the start of the new academic year

These LD national conference grants can be publicised through:

- (a) mailings to the LD SIG membership
- (b) local area get-together meetings
- (c) ...