Frequently Asked Questions

2025 Duolingo Dissertation Grants

What is it?

The Duolingo Dissertation Grant program supports dissertation research by doctoral candidates specializing in three areas:

- Second language learning
- Music learning
- Math learning

Five grants will be awarded in second language learning, and one grant each will be awarded for music and math.

Who is eligible?

Applicants should be at the level of advanced candidacy (Ph.D. or Ed.D.) and their dissertation proposals should have been approved by the relevant departmental authorities at their institutions on or before May 31, 2025. The grant program is open to any doctoral candidate, regardless of nationality or institution location.

How do I make sure my topic is a good fit?

Language. Language topics should be in the area of second language acquisition, with learners of any age. We are particularly interested in research studies that can be used to improve language learning and language teaching, including advancing our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms underlying language learning. Research across methods and inquiry traditions is welcomed. In addition to this Duolingo Dissertation grant program, Duolingo launched a collaborative dissertation grant with TIRF. If your topic is in the field of English as a Foreign Language, please consider the TIRF-Duolingo Dissertation Grant instead.

Music. Music topics should be in the area of music learning and skill acquisition. Topics may range from instrument learning to the development of fundamental musicianship skills and cognitive mechanisms underlying music learning (for learners of any age). Research across methods and inquiry traditions is welcomed.

Math. Math topics should be in the area of elementary mathematics learning or everyday/real-world math for adults. Research that focuses on concepts typically outside elementary/everyday mathematics (e.g. calculus) or where student/adult learning does not play a central role (e.g. teacher in-person professional development) will not be strong fits for this grant. Research across methods and inquiry traditions is welcomed.

For some examples of previous successful applicants, please take a look at the blog posts about the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 grant recipients.

Are there rules about how to use the funding?

No, but applicants must submit a timeline and budget for how the $5,000 will be spent.

Is a CV required as part of the application?

No, a CV is not required as part of the application.

In previous years, you've awarded grants to MA students. Are you awarding MA grants this year?

No, we are not awarding grants to MA students this year.

Can I apply to more than one grant program?

Applicants may only apply to one Duolingo Research Grant program. If your research is relevant to more than one program, please choose the one for which you think your research is the strongest fit.

In language learning, please submit your application to the [TIRF-Duolingo](#) dissertation grant program if your research topic is in the field of English as a Foreign Language.

Can I get in touch with Duolingo to ask questions about the grants?

Yes, please send any questions to researchgrants@duolingo.com.

How do I apply?

Applications should be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (local time), May 31, 2025. Notifications will be sent out by August 31, 2025. For more information on what to include and where to submit the applications, please see individual program calls:

- Language Learning
- Music Learning
- Math Learning