

# THE PENNY MCKAY MEMORIAL AWARD

## Overview and General Information

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### Eligibility for the Award

The Award is awarded annually for a doctoral thesis submitted at an Australian university and passed in the preceding academic year. To be eligible for consideration, the thesis should be focussed on **aspects of school-based second/additional language education, such as language development, curriculum, teaching or assessment**. (This requirement includes pre-school settings.) The applicant must be a verified member of ALAA or their State/Territory ACTA affiliate or ALTAANZ.

### Applying for the Award

Applications for the 2015 Award are due by midnight on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015** to the ALAA Secretary, Dr Colette Mrowa-Hopkins, Flinders University [colette.mrowa-hopkins@flinders.edu.au](mailto:colette.mrowa-hopkins@flinders.edu.au)

Applications should consist of:

- i. the thesis abstract
- ii. the Table of Contents from the thesis
- iii. one chapter from the thesis that the applicant believes best demonstrates the outstanding qualities of the overall thesis
- iv. copies of all examiners' reports
- v. a statement of support from one of the applicant's supervisors; this statement should complement (not duplicate) the examiners' reports, may comment on anything in the examiners' reports, and may elaborate on relevant matters not covered in examiners' reports
- vi. if the thesis research was *not* carried out in a school or pre-school setting and/or with (pre-)school-age second language learners, a statement (no more

than 100 words) explaining how the thesis findings are relevant to school settings and school-age learners

- vii. a summary of the thesis outlining the background, methodology, findings and contributions of the study (max. 300 words); this summary will be used to describe the award-winning thesis on the ALAA and ACTA websites and in their respective journals
- viii. a correctly completed Application Form (See separate documents entitled **How to Apply** and **Application Form**)

Applications must contain all of the above otherwise they will be excluded. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their applications by early October 2015.

## **How Applications Will Be Evaluated**

### **(1) Procedures**

Applications will be assessed by a panel of three, being the Presidents of ALAA, ACTA and ALTAANZ *or* a suitable representative as nominated by the President of each Association. The panel will have the option of co-opting a recognised academic expert in the area of second/additional language education.

The President of each Association will present the name and details of each year's winner to the Association's Executive Committee for ratification and approval that the winner be notified and the Award be given (as per above).

The Award may not be given in a particular year if the panel judges that none of the applications are at a suitable standard.

### **(2) Evaluation Criteria**

Each application (parts i – vi above) will be judged holistically against the following criteria:

- (i) the contribution of the thesis to **knowledge about second/additional language learning (pre-/)school-aged learners**

- (ii) the **innovation and originality** of the approach taken by the thesis to its subject matter *and/or* methodology *and/or* presentation
  
- (iii) **the clarity of writing and presentation** demonstrated by the thesis.

To view the report format used by the Panel, see separate document entitled **Evaluation Criteria**.

## **Information**

Further enquiries about the Award may be directed to the Secretaries of [ALAA](#), [ACTA](#) or [ALTAANZ](#)