

# The City Bridge Trust

## Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



### About your organisation

Name of your organisation: <b>Afghanistan and Central Asian Association</b>	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? <b>Hounslow</b>	
Contact person: <b>Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi</b>	Position: <b>Founder and Director</b>
Website: <b>http://www.acaa.org.uk</b>	
Legal status of organisation: <b>Registered Charity</b>	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: <b>1096908</b>
When was your organisation established? <b>05/04/2003</b>	

### Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? <b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>		
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? <b>More people with improved English language skills</b> <b>More people participating in the wider community</b>		
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. <b>To enable our ESOL for Integration service to become accredited and to enable the service to rent more rooms to teach more students.</b>		
When will the funding be required? <b>30/06/2018</b>		
How much funding are you requesting?		
Year 1: <b>£39,460</b>	Year 2: <b>£36,960</b>	Year 3: <b>£36,960</b>
<b>Total: £113,380</b>		

**Aims of your organisation:**

The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) was established in 2001 by Dr Nooralhaq Nasimi, who fled Afghanistan with his young family in 1999. Dr Nasimi wanted to help other refugees, so he began organising cultural events and day trips for the Afghan community. Since then, the organisation has flourished and developed into a vibrant charity that works to support, educate and empower refugees with the difficult transition into the UK.

The aims of the ACAA are to:

- ? Improve English language and communication skills by providing entry and elementary Level classes
- ? Increase employability through courses, volunteering, mentoring and access to training;
- ? Empower women by providing weekly women sessions, social opportunities and volunteering
- ? Increase access to government services for beneficiaries through the provision of advice and aid
- ? Increase participation of children and young people in education by supporting their learning and providing skills in leisure pursuits such as sport and art;

**Main activities of your organisation:**

The charity offers a diverse range of services to support the most vulnerable migrants and refugees from Afghanistan and Central Asia. These include:

- ? Weekly ESOL and Citizenship classes across three boroughs, including a women's only class
- ? Weekly supplementary school classes for underachieving children
- ? Weekly women's workshops (as well as one-to-one mentoring)
- ? Volunteer and work placements,
- ? Weekly Free legal advice clinics,
- ? Weekly workshops on Prevent extremism and counter-radicalisation
- ? Monthly workshop on employment and writing CV
- ? Weekly afterschool homework club
- ? Drop in advice and aid sessions from Monday to Saturday, including a translation service
- ? Social, cultural events, outings and trips and annual summer festival

**Number of staff**

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60</b>

**Property occupied by your organisation**

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
<b>Leased</b>	<b>4 years</b>

## Summary of grant request

ESOL for Integration improves the integration of refugees and recent migrants by addressing the language barrier which prevents thousands of refugees from becoming full and active participants in their communities. It is currently funded by the Big Lottery Fund for three years, however, our most recent evaluation has suggested several improvements that require additional funding. We are looking for £22,960 to make two part-time employees full-time improving outreach and project management, £14,000 per year to rent additional rooms to run different level classes simultaneously and a single sum of £2,500 to cover the costs of gaining accreditation from an internationally recognised body. The project currently runs 3 ESOL classes per week in the Boroughs of Hounslow, Lewisham and Croydon providing culturally sensitive and practically focussed ESOL classes. In each borough we run 2 mixed gender classes and one female only class, with the female only classes in Hounslow and Lewisham being run in conjunction with our supplementary school to provide childcare. Classes are aimed at refugees and migrants but are open to any who wish to improve their English.

We asked 50 beneficiaries (June, 2017) why they have turned to us and why they do not use other services. Many respondents described feeling misunderstood; firstly due to their poor language skills (many require translation during classes), secondly the challenges attributed to the difference in culture, and thirdly they wanted to have a safe space to discuss other very sensitive issues such as domestic violence or separation, factors which very much affect their inability to learn, exacerbated by the unfamiliar settings. The issue of timing of classes, affordability of courses and lack of gender specific courses was also raised repeatedly. The need for this project is further supported by findings from the recent Casey Review into integration in Britain which highlights the importance of overcoming the language barrier for integration. The project has been running successfully since February 2018 but due to the varying proficiency levels of students and a growing waiting list we need to rent more rooms, provide more classes at different levels each week and gain accreditation. Currently we have students of different levels attempting to learn in the same class and want to rent a second classroom to run simultaneous beginners and intermediate classes. This will also take care of the over crowding in classes currently experienced.

The project aims to empower refugees by helping them to overcome the language barrier which will in turn increase beneficiaries' civic participation, improve access to health care, education and employment as well as provide significant mental and emotional health benefits. Testimonials from beneficiaries prove that the language barrier has far reaching effects ranging from preventing women from going to the gynaecologist (embarrassment over having their children translate what the doctor says) to causing refugees to unintentionally run up large penalties from incorrect universal credit information. The ultimate aim is to enable sustainable integration of our beneficiaries in such a way that benefits both these newly welcomed citizens fleeing traumatic circumstances but also contribute to the wider social and economic fabric of the UK.

The ACAA has been delivering ESOL classes for 18 years and the charity originally founded due to our directors personal experiences struggling with government ESOL classes. This experience has taught us numerous invaluable lessons about how to tailor classes to Central Asian styles of learning, how to engage most effectively with refugees and how to effectively conduct outreach amongst refugee populations. Using this knowledge we have carefully tailored classes to suit the needs of our beneficiaries and the programme has been designed after extensive consultation with students.

If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Do you have a Vulnerable Adults policy? **Yes**

What Quality Marks does your organisation currently hold?

**Talent Match Mark Youth Friendly Gold Award from Youth Employment UK  
Mayor's Award for Voluntary Contribution from the Mayor of Lewisham**

### **Outputs and outcomes**

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

**Accredited English language classes will be delivered 3 times per week across three boroughs with different classes depending on proficiency. Classes are specifically tailored for refugees, providing practical English lessons.**

**A women's only class will be delivered each week creating a safe place for isolated members of refugee communities to not only learn English but discuss pressing issues with people from similar backgrounds and gain information on how to solve them.**

**We aim to gain accreditation allowing us to provide certificates proving English proficiency improving the employability of many beneficiaries.**

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

**The quality of life of many refugees will be dramatically improved by breaking down the language barrier. This will enable them to socialise, carry out everyday tasks with ease and confidence, make them more employable and generally improve confidence and self esteem.**

**People from the Afghan and wider refugee community will be more integrated into British culture, society and their local communities. More beneficiaries will participate in some form of civic engagement (e.g. volunteering, voting, fundraising) and more will report an increased understanding of British culture.**

**The employability skills of people from the Afghan and wider refugee community will be improved.**

**Beneficiaries will be better able to and have the confidence to access government and council services.**

Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to sustain it? If not, what is your exit strategy?

**We hope to continue the project at this scale but this will only be possible if we secure funding as renting the classrooms is too expensive for our unrestricted fund to cover without support. Without funding we will scale back the project to 3 classes in Hounslow and one in Lewisham and Croydon each week, based in our or partners offices.**

## Who will benefit?

### About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

**150**

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

**Hounslow (45%)**

**Lewisham (35%)**

**Croydon (20%)**

What age group(s) will benefit?

**16-24**

**25-44**

**45-64**

**65-74**

**75 and over**

What gender will beneficiaries be?

**All**

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

**A range of ethnic groups**

**Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups**

**Asian/ Asian British (including Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi; Chinese; Any other Asian background)**

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

**1-10%**



## Funding required for the project

### What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Staff Salaries	105,701	108,556	111,509	325,766
Recruitment	1,500	0	0	1,500
General Running Expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Sessional workers	3,840	3,840	3,840	11,520
Consultancy and Advice (Including evaluation)	2,000	2,000	3,000	7,000
Accommodation	33,360	33,360	33,360	100,080
ESOL accreditation	7,500	0	0	7,500
Office Equipment	3,750	1,500	1,500	6,750
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>162,651</b>	<b>154,256</b>	<b>158,209</b>	<b>475,116</b>

### What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Big Lottery Fund	123,191	117,296	121,249	361,736
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Lewisham Integration Worker Salary Contribution	11,480	11,480	11,480	34,440
Croydon Integration Worker Salary Contribution	11,480	11,480	11,480	34,440
Classroom Rental	14,000	14,000	14,000	42,000
Accreditation	2,500	0	0	2,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>39,460</b>	<b>36,960</b>	<b>36,960</b>	<b>113,380</b>





## Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: <b>October</b>	Year: <b>2016</b>
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	199,112
Activities for generating funds	0
Investment income	0
Income from charitable activities	0
Other sources	0
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>199,112</b>

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	178,488
Governance costs	700
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	0
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>179,188</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus:</b>	<b>19,924</b>
<b>Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Movement in Funds:</b>	<b>0</b>

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	3,458
Investments	0
Net current assets	56,943
Long-term liabilities	1,685
<b>*Total Assets (A):</b>	<b>60,401</b>

Reserves at year end	£
Restricted funds	42,256
Endowment Funds	0
Unrestricted funds	18,145
<b>*Total Reserves (B):</b>	<b>60,401</b>

**\* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.**

### Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?  
91-100%

### Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

The charity has become registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation since the latest accounts. This has switched our charity number from 1096908 to 1175858.

The Charity has also moved out of Lewisham and into Hounslow in order to reach more of London's 75,000 Afghan residents. We now run services in Lewisham and Hounslow.

### Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	<b>Year 3 £</b>	<b>Year 2 £</b>	<b>Most recent £</b>
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	0	0
London Councils	8,330	0	0
Health Authorities	4,500	4,500	0
Central Government departments	106,008	26,406	218,172
Other statutory bodies	165,918	358,343	181,567

### Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

<b>Name of Funder</b>	<b>Year 3 £</b>	<b>Year 2 £</b>	<b>Most recent £</b>
Big Lottery Fund	58,646	29,588	123,191
BBC Children in Need	9,950	0	5,449
Home Office	24,635	38,750	35,017
DFID	88,399	66,388	4,054
Deptford Challenge Trust	14,900	14,900	0

### Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the Information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes      Full Name: **Nooralhaq Nasimi**

Role within                      **Director**  
Organisation: