

# THE PENNY MCKAY MEMORIAL AWARD 2020

## Overview and General Information

### Eligibility for the Award

The Award is awarded annually for a doctoral thesis submitted at an Australian university in the preceding year, i.e.2020, and subsequently deemed to be outstanding. To be eligible for consideration, the thesis should be focused directly on aspects of Australian pre-school or school-based second/additional language education, such as language development, curriculum, teaching or assessment. The applicant must be a verified member of ALAA or their State/Territory ACTA affiliate or ALTAANZ in the year of their application.

### Applying for the Award

Electronic copies of the applications for the 2021 Award are due by midnight on 1 November 2021 to the Chair of the Selection Panel, Prof Chris Davison, [c.davison@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.davison@unsw.edu.au)

Applications should consist of:

- i. a correctly completed Application Form (See Attachment 1)
- ii. the thesis abstract
- iii. the Table of Contents from the thesis
- iv. one chapter from the thesis that the applicant believes best demonstrates the outstanding qualities of the overall thesis
- v. copies of all examiners' reports
- vi. 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
- vii. if the thesis research was not carried out in an Australian 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 directly relevant to Australian school settings and school-age learners
- viii. 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, ALTAANZ and ACTA websites and in their respective journals

Applications must contain all of the above otherwise they will be excluded. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their applications by early 2022.

### Evaluation Criteria

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

- (i) the contribution of the thesis to knowledge about second/additional language learning among Australian (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 Attachment 2.

Further enquiries about the Award may be directed to the Panel Chair, Chris Davison, [c.davison@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.davison@unsw.edu.au)