

Alexander Awards: Field Apprenticeship

● Referee Guidelines: Geography Tutor and Academic Mentor

The RGS-IBG Alexander Awards: Field Apprenticeships aim to give a small number of first year undergraduate students the opportunity of going overseas for a number of weeks during the summer as a Field Apprentice. Each grant recipient will work on a field research project led by a university academic member of staff under the auspices of their university. The overall purpose of the programme is to increase opportunities and motivation for self-development among young people through fieldwork.

These apprenticeships are aimed at supporting students who, through challenging circumstances or lack of opportunity, have not been able to access field research experience and who would not have access to such opportunities if not for this grant.

Two references are required:

1. Geography Tutor Referee

We would be grateful if you could **write a reference** providing an evaluation of:

- The candidate's ability to participate in the proposed project safely and responsibly.
- How the Field Apprenticeship programme offers an opportunity that is outside the applicant's previous experience and which would not otherwise be available to the candidate. As far as possible, please provide explicit evidence of the challenging circumstances experienced by the candidate.
- Describe how the Field Apprenticeship will make a difference to the applicant's development (personal development, geographical skills and knowledge, future career prospects, etc.).
- Any additional information that you feel might help the Selection Panel.

2. Academic Mentor

We would be grateful if you could complete the **Academic Mentor Form** (available to download from www.rgs.org/OurWork/Grants/Grants.htm with details of:

- The fieldwork project on which the applicant will participate as a Field Apprentice.
- The specific role the applicant will play in the project.
- The support that you will provide for the applicant.
- An assessment of the candidate's ability to participate in the proposed project safely and responsibly.
- How the Field Apprenticeship programme offers an opportunity that is outside the applicant's previous experience and which would not otherwise be available to the



candidate. **As far as possible, please provide explicit evidence of the challenging circumstances experienced by the candidate.**

- How the Field Apprenticeship will make a difference to the applicant's development. Refer to their personal development, geographical skills and knowledge, future career prospects etc.
- The funding in place to support the overall project and university health and safety and ethical approvals (as appropriate).

Your references will be one of the key factors in assessing the applicant's suitability for a grant. Please return your reference/form to grants@rgs.org by email by **1700 on 28 February**. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance.