

Ralph Brown Expedition Award

● £12,500 for aquatic or marine environment research

The Ralph Brown Expedition Award is a single annual award worth **£12,500**, offered to the leader of an expedition involving the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments.

The award has been created in memory of the late Ralph Brown, a former world jet boat champion, who was a passionate participant in many expeditions in aquatic and marine environments around the world. This included the Society's rainforest research programme to the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak in 1977-1978.

The application deadline is **23 November**.

Eligibility

- Undergraduate and school-level expeditions are not eligible. Postgraduate study is not normally eligible.
- Applicants do not need to be qualified scientists, but the award recipient must compile a full written report to describe and quantify the results of their work.
- The applicant must be a fellow or member of the RGS-IBG and may be from any nation.
- Teams should include host country nationals. The project should be of value to the host country and, where possible, to the local community.
- The project's objectives should involve the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments, including coral reefs.
- The proposed research is expected to be original, valid, and contribute to existing scientific knowledge.
- Applicants are expected to spend four to six weeks in the field
- It is intended that this fund is seen as contributory and not the entire funding of the project and other sources of funding should be sought.
- Equipment costs should not comprise more than 10% of the total budget.
- Conference attendance will not be funded.
- Institutional overheads will not be funded.

- Salaries for research staff are not eligible for funding (but replacement costs for teaching assistance to free up research time of the principal investigator may be considered).

Application process

Applications should be submitted by email to the Society's Grants Officer (grants@rgs.org) by **23 November**.

Applications must contain the following information:

- Name, affiliation and full contact details of lead applicant (please include an email address)
- Title and short abstract (max 100 words)
- Aim of the project and objectives (max 250 words)
- Location of research area including the latitude and longitude (These are used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information about our grants programme)
- A full methodology of the proposed research (max 1000 words). This should include specifics of all methods to be used and duration of the fieldwork period, with start and end dates
- A short statement (no more than 300 words) on the originality of the project and the expected contributions to scientific knowledge
- Details of how results will be disseminated including an outline of plans for publishing the results (max 500 words)
- The wider context of the project; details of links with the host country, including permissions and how the project will benefit the host country and local community (max 500 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, medical/emergency support and plans for use of aquatic vehicles and details of appropriate ethical approvals (see conditions of award, max 500 words)
- A fully itemised budget. This should include travel, accommodation and per diem costs, as well as details of the source of funds for budgeted costs that exceed the value of the award

- One-page summary CV of the project Principal Investigator; an appended list their publications, and details of all other researchers involved if appropriate (name, qualifications, expertise, nationality, role - max 200 words per member)
- Please do not send supporting documents such as previous reports, these will not be used when screening the applications.

Please indicate how you heard about the Ralph Brown Expedition Award

Learning and Leading Fieldwork

Apprenticeships

Additional funding of £2,000 may be made available if you are able to take a first year geography undergraduate from your university into the field with you, to enable them to gain experience as a fieldwork apprentice. The Learning and Leading Fieldwork Apprenticeships aim to support those students who would not normally benefit from such opportunities. Please state whether you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship in the first section of your application. Your selected student will then be required to submit an application. For full details, including guidelines and application forms, please visit the Learning and Leading website:

www.rgs.org/L&L

Data Protection

The information you provide in your application will be held by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) on a computer in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and will be used only in connection with your application.

Referee statements

- Two referee statements are required. Both referees should be independent of the research activities and institution.
- Please send each of your referees a copy of the Referee Guidelines below and ask them to send the references directly to the Grants Officer by email by **23 November**.
- Applications will be jeopardised if referee statements are not received on time. References form a critical part of the judging process.
- Receipt of all materials will be acknowledged.

Selection process

Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts. No interviews are held for this award.

Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the research it funds be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. **Please provide information on the status of approvals in your application.**
- Full details of the Society's code of practice for the grants programme can be found at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics.
- The Society will not fund projects that take place in countries or within an area where the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all travel before the project goes into the field.
- Personal medical insurance must be in place for all team members before departure.
- **Within a month** of completion of the fieldwork/data collection, you will be required to complete a short report. High resolution JPEG images which capture the essence of the project (the research problem, methods and findings) are also required.
- A full final report must be submitted electronically and in hard copy by **1 September** of the year following the award. The final report must include a 250 word abstract, a description of the project and its key findings (1000 words minimum), digital images that capture the spirit of the project and its results, a final budget, and details of presentations, publications and any other outputs
- Award details, including text and images from reporting, may be used in publications and on the Society website
- The award winner may be asked to present a lecture on the project work at the RGS-IBG at a mutually convenient date
- The Society's support should be acknowledged in all publications and outputs. Copies of any such publications and outputs should be submitted to the Society

Contact/ Applications

Grants Officer
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**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guide to Referees

The Ralph Brown Expedition Award was created in memory of the late Ralph Brown, a former world jet boat champion, who was a passionate participant in many expeditions in watery environments around the world. This annual award of £12,500 is made to the leader of a multi-disciplinary research expedition associated with the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments, including coral reefs.

Referees

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

- The proposed project's strengths in terms of originality, validity and likely contribution to geographical knowledge
- The applicant's ability to complete the programme of work safely and responsibly within the time and budget proposed
- Any additional information that you feel might help the Selection Panel

Your reference will be one of the key factors in assessing the applicant's suitability for a grant.

Please submit your **signed reference statement on letter headed paper** to the Grants Officer by email (details below) before **23 November**.

The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

Contact

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