

# Dissertation Awards academic year 2016–17

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## Undergraduate dissertation awards

### *Alfred Steers Essay Prize (RGS-IBG)*

The RGS-IBG award for the best undergraduate dissertation in a UK geography department. Submissions by departments to be sent to [rhed@rgs.org](mailto:rhed@rgs.org) or RHED, RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Limit of one thesis per department. No additional/supplementary materials needed.

**Deadline: 15 October**

### *Quaternary Research Association (QRA)*

The Quaternary Research Association, in association with the RGS-IBG, would like to recognise the achievements of undergraduates in Quaternary Science by awarding a dissertation prize (£250) for a thesis demonstrating flair and originality. This prize is open to any undergraduate enrolled at a British or Irish university. Membership of the QRA or RGS-IBG is not a requirement for entry. Entries are limited to one per department per current academic year and may be on any Quaternary theme. Entries must be submitted by department and not by individual undergraduates. The QRA welcomes nominations from all appropriate sources, including new universities or small departments. The winner will be announced at the QRA Annual General Meeting (held annually each January) and the abstract of their dissertation published in an issue of Quaternary Newsletter. An electronic copy of eligible dissertations including the contact details of the department and undergraduate author (marked for the QRA prize) should be emailed to Dr Catherine Souch at the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) at [rhed@rgs.org](mailto:rhed@rgs.org). The submitted dissertation should not be sent with the internal mark or comments. Prior to submission, please check for completeness and clarity of any maps and illustrations. For further details contact [rhed@rgs.org](mailto:rhed@rgs.org).

**Deadline: 15 September**

### *The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) - Marjorie Sweeting Dissertation Prize*

This is awarded to the best undergraduate dissertation that focuses on 'Geomorphology' undertaken at a UK university. Entries are invited for this annual competition. The award (£200 plus funded attendance at the BSG Annual Conference) is presented to the successful nominee at the Annual General Meeting, the details of which are available from the BSG website <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk>. The agreed guidelines for assessment are as follows: Subject area: the field of geomorphology: earth surface process, and the erosion, deposition and formation of landforms and sediments. Foci can include the physical geography of river, valley, glacier, mountain, hillslope, coast, desert and estuary environments; alongside responses to Holocene, Quaternary and other long term environmental changes. Originality: The project should be an independent study, originated by the student. In particular, it should not be linked to a funded research programme, nor exhibit undue influence of or similarity to the supervisor's known and published work. Please submit entries using the online submission form: <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/node/533>. Further details are available from: Dr Annie Ockelford (A.Ockelford@brighton.ac.uk), BSG Outreach Committee, Environment and Technology, Moulsecoomb, Brighton, BN2 4GJ.

**Deadline: 30 September**

## Research Group undergraduate awards (ordered by deadline)

### *Higher Education Research Group (HERG)*

Currently being updated – please check back for further details.

### *Developing Areas Research Group (DARG)*

The Developing Areas Research Group in conjunction with Earthscan offers an annual prize for the most promising dissertation concerning 'The Geography of Developing Areas'. The author of the winning dissertation receives £100 worth of Earthscan books of their choice, and 20% discount on any further Earthscan books ordered. The prize is open to any student taking a first degree in Geography. Students taking joint degrees are eligible to enter for the prize, provided that at least half their course is in Geography.

It is suggested that no Department of Geography submits more than one dissertation for this prize. Dissertations will be evaluated by three members of the DARG Committee. Dissertations, along with a copy of the instructions given to students, should be sent by email as a PDF to the DARG Undergraduate Prize Committee at: [S.L.Parker@livjm.ac.uk](mailto:S.L.Parker@livjm.ac.uk)

Emails should include "DARG UG dissertation submission" as the email subject. Please also include student details, and who to contact to announce the winner.

**Deadline: 1 July**

### *Geographies of Health and Wellbeing Research Group (GHWRG)*

The GHWRG offers a dissertation prize of £100, sponsored by the international journal Health and Place published by Elsevier. The prize is open to any currently-registered undergraduate student in a UK university and will be awarded to the dissertation that exhibits the best overall contribution to any issue relating to health geography. The dissertations should usually be of first class standard and be submitted by the student's Department (Head or nominated representative) and with the student's knowledge, in electronic format only to: Matthew Callender, University of Northampton. Email: [matthew.callender@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.callender@northampton.ac.uk). Please include a contact email address for the student (post-graduation if necessary). Please note that we can only accept one entry from any department.

**Deadline: 4 July**

### *The Food Geographies Working Group (FGWG)*

The FGWG is pleased to offer a 1st place Undergraduate Dissertation Prize of £ 100 and a 2nd place of £50. The prize is open to any currently registered undergraduate student at a UK university and will be awarded to the dissertations that exhibit the best overall contributions to the wide range of issues relating to Food Geographies. The dissertation should be of first class standard and be submitted by the students Department (Head or nominated representative) and with the student's knowledge, in electronic format only to: Rebecca Sandover, Secretary FGWG [rebeccasandover@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasandover@gmail.com)

Please include a contact email address for the student (post graduation if necessary). Please note that we can only accept one entry from any department and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. For more information on the work of this new RGS-IBG group and the call for this prize see <https://foodgeographies.wordpress.com/2017/06/07/dissertation-prize-2017/>

**Deadline: 7 July**

### *Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG)*

The SCGRG offers an annual prize of £100 for the best undergraduate dissertation in Social and Cultural Geography. We also announce a runner-up prize. Both prize-winners also receive a year's personal subscription to the journal [Social & Cultural Geography](#) published by Taylor & Francis. Please see the [mission statement](#) for our definition of what is considered social and cultural geography. Nominated dissertations should be: an outstanding theoretical and/or empirical piece of work; usually over 10,000 words in length; submitted for formal

assessment in the preceding academic year to a UK Higher Education Institution for a BA/BSc level degree programme in geography; written in English. We are looking to reward both excellent scholarship and innovation in the study of social and cultural geography. Please note that a department may not submit more than one entry and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. Nominations are requested from the Head of Department or Dissertation Convenor by the **Friday 7th July**. All dissertations should be submitted as a single pdf file with a post-September email and contact address for the student. Submissions should be emailed to [r.scriven@umail.ucc.ie](mailto:r.scriven@umail.ucc.ie). For further queries about the SCGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, please contact the dissertation convenor Richard Scriven [r.scriven@umail.ucc.ie](mailto:r.scriven@umail.ucc.ie) Department of Geography, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

**Deadline: 7 July**

### *Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)*

A prize of Global Shift, and a further £150 worth of Sage books is offered each year for the best undergraduate dissertation in economic geography. Nominated dissertations should be: an outstanding theoretical and/or empirical piece of work; usually be 8000 words or more in length; submitted for formal assessment in the current academic year to a UK Higher Education Institution for a BA/BSc level Geography degree programme; include a full set of references and images (as relevant); and to be written in English. Please note that a department may not submit more than one entry and nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS- IBG prizes. Submissions (by PDF) should be sent to: Dr Karenjit Clare, Sheffield University. Email: [k.clare@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:k.clare@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 8 July**

### *Historical Geography Research Group (HGRG)*

The Historical Geography Research Group, in association with the Routledge Research in Historical Geography Series, is pleased to offer a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation in any area of historical geography which is based upon original research and which demonstrates conceptual and/or methodological sophistication. The successful prize winner will receive £200 of Routledge-published books, and will be invited to submit an article based upon their dissertation for publication in the Journal of Historical Geography (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of that periodical). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference in November and will receive a year's free membership of the HGRG. Dissertations should normally be of first-class standard and nominated by Heads of Department / Examination Boards / dissertation supervisors as appropriate. Departments should not submit more than one dissertation for consideration. Only dissertations submitted during academic year 2016/17, by students enrolled at a UK university, will be considered. Submissions (unmarked hardcopy AND accompanying PDF) should be sent to: Dr James Kneale, Department of Geography, UCL, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1A 0AP. Email: [j.kneale@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.kneale@ucl.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 10 July**

### *Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group (GFGRG)*

The competition is now open and accepting entries for the best dissertation on any issue relating to geographies and gender. The dissertations should usually be 10,000 words or more and should be submitted as a pdf file, along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and a (post-September) contact address for the student to: [Lucy.Jackson@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Lucy.Jackson@liverpool.ac.uk). For any further details or questions please contact Dr Lucy Jackson, University of Liverpool - [Lucy.Jackson@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Lucy.Jackson@liverpool.ac.uk). Please note that departments may not submit more than one entry. PRIZES: 1st prize - £60; 2nd prize - £30; 3rd prize - £20.

**Deadline: 11 July**

### *Quantitative Methods Research Group (QMRG)*

The prize is for the best dissertation in \*any\* area of quantitative geography, which includes the application of existing techniques or the development of new ones in physical, human or environmental studies. Entries are limited to undergraduate students completing BSc / BA level dissertations in UK higher education institutions and must be nominated by a member of staff within those institutions. Each institution is limited to a single entry.



Education Division of the RGS-IBG ([RHED@rgs.org](mailto:RHED@rgs.org)), or sent by post to: GLTRG Committee, c/- RHED, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR.

**Deadline: 22 July**

*Race, Culture and Equality Working Group (RACE)*

The Race, Culture & Equality (RACE) Working Group would like to recognise research conducted by undergraduate students on any issue related to the geographies of race, racism and equality. Nominations are requested from Dissertation Supervisors or Heads of Department at any UK Geography department. There is no limit of submissions per institution, but nominated dissertations should not be submitted for consideration for any other RGS-IBG prizes. Students taking joint degrees are eligible to enter for the prize, provided that at least half their course is in Geography. The dissertations should be circa 10,000 words in length and submitted for formal assessment in the current academic year. Dissertations will be evaluated by five members of the RACE Committee. The winner will receive a cash prize.

Please send the following via email or link (e.g. Dropbox) to Dr James Esson (Loughborough University) at [j.esson@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:j.esson@lboro.ac.uk); 1) a single PDF file of the dissertation; 2) a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations; and 3) contact details for the student (post-September 2017). Nominations should include "RACE UG dissertation submission" as the email subject.

**Deadline: 22 July**

*Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Research Group (GCYFRG)*

Two prizes, part sponsored by Routledge, Taylor and Francis, are available for innovative and high quality undergraduate dissertations on any issue related to the geographies of children, youth and families (first prize: £100 and a year's subscription to Children's Geographies; second prize: £50 and a year's subscription to Children's Geographies). The dissertations should be approximately 10,000 words in length. Please send the following via email or link (i.e. Dropbox): i) a pdf file of the dissertation; ii) a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations; and iii) a (post- September) email address for the student. Open to any UK Geography department; please note a department may not submit more than one entry. Entries to be sent to: Dr Sophie Hadfield-Hill ([s.a.hadfield-hill@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.a.hadfield-hill@bham.ac.uk)).

**Deadline: 31 July**

*Population Geography Research Group (PopGRG) (Joanna Stillwell Prize)*

This prize is named in memory of the daughter of Professor John Stillwell of the University of Leeds. Joanna, who was a geography graduate from the University of Sheffield, and died in 2004. The Population Geography Research Group has set up three prizes (£100 for first prize; £50 for second prize; £25 for third prize) to be awarded for the best undergraduate dissertations in the broad field of Population Geography. For further information please see: <http://popgeog.org/prizes/>. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and to be eligible that institution has to be in the UK. Please send a copy of the dissertations (with the mark awarded included) to: Dr David McCollum, School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews, KY16 9AL, UK ([david.mccollum@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:david.mccollum@st-andrews.ac.uk))

**Deadline: 31 July**

*Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG)*

The prize is available to students who have completed an undergraduate degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography. Three prizes are available - first prize: £50; second prize: £40; third prize: £30. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and that institution has to be in the UK. More information and submissions to: Dr Fiona Williams, University of Chester ([fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk)). Electronic submission is preferred.

**Deadline: 31 July**



## Postgraduate dissertation awards

### *The British Society for Geomorphology (BSG) – Dick Chorley Medal and Prize for Postgraduate Research*

One of Dick Chorley's lasting contributions to geomorphology lies in the postgraduate students whom he inspired and guided at the start of their academic careers. Many have gone on to academic careers themselves, and include several of the leading figures in British geomorphology. In recognition of Dick's commitment to serving the future of the discipline, the BSG has honoured his memory by creating the Dick Chorley Medal and Prize (£500) for Postgraduate Research. The award is made for "the most significant original published contribution to geomorphology by a current or recently graduated post-graduate student". Anyone is allowed to nominate candidates (e.g. supervisors, external examiners, Heads of School, supervisory team members).

One paper, published in an English language research journal, will be considered. Nominated candidates must be within 3 years of obtaining their PhD (i.e. graduation) and should usually be the first author of the paper under consideration. The nomination should include the paper and outline the significance of the work, including reference to: (a) originality of the contribution to the study of geomorphology; (b) significance of the contribution to the development of geomorphological theory and principles; (c) Clarity of explanation and presentation. Nominations will be carried over for a maximum of one year at the discretion of the BSG Research Sub-committee. Further details are available online at <http://www.geomorphology.org.uk/awards/dick-chorley-award>. Nominations for the award should be made online from the BSG website, at the link above.

**Nomination Deadline:** Nominations can be made at any time and are drawn together at the end of January each year for consideration.

### *Geographical Information Science Research Group (GIScRG)*

The GIScience Research Group of the RGS-IBG awards two annual prizes for the two best postgraduate dissertation on any issue relating to GIS/Sc, spatial analysis, spatial modelling or geocomputation. The prize for the best dissertation is £100 plus an annual RGS-IBG Postgraduate Fellowship and the runner up will receive £50 plus an annual RGS-IBG Postgraduate Fellowship. We are looking for a Masters level dissertation of approximately 10,000 words in length, which covers significant research in one or more of these areas. Dissertations should be of "Distinction" standard and be submitted by the student's institution (Director of Postgraduate Programme or nominated representative) and with the student's knowledge. Please submit the work in electronic form, along with a copy of the dissertation regulations to Dr Seraphim Alvanides, Northumbria University at Newcastle ([s.alvanides@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:s.alvanides@northumbria.ac.uk)). We will only accept one entry per department of higher education institutions in the UK and Ireland.

**Deadline: 24 November**

### *Planning and Environment Research Group (PERG)*

PERG offers an annual postgraduate prize (£100) for the best taught Masters dissertation on any issue relating to environmental issues and their management, policy, politics, planning or governance. Dissertations should be 20,000 words maximum and should be submitted by the student's department, along with a copy of the appropriate departmental dissertation regulations and contact details for the student. Each department may not submit more than one entry. Submissions in electronic format (either Word or pdf files) and queries should be directed to the PERG Secretary: Stephen Axon, [S.J.Axon@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:S.J.Axon@ljmu.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 11 December**

### *Energy Geographies Research Group (EnGRG)*

The Energy Geographies Research Group would like to recognise the performance and achievements of outstanding postgraduates in Geography by awarding a Masters level dissertation prize (£75) for a thesis demonstrating originality of thought, quality of research, and excellence in presentation. The EnGRG encourages submissions that explore energy in a geographical context, recognising the spatially and temporally complex nature of energy issues that operate at a range of scales. We invite departments to select and submit one dissertation for consideration by the EnGRG Committee. With the permission of the author,

the dissertation will be published on our website. Please submit an electronic copy to Dr Karen Parkhill:  
[karen.parkhill@york.ac.uk](mailto:karen.parkhill@york.ac.uk)

**Deadline: 31 December**

### *Population Geography Research Group (PopGRG)*

The Population Geography Research Group is offering the Bob Woods Postgraduate Dissertation Prize for the best Taught Masters dissertation. The prize is named in honour of Professor Bob Woods, who passed away in 2011. Bob was an esteemed population geographer, with interests across the sub- discipline. He made an invaluable contribution to the sub-discipline for many decades. The winner of the award will receive £100. For further information please see: <http://popgeog.org/prizes/>. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and to be eligible that institution has to be in the UK. Please send a copy of the dissertation (with the mark awarded included) to: Dr David McCollum, School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews, KY16 9AL, UK ([david.mccollum@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:david.mccollum@st-andrews.ac.uk))

**Deadline: 31 December**

### *Economic Geography Research Group (EGRG)*

A prize of *Global Shift*, *The Sage Handbook of Economic Geography*, and a further £150 worth of Sage books is offered each year to the best PhD thesis in economic geography. Any economic geography thesis that has been passed at a UK institution in the past 12 months is eligible. A PDF copy of the thesis should be forwarded to Dr Jennifer Johns, e-mail: [j.johns@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:j.johns@liverpool.ac.uk). Further details: <http://www.egrp.rgs.org/phd-dissertation-prize/>

**Deadline: 29 January**

### *Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG)*

This prize is available to students who have completed a taught Masters degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography. The award is £50. Please include a post-September contact address for the student. Please note that for practical purposes we can only accept one dissertation from any institution and that institution has to be in the UK. More information and submissions to: Dr Richard Yarwood ([ryarwood@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:ryarwood@plymouth.ac.uk)), School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Plymouth University Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA, UK. Electronic submission is preferred.

**Deadline: 31 January**

### *Geographies of Justice Research Group (GJRG)*

The Geographies of Justice Research Group Postgraduate Award is for students undertaking a postgraduate level research project. The research project should have 'justice' (broadly conceived) as a key theme; applications from students undertaking work in or across any of areas of research relating to geographies of justice are welcome to apply.

Applicants are advised to ensure that their research fits with the aims and objectives of the Geographies of Justice Research Group (available here: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/geographiesofjustice/>). In particular, applicants are recommended to take note of the following aim of the research group: "to promote research practice which informs and promotes justice, including the development of appropriate methodologies, the transformation of personal practices, the exploration of linkages with pedagogy, and modes of research dissemination, influence and academic engagement within and beyond the academic community of geographers".

Applicants can apply for any aspect of the proposed project (e.g. design, data production, project evaluation), but the precise nature of where the money will be spent must be explained (see below). This must also be detailed in a post-grant report, which will be uploaded onto the Research Group's website.

Applications could include (but are not limited to) the following activities:

Travel and subsistence costs for researchers or research participants  
Equipment or materials for research

