

Environment and Sustainability Research Grants

● £10,000 for research projects in the field of environment and sustainability

... **The Environment and Sustainability Research Grants are for individuals or teams led by a researcher, to support projects investigating some of the bigger issues of environmental sustainability. This could include, but is not limited to, water and development, energy security, and urban migration.**

Four awards of £10,000 are available for projects that clearly demonstrate the ability to advance geographical knowledge and to have potential impact beyond the academy.

The application deadline is **22 February**

Eligibility

- Applicants are expected to hold a PhD at the time of application
- Lead applicants must be within 10 years of completing their PhD
- Applicants must be affiliated with a UK Higher Education Institution
- Applicants of any nationality are welcome to apply
- There is preference for projects that have a substantial field component, but lab or desk based activities can be supported too.
- The project can focus on the UK, other parts of Europe, or overseas
- Individuals or groups can apply.
- If funding is being sought for a component part of a larger project, the sub-project should be free-standing with its own objectives.
- 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 **22 February**. This deadline will be strictly enforced. 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 description of the proposed research, including methodologies, field site (if relevant) and a timeline (max 1,000 words)
- Duration of fieldwork/research with start and intended end date
- An assessment of the wider context and relevance of the research and how it advances geographical knowledge (max 500 words)
- An outline of the potential wider impact and how this will be achieved (max 250 words)
- An outline of plans for disseminating the results (max 250 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, details of appropriate ethical approvals and permissions (see conditions of the award, max 300 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 of 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 this award.

Field Apprenticeships

Additional funding of £1,500 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 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 the application deadline, guidelines and application forms, please visit the [Fieldwork Apprenticeships](#) website:

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 **22 February**.
- 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. From the proposals, up to ten projects will be shortlisted and applicants should expect to be called for interview. Interviews will be held at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London. Shortlisted candidates must be able to attend the interview in person.

Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the research it funds be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. **All RGS-IBG awards are conditional on appropriate approval of the projects risk assessment and ethical considerations.** Full details of the Society's code of practice for the grants programme can be found at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics. **Please provide information on the status of approvals in your application**
- 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), a description of impact beyond the academy (actual to date of report and planned thereafter); 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 recipient 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 outputs should be submitted to the Society

Contact/ Applications

Grants Officer
Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
1 Kensington Gore
London
SW7 2AR
T: (0) 20 7591 3073
E: grants@rgs.org
W: www.rgs.org/grants

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) offers many other grants for different areas of geographical research at different career stages. Full details of all grants can be found at www.rgs.org/grants.

Applicants may only have one Society grant application pending at any one time. For more information, please read our Frequently Asked Questions, www.rgs.org/grantfaqs.



● Guide to Referees

The Environment and Sustainability Research Grants are offered in support of projects investigating issues related to environment and sustainability that can demonstrate the ability to advance and apply geographical knowledge.

Applications are welcomed from both individuals and groups.

Referees

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

- The proposed project's strengths and weaknesses in terms of originality, validity and likely contribution to geographical knowledge, and likely impact beyond the academy
- 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 **22 February**.

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

Contact

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