

# 'From the Field' Goldsmiths Awards

## ● Grant for secondary level teachers to develop educational resources on Society supported research projects

The RGS-IBG, in collaboration with The Goldsmiths' Company, awards bursaries of up to **£500** to support secondary level geography teachers develop educational resources that will give pupils an insight into the research being carried out by geographers on some of the key global geographical issues – from climate change, to the loss of species, population growth or migration. The aim of the bursary is to develop educational resources that can be readily adopted by the school geography teaching community.

The resources developed should showcase the work of geographers in the field supported through the Society's grants programme, the data collected, results and their implications for a schools audience. These will be hosted on the Society's website. The resources will give young people and their teachers a greater insight into what fieldwork involves, the challenges of working in often inhospitable environments, and how, and for what purpose, key data on some of the world's pressing issues actually are collected. We hope the resources will also inspire students to be involved in field projects/scientific expeditions themselves. Funds will also be provided to the researcher to allow a class visit/presentation.

Recipients of the bursary will work with their assigned researcher in the planning, execution and analysis of fieldwork to ensure that the educational resources are a deliverable outcome of the research project.

The next application deadline is **10 February 2012**

### Eligibility

- All applicants must be teaching secondary-age pupils in the UK

### Application Process

Applications should be submitted by email to the Grants Officer at the Society ([grants@rgs.org](mailto:grants@rgs.org)). Deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Using a recent Society supported research project or high profile geographical research project as an

example (see [www.rgs.org/grants](http://www.rgs.org/grants) for details)<sup>1</sup>, applicants should outline the types of teaching materials that could be generated from the fieldwork along with lesson plans and the relevance to the school curriculum. Applications must be submitted electronically in word format and must contain the following information:

- Name and title of applicant, address and telephone/fax number of the school where they are/will be teaching
- Title and short abstract of project (max 100 words)
- A short description of the research project (max 100 words)
- Examples of teaching resources that could be developed; the level at which these resources are aimed; the applicability of the resources to the curriculum; a lesson plan incorporating some or all of the developed resources (max 600 words)
- An explanation of how the proposal will enhance the education of pupils (max 300 words)
- The three main criteria by which you will judge the project a success
- A description of how outcomes of the project and impacts will be shared more widely (100 words)
- Short CV of lead applicant, with full contact address, telephone numbers and email address
- Please indicate how you heard about 'From the Field' Goldsmiths Award

### Referee statements

Two supporting statements are required. 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 **10 February 2012**. One of your referee statements must be signed by your Head Teacher. References should be sent by email. Applications

<sup>1</sup> This will not be the actual project that will be the focus of the work – that will be a current project for which fieldwork has not yet been undertaken.

will be jeopardised if referee statements are not received on time.

### **Selection Process**

All applications will be reviewed by an expert panel. No interviews will be held. Results of the awards will be announced in writing to all applicants by May 2012.

### **Bursary Recipients**

Successful candidates will be assigned to work with a geographical researcher currently supported with an RGS-IBG grant.<sup>2</sup> For details of the types of research projects supported by the Society, please visit the Research Grant Recipients webpages. Where possible, the researcher assigned to the successful applicant will be working at a university in proximity to the applicant's school.

The bursary recipients will correspond with the researcher to identify what can be collected in the field. This may include recording video or audio material, or specific kinds of photographs to highlight life in the field, or keeping a blog of day to day activities. On the researcher's return from the field, recipients are encouraged to focus on how the geographical data collected is analysed and how research questions are answered.

The expected outcome of the bursary is the production of teaching resources based on the researcher's fieldwork. This could be a podcast, audio slideshow or text that describes the project, addressing why the topic is of relevance; the key questions asked; the fieldwork; data collection and analysis' potential implications of the study. The recipient should also produce example lesson plans outlining how these resources can be incorporated into the curriculum. The recipient may also be asked to present their experiences at a Society CPD seminar.

The recipient will be supported by Education Officers and the Grants Officer at the Society.

### **Conditions**

- The RGS-IBG requires that the projects it funds be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner and that recipients fulfil all their institution's health and safety requirements and ethical approvals. Full details of the Society's ethical guidelines for

<sup>2</sup> Under exceptional circumstances other research projects may be considered.

research can be found at [www.rgs.org/grants-ethics](http://www.rgs.org/grants-ethics)

- A written summary of no more than 1,000 words must be submitted electronically by **1 September** of the year following the award.
- Recipients may be asked to make a short presentation about their project at an appropriate teachers' in-service training day organised by the Society and/or to write a short report for appropriate Society publication
- Award details may be published in the Society's publications and on the website

**Note:** Digital photographs should be in JPEG or TIFF format and at a quality of 300 dpi or more in A5 size.

### **Contact/ Applications**

Grants Officer  
Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
1 Kensington Gore  
London  
SW7 2AR  
T: (0) 20 7591 3073  
F: (0) 20 7591 3031  
E: [grants@rgs.org](mailto:grants@rgs.org)  
W: [www.rgs.org/grants](http://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](http://www.rgs.org/grants).**

**For information about the Society's schools programme, please see [www.rgs.org/schools](http://www.rgs.org/schools).**

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](http://www.rgs.org/grantfaqs).

# 'From the Field' Goldsmiths Awards

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## ● Guide to Referees

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The RGS-IBG awards a number of **£500** bursaries to enable secondary level geography teachers to work with geography researchers in producing educational resources focusing on the importance of fieldwork. The aim is to give pupils an insight into the research being carried out by geographers on some of the key global geographical issues; how data is collected and how it is analysed. The intent is to serve both geography pupils and the wider teaching community.

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

- The proposed project's strengths in terms of originality, validity and benefit to students
- 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 return your reference to the Grants Officer by email to the address below **by 10 February 2012**. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

### **Contact/ Applications**

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Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
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