

● Grant of up to £3000 for a PhD Student to Undertake Fieldwork

By the kind generosity of Fellows Paul and Mary Slawson, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) offers 2 to 3 awards of up to £3,000 each for PhD students intending to carry out geographical field research outside the UK to increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of the world in which we live. The research should be of high social and economic importance.

The Slawson Awards are intended to fund individuals undertaking field-based research in developing countries as a substantive part of their PhD research. The Awards are specifically to support individual researchers at an early stage in their career, and are intended to assist with travel, accommodation and local costs. The grants are not intended to cover all of the cost of the field research project.

The application deadline is **22 February**.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be currently registered for a PhD at a UK Higher Education institution.
- Applicants must already have a Masters degree.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are UK citizens.
- Applicants must be Fellows, Postgraduate Fellows or ordinary members of the Society.
- Projects which involve recipients returning to their home countries for fieldwork generally will not be considered.
- The awards support geographical fieldwork involving key development issues with a high social and economic value, and can include projects in geography and related disciplines (such as anthropology, sociology and development economics).
- Fieldwork must be in developing countries (preference to Asia).
- The intent is not to fund preliminary or reconnaissance fieldwork. Applications should be to support the main body of field research
- Preference will be given to studies which are interdisciplinary in nature.

- The funding will not cover equipment, conference attendance, or replacement wages (e.g. for a teaching assistant).
- Evidence of other funding must be shown. Reapplication for the same project is not permitted.
- Applications should be written clearly and concisely for an informed, non-academic audience.

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 and full contact details (please include an email address)
- RGS-IBG Fellowship/membership number.
- The year of commencement of the PhD and the intended completion date
- Title and short abstract, giving context to the research (max 100 words)
- A full specification of the research objectives and how the fieldwork will contribute to the overall PhD project. Details of earlier research in the subject/geographical area and how this has led to the current work should be included (max 300 words)
- A full methodology of the proposed fieldwork (max 300 words). This should include a field plan and/or map, duration of the fieldwork period, with start and end dates and evidence that language/cultural issues have been considered
- Location of research area including the latitude and longitude (this is used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information about our grants programme)
- An explanation of the wider significance of the research; specifically how the research findings will be disseminated locally; the social consequences of the research; and how it will promote cultural understanding between the applicant and the geographical area being researched (max 300 words)
- An outline of plans for disseminating results.

- A risk assessment and safety management plan, and details of appropriate ethical approvals (see conditions of award, max 300 words)
- A fully itemised budget detailing the support for your postgraduate study with explicit information on how the £3000 will be used. All details of other funding gained or applied for should be included
- Details of any funding secured for PhD, outlining the source and amount. Please stipulate your current year of study
- A detailed CV. This should include details of your education from secondary school onwards, any previous work/experience in developing countries, past leadership positions or a demonstration of leadership abilities
- A short biographical statement putting the research in the context of your background and other interests, and how the research fits into your longer-term career plans (max 300 words)
- Please also state your nationality (see eligibility criteria for the award).

Please indicate how you heard about the Slawson Awards.

Referee statements

- Two referee statements are required. One must be from your PhD supervisor. The other should be from a different institution (i.e. undergraduate dissertation supervisor or undergraduate tutor, or your employer if you are presently working).
- 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. Short listed applicants will be called to interview at the Society to meet with the Slawsons, the Head of Research at the Society, and expert panel members. Candidates will be required to give a short presentation, of about 5 minutes, and to answer questions. **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 your Institutions approval of the projects risk assessment and ethical considerations. Please provide information on the status of approvals (ethical, health and safety and any other permissions) 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.
- A 2-page Interim Report should be written whilst still in the field summarising the experience to date.
- **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
- Candidates will be encouraged to present their findings at an appropriate RGS-IBG/Postgraduate Forum
- 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
 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
 W: www.rgs.org/grants

The Slawson Awards

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guide to Referees

●●● The Slawson Awards are intended to fund research projects for individuals undertaking field-based research as a substantive part of their PhD research. The research should take place outside of the UK and preferably in developing countries. The Awards are specifically to support PhD students undertaking the substantive field research for their dissertation, to assist with travel, accommodation and local costs. The research should be of high social and economic importance.

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
- 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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