

● 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 between £1000 and £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. Preference will be given to research based in developing countries in Asia. The application deadline is **25 February 2011**

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 study.

Eligibility

- 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)
- Preference will be given to applicants who are UK citizens
- Applicants must be currently registered for a PhD at a UK Higher Education institution
- Preference will also be given to studies which are interdisciplinary in nature
- Applicants must be Fellows, Postgraduate Fellows or ordinary members of the Society
- Evidence of other funding must be shown
- The funding will not cover equipment, conference attendance, or replacement wages (e.g. for a teaching assistant)
- Reapplication for the same project is not permitted
- Short listed applicants will be called to interview at the Society. Candidates **must** be able to attend the interview **in person**

Application process

Applications should be submitted by email in word format to the Grants Officer at the Society. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. The applications should be written clearly and concisely and should be jargon-free.

Applications must contain the following information:

- Name and full contact details (please include an email address)
- RGS-IBG Fellowship/membership number.
- 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 you have considered language/cultural issues
- 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.
- Evidence of appropriate project approvals. If appropriate include a letter of support from your host institution and/or copies of any research/ fieldwork permits required (e.g. the collection/export/import of specimens).
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, and details of appropriate ethical approvals (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
- An indication of how the research fits into your longer-term career plans (max 100 words)
- A detailed CV. This should include details of your education from secondary school onwards, a short biography highlighting any previous work/experience in developing countries, past leadership positions or a demonstration of leadership abilities, and a short section on future aspirations
- 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 Slawson Award

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 **25 February**. References should be sent by email. Applications will be jeopardised if referee statements are not received on time.

Selection process

Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts. Short listed applicants will be called to interview at the Society in April to meet with the Slawsons, the Head of Research at the Society, and other panel members. Candidates will be required to give a short presentation, of about 10 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 and that recipients fulfil all their institution's health and safety requirements and ethical approvals. Full details of the Society's ethical guidelines for research can be found in a PDF at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics

- A 2-page Interim Report should be written whilst still in the field summarising the experience to date
- A short Preliminary Report summarising the work and providing details of how the funding was spent must be submitted within four months of successful completion of the field research. This should include a 250 word abstract and three to five digital images that capture the spirit of the project and its results
- Following their return, the successful candidates will be invited to make a visual / graphical presentation about the outcomes of their research at a meeting with senior RGS-IBG staff and the Slawsons. A Final Report must be submitted at the completion of the PhD degree. All reports should be submitted electronically and in hard copy
- Candidates will also 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
- 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
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/grant

Please note: applicants may only apply for one grant per academic year, with the exception of the Henrietta Hutton Research Grant, the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award, Dudley Stamp Memorial Award and 30th International Geographical Congress Award.

The Slawson Awards

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guide to Referees

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The Slawson Awards are intended to fund field research for individuals undertaking field-based research as a substantive part of their PhD research, outside the UK and preferably in developing countries. The Awards are specifically to support individual researchers at a critical, early stage in their career and are intended to assist with travel, accommodation and local costs.

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 likely contribution to geographical knowledge
- The work's social and/or economic importance
- 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 before **25 February 2011** to the address below. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

Contact

Grants Officer

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