

Learning & Leading: Gap Scholarships

● Support for young geographers to undertake pre-university gap experiences

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Learning & Leading Gap Scholarships will be awarded to young geographers who, through challenging circumstances or lack of opportunity, would not normally benefit from such an experience. The scholarships are offered to post A Level (or equivalent)/pre university students who wish to take a year out (a gap year).

Each scholarship includes a bursary of up to £4,000 plus support and mentoring to plan and prepare for the gap experience.

Part or all of the gap year will be spent undertaking meaningful learning experiences abroad. The kinds of activities that might be undertaken by participants include fieldwork, expeditions, cultural exchanges, conservation, research, teaching, educational courses and independent travel amongst others.

Applications are currently being invited from students wishing to take a gap experience between **summer 2013 and autumn 2014**. (You cannot apply postdate).

The overall purpose of the programme is to increase opportunities and motivation for self development among young people, through learning outdoors and the experience of studying and experiencing 'new' environments and cultures.

Eligibility guidelines

Applicants to be:

- In a maintained school/sixth form/FE college completing geography A level/Advanced Higher/IB or equivalent in summer 2013
- Submitted or will be submitting an application to study geography at degree level at a UK HEI (Higher Education Institution)
- A UK national and resident in the UK
- Taking a year out between school/college and HEI
- Wishing to spend at least part of the gap year undertaking meaningful activities and learning opportunities abroad

Judging Criteria

- Applicants must demonstrate a clear argument for why and how this opportunity would make a difference to them in terms of their personal development, later study of geography/related subject, career etc
- Applicants must demonstrate why it is an opportunity that would not otherwise be available to them
- Applicants must outline the kind of activities they would be interested in undertaking.
- Applicants must demonstrate how their participation in a gap experience through Learning & Leading is outside their previous experience
- Applicants must commit to becoming an active Geography Ambassador for the Society. More details about the Ambassadors programme can be found at www.rgs.org/ambassadors They should also be willing to commit to share experiences with others at their own institution and through the project website more broadly and in the longer-term
- Applicants must commit to undertake detailed research and planning (with the guidance of the Society and their mentor) to plan a meaningful gap experience (the nature of which will be decided as part of the planning process). The gap scholar's proposal for their gap experience must be agreed by the Society

Application procedure

Full application details are available to download from www.rgs.org/learning&leading

Applicants should read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' before submitting an application. Only application forms will be accepted. The questions should be answered fully to meet the judging criteria. Applications should be completed electronically and submitted as an email attachment to the Project Co-ordinator at the Society by **Friday 5 October 2012**.

A nomination form also needs to be completed by the student's geography teacher and emailed to the Project Co-ordinator by **Friday 5 October 2012**. Teachers should refer to the guidance

notes, downloadable from www.rgs.org/learning&leading and should also see a completed copy of the student's application form.

We will require a written statement of agreement from your parents/guardians.

If you intend to submit an application, or have any queries about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Co-ordinator at the Society.

Selection process

- Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts
- Shortlisted applicants will be requested to attend an interview at the RGS-IBG in London (or conducted via 'Skype' if travel time prevents attending in person) on either Monday 19 or Tuesday 20 November 2012
- Travel expenses to and from the interview will be paid

Welcome & Induction Day

- Applicants accepted onto the scheme will need to attend a welcome and induction day at the Society in London on Friday 14 December 2012. Travel expenses will be paid for this

Contact/Applications

For applications or any questions about the programme please contact:

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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