

The Ray Y Gildea Jr Award

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Grant of £2,750 to Support Innovative Teaching

The Ray Y. Gildea Jr Award is the society's first endowed award to support innovation in teaching and learning in both higher and secondary education. A single grant of £2,750 will be awarded annually.

This award has been established by an endowed gift to the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) from Professor Ray Gildea and his family. The aim of the award is to encourage and facilitate others to research, introduce and disseminate successful innovations for the benefit of students of geography at higher education/college level and/or at secondary school level.

Applications can be made for projects to research, develop and/or pilot innovations in teaching and learning in any field of geography in higher or secondary education. The application deadline is **October 2010**

Eligibility

- The project should focus on innovation in teaching and learning of geography in higher education/college and/or secondary school level; including curriculum development, teaching and learning methods, and applications of new technology
- Projects that seek to research, develop and/or pilot innovations are eligible
- Outcomes should directly benefit students of geography
- Applicants must be currently employed in the higher education (college) sector and/or secondary school level, either in the UK or the USA and actively teaching students
- Applicants must be UK or USA nationals
- Preference will be given to stand alone projects; where the application is for part of a larger project the sub-project should be free standing with its own objectives
- Applicants must start the project within one year of the award being made and should aim to complete the project within three years of the start date. A detailed final report will be

required to enable wider dissemination of the innovations

- Buy out costs, or replacement costs for assistance, to free up time of the applicant(s) to undertake work on the project are eligible, as are contributions to payment of mentoring support especially in the case of younger teachers, and the costs of project development workshops and associated travel to attend them
- Conference attendance will not be funded
- Institution overheads are not eligible
- Reapplication for the same project is not permitted

Application process

Applications should be submitted by email in word format to the Grants Officer at the Society. The deadline will be strictly enforced.

Applications must contain the following information:

- Name and full contact details (including email address)
- Employing institution and title of position
- Titles and levels of current courses taught at the institution
- Title and aim of the project, and the main supporting objectives (max 200 words)
- A description of the proposed project including time frame, methodologies, and bibliography if appropriate (max 500 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, and details of appropriate ethical approvals (max 200 words)
- Planned outcomes of the project and their benefits for teaching and learning at the institution and more widely (200 words)
- A fully itemised budget. This should include details of the source of funds for budgeted costs that exceed the value of the award
- Dissemination plans to encourage wider uptake of the innovations (150 words)
- Location of project including the latitude and longitude (These are used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information about our grants programme in GIS)
- Summary CV of the applicant (500 words)

Please indicate how you heard about the Ray Y Gildea Jr Award

Referee statements

Two referee 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 **2010**. 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. The assessors will consider which project best matches the criteria and the ability of the applicant to carry it out. No interviews will be held.

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 research can be found in a PDF at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics
- The grant recipient will be expected to keep the grants officer at the society informed of the project's progress during and after its completion
- A written summary of no more than 1000 words must be submitted electronically and in hard copy **by 1 September** of the year following the award. The report should include a 250 word abstract and three to five digital images that capture the spirit of the project and its results.
- It is the Society's responsibility to keep Professor Gildea and his family informed
- 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

Dr Ray Y. Gildea

In the early 1950's Ray Gildea set out to teach geography to students from rural areas of the southern United States. Most of his students knew nothing of other cultures of the world and most had never set foot out of their own native county. Teaching before the computer age, Dr Gildea was on the frontier of bringing the world to people who had never seen it. He began by travelling around the world himself and sharing his experiences with his own slides set to a personal collection of music on an old record player. Word got out on campus that Dr Gildea's geography was a course worth taking. For more than forty years, students flocked to his classes to learn about "man and the land". Dr Gildea discovered ways to make geography relevant and exciting to people who may never see other cultures first hand. He continued to explore the world and share his experiences with his students.

Dr Gildea retired in 1997 and has continued to share his travel experiences in several books and memoirs. The scholarship is to promote the legacy of sharing geography in innovative ways.

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 and the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award.

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● Guide to Referees

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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 before **2010** to the address below. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

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