

The Thesiger Oman International Fellowship

Royal Geographical Society
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● £8,000 for geographical research in arid environments

●●● The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) offers two Fellowships annually, worth up to £8,000, for geographical research in the Middle East and other arid regions of the world as a memorial to Sir Wilfred Thesiger. The fellowship supports research into either the physical geography of arid and semi arid environments, or the human dimension of arid and semi arid environments. The fellowship is supported with the kind generosity of His Majesty Qaboos bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman. The application deadline is **25 November 2011**

The aim is to support outstanding field research in arid/desert environments, with a priority for research within the Middle East, reflecting Thesiger's interests and the regions he visited.

Eligibility

- The main objective of the research must be to advance geographical knowledge of arid environments
- Applicants must have held a doctorate for at least 3 years and have a proven research record beyond their PhD
- Applicants must be affiliated to a higher education institution. This can be anywhere in the world
- The project should include fieldwork
- Individuals or groups can apply – but the Principal Investigator (PI) of any project must make the application
- If funding is being sought for a component part of a larger project, the sub-project should be free-standing with its own objectives
- Equipment costs should not comprise more than 10% of the total budget
- Conference attendance will not be funded
- Institutional overheads will not be funded
- Salaries for research staff are not eligible for funding (but replacement costs for teaching assistance to free up research time of the principal investigator may be considered)

Application procedure

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

Applications must contain the following information:

- Name, affiliation and full contact details (please include an email address)
- Title and short abstract (max 100 words)
- Aim of the project and objectives (max 250 words)
- Fellowship being applied for (physical geography or human geography)
- Location of research area including the latitude and longitude (These are used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information about our grants programme in GIS)
- A full description of the proposed research, including methodologies and details of time in the field (max 1,000 words)
- An assessment of the wider context and relevance of the research to arid regions (max 500 words)
- An outline of plans for disseminating the results (max 250 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, and details of appropriate ethical approvals (see conditions of award, max 300 words)
- A fully itemised budget. This should include travel, accommodation and per diem costs, as well as details of the source of funds for budgeted costs that exceed the value of the award
- One-page CV of the project Principal Investigator; an appended list of his or her publications, and details of all other researchers involved if appropriate (name, qualifications, expertise, nationality, role - max 200 words per member)

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 Thesiger Oman International Fellowship

Learning and Leading Fieldwork Apprenticeships

Additional funding of £2,000 may be made available if you are able to take a first year geography undergraduate from your university into the field with you, to enable them to gain experience as a fieldwork apprentice. The Learning and Leading Fieldwork Apprenticeships aim to support those students who would not normally benefit from such opportunities. Please state whether you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship in the first section of your application. Your selected student will then be required to submit an application by **17 February 2012**. For full details, including guidelines and application forms, please visit the Learning and Leading website:

www.rgs.org/OurWork/LandL/undergraduates

Referee statements

Two referee statements are required. Both referees should be independent of the research activities and institution.

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 November 2011**. 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 including representatives of the Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman and fellows of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The assessors will consider how closely the application matches the criteria and the ability of the applicant to successfully complete it. Applicants may be asked to submit additional information. No interviews are held for this award.

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. Full details of the Society's ethical guidelines for research can be found at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics. **Please provide**

information on the status of approvals in your application

- **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
- The award winner may be asked to present a lecture on the project work at the RGS-IBG at a mutually convenient date
- 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

Note: Digital photographs should be high resolution and in JPEG format.

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/grants.

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.

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● Guide to Referees

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The Thesiger Oman International Research Fellowships are awards given to scholars with at least three years post-PhD experience in support of geographical research in arid environments.

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 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 November 2011** to the address below. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

Grants Officer

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