

Geographical Fieldwork Grants

● Small grants for field research and expedition teams

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) supports UK led* research teams carrying out geographical field research and exploration overseas. One of the ways it does this is by granting RGS-IBG approval and/ or financial support of up to £3,000 through Geographical Fieldwork Grants to small research teams making a significant contribution to geographical knowledge.

These guidelines for applicants should be read in conjunction with the associated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. www.rgs.org/GFG

To be eligible for a Geographical Fieldwork Grant, the research must involve fieldwork that aims to advance existing geographical knowledge (FAQ1). The research must be conducted in an ethical, safe and responsible manner. Multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative projects are encouraged (FAQ 2). The Society seeks to support those groups where the team members are working together on a joint project or are undertaking a set of interrelated studies.

The application deadline is **31 January**.

Eligibility

- Through these grants, the Society supports groups, defined as three or more people, not individuals (FAQ3)
- *At least one third of the group should be registered at a higher education institution in the UK and/or be a British citizen and/or be a Fellow or member of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
- All members should be aged over eighteen. (FAQ 5)
- Projects that include a mix of university students and teaching staff will be supported provided students make a significant contribution to the design and implementation of the proposed research. This must be evident in the application. Projects in which the majority of team members are research active academics or research staff will not be supported (FAQ 4)
- Teams must be in the field for 30 days or more
- Preference will be given to research teams involving nationals from the host country (FAQ

7). Projects that include a mix of university students and research staff or funded PhD researchers, this grant should only be sought for, and by, the undergraduate or masters students involved.

- This grant is not intended to cover funding shortfalls for core fieldwork for PhD research projects. Postgraduate students seeking support should consider other RGS-IBG funding schemes: www.rgs.org/grants
- This grant is for independent groups. We will NOT support those joining a commercial expedition or pre-paid expedition, including organised charity fund-raising tours

Application process

Application forms can be obtained from the Society's website www.rgs.org/GFG. All questions must be answered in full. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. In addition to the application form, the following supporting documents are required, and should be submitted to the Grants Officer by email.

- Team Members' details using the form available from www.rgs.org/GFG
- Risk assessment and crisis management plan
- Map of the research area

There is an administration charge of £10 for each application. Please confirm your method of payment on the application form. Cheques should be made payable to "Royal Geographical Society" and posted to the Grants Officer (address below).

Applications and supporting documents should be submitted by email to grants@rgs.org

Referee statements

Two referee statements are required. Referees should not be members of the research team, nor directly involved in the planning of the research project. One should be from a university academic and one from a relevant in-country contact.

Please send each of your referees a copy of the Referee Guidelines (available from

www.rgs.org/GFG) and ask them to send the references directly to the Grants Officer. Applications will be jeopardised if referee statements are not received on time. Referee statement deadline is **31 January**.

Selection Process

All fieldwork applications are assessed on the basis of the application materials submitted and evaluated by expert reviewers. Some applicants will also be called for interview (usually these are held in March). (FAQ14).

Projects will be granted approval if they meet Society criteria for worthwhile, feasible, safe and responsible fieldwork that makes a contribution to advancing geographical knowledge (FAQ 1). Financial support is awarded based on the quality of the proposed research. (FAQ 15)

Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the research it funds be conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. Full details of the Society's code of practice for the grants programme can be found at www.rgs.org/grants-ethics.
- The Society reserves the right to withhold funding or approval should the project's risk analysis and safety management plans be considered inadequate by not meeting appropriate safety standards; for example the requirements of BS 8848 2014, or UCEA/USHA Guidance on Health and Safety in Fieldwork 2011.
- Where relevant, copies of documentation giving evidence of institutional approval (health and safety and ethical approvals, if appropriate) for the project must be provided. Information on the status of these approvals must be given in the grant application.
- For those projects where there is no institutional approval for health and safety, the Society requires the applicants to show sufficient planning for team safety. This includes providing evidence that a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment and an emergency response plan are in place.
- The Society will not fund projects that take place in a country/ies or within an area where the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all travel before the project goes into the field. (FAQ 10)
- If there are any significant health and safety related problems in the field, your institution and

the Society must be notified as soon as possible.

- Medical insurance must be in place for all team members before departure. (FAQ 14)
- **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 detailed 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 the reports, may be used in Society publications and on the Society website.
- The award recipients 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.

Please refer to FAQ 16 for detailed information on other terms and conditions.

Contact/ Applications

Grants Officer
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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. These guidelines are also available in large print format.