

Journey of a Lifetime Award

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● £5,000 and a BBC Radio 4 documentary for an inspiring and original journey

For those with a passion for radio, podcasts, and storytelling, and a genuine curiosity about the world around them, the Journey of a Lifetime Award offers £5,000 to make an inspiring journey anywhere in the world. The award winner will receive training and support from a BBC documentary producer, and will record their journey for a BBC Radio 4 programme.

The application deadline is **6 November 2017**.

About the Award

Established in 2001, the Journey of a Lifetime Award aims to inspire an interest in the people and places of the world and to discover new radio broadcasting talent.

Each year the RGS-IBG and the BBC support the best idea for an original and exciting journey. We are looking for new storytellers with inspiring ideas. Your journey needs to really matter to you – we need to feel your passion and enthusiasm and Radio 4 listeners need to be fascinated.

Your journey might take you anywhere in the world – whether far away or closer to home. However, it is important that the journey takes you somewhere new to you. It also helps if you have a personal motivation for making your journey, rather than just a curiosity for visiting remote or exotic places. For a flavour of what previous winners have done with the award see www.rgs.org/journeyofalifetime. You can listen to previous episodes of Journey of a Lifetime [here](#).

The BBC already broadcasts a lot of documentaries about faraway places. When developing your idea, make sure it is the sort of thing journalists rarely have the time to cover. Most reporters can only afford the time and money to make short visits to meet important people and do not get immersed in the local society.

The programme you will be making needs to be a personal account of your journey – as well as telling the story of the place you will be visiting. We are looking for people who are excited about finding new ways to tell original stories in sound, so it is important to think of all the audio potential in your journey and your destination.

How to apply

Initial Proposal

Applying to the Journey of a Lifetime Award is easy. Simply make a 60 second audio recording telling us – in your own voice – about the journey you wish to make. Tell us what your journey is, why you want to make it, and why the audience will find it interesting. Persuade us! You can record this any way you like (smartphone is fine).

Then email your audio pitch to JOLT@rgs.org along with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Contact email
3. Address
4. Contact phone number
5. The title of your Journey of a Lifetime
6. A two line summary of your journey
7. Where you heard about the award

Please note that your audio pitch can be submitted in any format, but must be no longer in duration than one minute, and must not exceed 10MB in size.

If you wish, in addition to your audio pitch, you can also provide written answers to the following questions in your application email (300 – 500 words in total):

1. What story do you want to tell?
2. Why do you want to tell it?
3. Why will this interest the audience?
4. Why should this story be told on radio rather than another medium?

You do not have to answer these questions if you feel you have said all you need to say in your audio pitch.

Initial proposals will be reviewed by a panel of judges and a shortlist of candidates will be asked to prepare a detailed proposal. All applicants will be contacted by the end of November with the outcome of their application.

Please contact grants@rgs.org if you have any questions about the application process.

Detailed Proposal

If your initial proposal is shortlisted, you will be asked to develop a detailed proposal. Detailed proposals should be submitted by email and must contain the following information:

- Title and short description of journey (max 100 words)
- Full contact details
- A full description of your journey. This might include your motivation for the journey, a description of the aspects of the journey that would make interesting radio, your aspirations following the journey and your previous travel experience (1,000 words)
- A breakdown of the budget for the different aspects of the journey
- An outline timetable for the journey.
- A risk assessment and safety management plan (max 300 words)

From the detailed proposals, up to six candidates will be invited to interview at the Society.

Interviews

- Interviews will be held at the RGS-IBG in London in **January 2018**
- Two of the applicants will be selected at interview to attend a training day at the BBC [transport and any accommodation will be at the entrants' expense]. If you are unable to attend the interview in person, let us know and we will try to accommodate you as much as possible.
- A final decision regarding the recipient will be made following the training day. The training day will take place in **January or February**. Interview and training day dates will be announced later in the year.

Eligibility

- You will be travelling between March and July 2018.
- Applicants must be aged 18 or over.
- Those currently employed by the BBC, independent production companies commissioned by the BBC, and RGS-IBG staff and their close relatives are not eligible to apply for Society grants.
- Our preference is for applicants with no or limited broadcast experience.
- The BBC will retain editorial control over any programme it may make. It cannot guarantee that any programme it may make will be broadcast.
- Applications from small teams as well as solo travellers are accepted, but please make this clear in your application.
- The award is for independent travel. We will NOT consider any journey joining a commercial expedition or pre-paid tour, including organised charity fundraising tours.
- We do not envisage the award as an additional source of funding for an existing project.

Other important information

The award consists of: (i) £5,000 grant for the journey; (ii) training in radio broadcasting from the BBC and (iii) the

opportunity to record your experiences for a BBC Radio 4 documentary. The award is as stated. There is no cash alternative and it is not transferable.

Please note that all potential journeys are subject to the travel advisories issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and that the Society cannot sanction any journey that involves travel to or through areas where the FCO 'advise against all travel' (red zones). Information on this may be obtained at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

The BBC, RGS-IBG decision as to the recipient is final. No correspondence relating to the final selection will be entered into. The BBC Code of Conduct for competitions applies to this event and can be found [here](#).

BBC/ RGS-IBG retain the right to cancel or to adapt the competition at any time if that is deemed an editorial necessity or if changed circumstances beyond their control call for such action. BBC/ RGS-IBG reserve the right to disqualify any contestants who breach these rules or commit fraud. The personal information you provide will be processed by RGS-IBG only for the purposes of administering the award. The information will be passed to the BBC for judging purposes and destroyed after shortlisting. Your personal information will not be passed to any other third party or published without your permission.

Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the projects 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'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
- The BBC holds copyright of all audio outputs resulting from the award.

Contact

Grants Officer - Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
T: (0) 20 7591 3073
E: grants@rgs.org