

# GILCHRIST EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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## GILCHRIST FIELDWORK AWARD

### A Biennial Award for a Senior Overseas Research Project

The Gilchrist Educational Trust offers this Award of **£15,000** to support original and challenging overseas fieldwork carried out by small teams of university academics and researchers. The Award, created by the Trust in 1990, and judged in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers), is intended to cover a significant proportion of the costs of the proposed research. Applications are now invited for overseas projects planned for 2012 and/or 2013. The research should be original and challenging, preferably of potential applied benefit to the host country or region. It may be multi-disciplinary or devoted to a single scientific objective.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- The team should comprise up to 10 members, the majority of whom should be British
- The majority of team members should hold a PhD, have a strong research record, and be working within a UK Higher Education Institution or an equivalent research establishment
- Applicants must have links with the host country i.e. collaborative links with local agencies and/or the involvement of local scientific team members
- The proposed research should involve a single field season of at least six weeks

#### Application Process

Applications should be submitted by email to the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) Grants Officer ([grants@rgs.org](mailto:grants@rgs.org)) at the Society by **24 February 2012**. This deadline will be strictly enforced.

Applications must be submitted electronically in word format and 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)
- A full description of the proposed research, including methodologies, field site (if relevant) and a timeline (max 1,000 words)
- Location of research area including the latitude and longitude (These are used by the RGS-IBG to geocode information)
- Duration of fieldwork with start and end dates
- Details of permissions needed/gained from the host country and of collaborative links with host country agencies
- Details of host country collaboration
- An assessment of the wider context and relevance of the research (max 500 words) and how it advances geographical knowledge
- An outline of plans for disseminating the results (max 250 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, and details of appropriate ethical approvals (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 summary CV of the project Principal Investigator; an appended list of his or her publications
- Details of all other team members (name, affiliation, qualifications, experience, nationality)
- An indication of how you heard about the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award
- Two referee statements. Two referee statements are required. Both referees should be independent of the research activities and institution. Referees should send their letters of support by email directly to the Grants Officer at the RGS-IBG ([grants@rgs.org](mailto:grants@rgs.org)) no later than **24 February 2012**. References form a critical part of the judging process.

#### Selection Procedure

Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts. The assessors will consider how closely the application matches the criteria and the ability of the applicant to successfully complete it. From the

proposals, up to four projects will be shortlisted and applicants should expect to be called for interview. Interviews will be held at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London in April. The Award winning team will be announced in May.

### **Follow Up Process**

Within **four months** of completing the fieldwork the Award-winning team will be required to submit four copies of a detailed report to the Gilchrist Educational Trust. Other publications such as scientific papers are also encouraged. The wording '**Project supported by the Gilchrist Educational Trust with the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award, administered by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)**' should be included in all publications associated with the project.

### **For further information please contact:**

Grants Officer  
Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
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London  
SW7 2AR  
T: (0) 20 7591 3073  
F: (0) 20 7591 3031  
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### **RECENT WINNERS OF THE GILCHRIST FIELDWORK AWARD**

**In 2010 the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award was not awarded.**

#### **2008 Dr Alun Hubbard**

##### **University of Wales Aberystwyth**

##### **Monitoring and modelling basal dynamics and flow-acceleration across the Greenland Ice Sheet**

Dr Hubbard's team assessed, quantified and implemented the 'dynamical processes related to ice flow not included in current models... (which) could increase the vulnerability of the ice sheets to warming, increasing future sea level rise.' (IPCC, Working Group 1 - Summary for Policymakers, 2007). The marine-calving outlet glaciers of the Greenland Ice-Sheet (GIS) have recently been accelerating, thinning and retreating at an alarming rate due to changes in ocean circulation and atmospheric temperature but also due to purported dynamic processes whereby surface originating meltwaters penetrate and lubricate the bed, accelerating flow. Despite much speculation, the true impact of this feedback remains undetermined and from observations and theoretical analysis it is thought to be limited to a ~50km marginal zone of the ice sheet. This project sought to isolate and quantify this effect through an integrated field, remote-sensing and modelling programme focussed on Russell Glacier Catchment.

#### **2006 Dr Neil Stuart**

##### **Edinburgh University**

##### **Radar Mapping of Tropical Savannas**

This project characterised the major vegetation assemblages found in the Rio Bravo savannas and determined the extent to which these may be reliably mapped and monitored using the latest advancements in radar and optical remote sensing. The fieldwork achieved the following objectives: (1) detailed measurements of the structure of the vegetation assemblages were obtained from a transect-line survey; (2) distribution of the vegetation assemblages were mapped by a wide-area survey using GPS and high resolution optical imagery; (3) permanent marker sites were established in areas of pine ridge and palmetto, for long-term monitoring of the growth and change in the ecosystem; (4) the most distinctive shrubs and plants were photographed in situ and duplicate 'voucher' specimens were collected for identification.

#### **2004 Andrew Warren**

##### **University College London**

##### **The Dustiest Place on Earth: Measurement and Modelling of Dust Production, Chad**

This project studied and modelled global dust production at the largest source of atmospheric dust in Chad. Dust is known to be an important influence on global climate, climatic change and nutrient budgets, yet this was the first on the ground survey of this important location.

#### **2002 Nick Branch**

##### **Royal Holloway University of London**

##### **Investigating the past and present environment of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary, Peru**

This project examined the long-term environmental history of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary and, in particular, assessed the impact of cultural and natural processes on the landscape since the end of the last glaciation (10,000 years ago).