

# Monica Cole Research Grant

## ● £1,000 for a physical geographer to undertake fieldwork overseas

The Monica Cole Research Grant offers £1,000 each year to a physical geographer undertaking original fieldwork overseas. The Grant is given in memory of Professor Monica Cole, an eminent physical geography researcher.

Born in 1922, Monica Cole was a leader in the field of geo-botany. Her career spanned continents and decades. She held the position of Chair of Geography at Bedford College for many years. Shortly after her retirement in 1975, she received the RGS-IBG Murchison Medal for major contributions to the geography of South Africa and to the understanding of savannas.

The application deadline is **20 January 2012**.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be students registered with a UK Higher Education Institution
- Applicants must be physical geographers undertaking original fieldwork overseas
- Both undergraduate and post-graduate students are eligible to apply
- Projects that involve joining an existing commercial organisation on a pre-paid tour will not be considered

### Application process

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 and full contact details (please include an email address)
- Academic affiliation, course of study and year of residence
- Title and short abstract, giving context to the research (max 100 words)
- Aim of the project and the supporting objectives (max 250 words)
- 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)

- Duration of the research, with start and end dates
- A full description of the proposed research, including methodologies (max 750 words)
- Details of links with host country, including permissions and collaborations (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
- 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 Monica Cole Research Grant

### Referee statements

Two referee statements are required. Neither referee should be involved in the project. One referee should be a specialist who can comment on the research proposal.

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 **20 January**. 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 how closely the application matches the criteria and the ability of the applicant to carry it out. Applicants may be called for interview in London during March. Award winners will be notified and announced in April



## 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](http://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
- 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
- Award details may be published in the Society's publications and on the website
- The Society anticipates the use of research/fieldwork imagery in Society publications. Photographs will never be used for commercial gain

**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](mailto:grants@rgs.org)  
W: [www.rgs.org/grants](http://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](http://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](http://www.rgs.org/grantfaqs).

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**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## ● Guide to Referees

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The Monica Cole Research Grant offers £1,000 each year to a physical geographer undertaking original fieldwork overseas. The award is open to individual, undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Grant is given in memory of Professor Monica Cole.

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 **20 January 2012** to the address below. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

### **Contact**

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