

# The Ralph Brown Expedition Award

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## ● £12,500 for aquatic or marine environment research

The Ralph Brown Expedition Award is a single annual award worth **£12,500**, offered to the leader of an expedition involving the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments. The award is open to applicants from any nation.

The award has been created in memory of the late Ralph Brown, a former world jet boat champion, who was a passionate participant in many expeditions in aquatic and marine environments around the world. This included the Society's rainforest research programme to the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak in 1977-1978. The application deadline is **27 November 2009**

### Eligibility

- The applicant should be aged over 25
- Undergraduate and school-level expeditions are not eligible. Postgraduate study is not normally eligible.
- Applicants do not need to be qualified scientists, but the award winner must compile a full written report to describe and quantify the results of their work.
- The award is open to applicants from any nation.
- The applicant must be a fellow or member of the RGS-IBG and may be from any nation
- Teams should include host country nationals.
- The project should be of value to the host country and, where possible, to the local community
- The project's objectives should involve the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments, including coral reefs
- The proposed research is expected to be original, valid, and contribute to existing scientific knowledge
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have undertaken sufficient planning and allowed

enough time in the field to achieve their objectives safely and efficiently

- Applicants are expected to spend four to six weeks in the field
- It is intended that this fund is seen as contributory and not the entire funding of the project and other sources of funding should be sought.
- 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 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:

- Title and short abstract, giving context to the research (max 100 words)
- A summary of the aim of the project and the supporting objectives (max 250 words)
- A full methodology of the proposed research (max 1000 words). This should include specifics of all methods to be used and duration of the fieldwork period, with start and end dates
- 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 short statement (no more than 300 words) on the originality of the project and the expected contributions to scientific knowledge
- Details of how results will be disseminated including an outline of plans for publishing the results (max 500 words)

- The wider context of the project; details of links with the host country, including permissions and how the project will benefit the host country and local community (max 500 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, medical/emergency support and plans for use of aquatic vehicles and details of appropriate ethical approvals (max 500 words)
- An itemised income & expenditure budget, showing whether monies are to be spent in the home or host country as well as details of the source of funds for budgeted costs that exceed the value of the award; salaries for researchers should not be included
- An indication of the type and likely source of all budgeted income, including planned or pending applications
- A 1 page CV of the team leader, a relevant bibliography, and details of all team members (name, age, qualifications, experience, nationality, team role - max: 100 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 Ralph Brown Expedition Award

#### 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 **27 November 2009**. 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 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 and that recipients fulfil all their institution's health and safety

requirements and ethical approvals. Full details of the Society's ethical guidelines for research can be found in a PDF at [www.rgs.org/grants-ethics](http://www.rgs.org/grants-ethics)

- The award winner will be expected to keep the grants officer at the Society informed of the project's progress before, during and after its completion
- Within a month of completion a preliminary report of 1,000 words must be submitted
- 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), three to five 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

**Note:** Digital photographs should be in JPEG or TIFF format and at a quality of 300 dpi or more in A5 size.

#### 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/grant](http://www.rgs.org/grant)**

Please note: applicants may only apply for one grant per academic year, with the exception of the Henrietta Hutton Research Grants and the Gilchrist Fieldwork Award.

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## ● Guide to Referees

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The Ralph Brown Expedition Award was created in memory of the late Ralph Brown, a former world jet boat champion, who was a passionate participant in many expeditions in watery environments around the world. This annual award of £15,000 is made to the leader of a multi-disciplinary research expedition associated with the study of inland or coastal wetlands, rivers or shallow (less than 200m) marine environments, including coral reefs.

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 **27 November 2009** to the address below. The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

### **Contact**

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)

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