

RGS-IBG Field Centre Grants

● £5,000 for field research at international field centres

The 'Field Centre Grants' are a new Award of the Society to support field research on an important geographical topic at international field centres, preferably in some of the world's poorest countries. Integral to any project must be the active involvement of in-country, early career field scientists. More than 700 international field centres exist around the world, ranging from small independent field-camps to large long-term international facilities.

These grants have been developed as one outcome of the Society's research programme review in 2010.

The application deadline is **10 February 2012**.

Eligibility

- Lead applicants must be UK nationals with a proven research record
- Preference is given to research at field centres in some of the world's poorer countries.

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, affiliation and full contact details of lead applicant (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 and a timeline (max 1,000 words)
- Location and details of the field centre and its facilities. This should include the latitude and longitude (These are used by the RGS-IBG to

geocode information about our grants programme in GIS)

- An assessment of the wider context and relevance of the research (max 500 words) and how it advances geographical knowledge
- Details of field training, advice, mentoring and networking, and more general programmes of professional development and guidance for in-country collaborators before, during and after time in the field. An outline of the longer term sustainability of the programme and benefits for field based international capacity building and leadership more generally, is also required (max 750 words)
- A risk assessment and safety management plan, details of appropriate ethical approvals and permissions to work at the site (see conditions of the award, max 300 words)
- A fully itemised budget. This should include source of funds for budgeted costs that exceed the value of the award. Please note, Only direct travel and field expenses can be requested for the international researchers. All remaining funds must be allocated to stipends, training, field support, and for the mentoring and advising of in-country field centre staff and researchers
- One-page summary CV of the project Principal Investigator and details of all other researchers involved (name, qualifications, expertise, nationality, role - max 200 words per member)
- A letter of support from the field centre and/or appropriate in-country field researchers to document the extent of discussions and collaboration, commitments and support from the field centre
- A commitment to disseminate outcomes through Society activities, to engage more widely with the public and Society Fellows and members with field research (max 300 words)
- Please do not send supporting documents such as previous reports, these will not be used when screening the applications.



Referee statements

Two referee statements are required.

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 **10 February 2012**. 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. From the proposals, up to four projects will be shortlisted and applicants should expect to be called for interview which will be held at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London. The assessors will consider how closely the application matches the criteria and the ability of the applicant to successfully complete it

Reporting and 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 appropriate 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. **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
- Award details, including text and images from reporting, may be used in publications and on the Society website
- The award recipient 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 publications/reports, as follows "Supported by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) Field Centre Grants". Copies of any such outputs should be submitted to the Society

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
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.

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**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guide to Referees

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We would be grateful if you could provide a reference, with 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
- How the study will enhance the field centre and in-country collaborators
- 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 **10 February 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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