

Geographical Fieldwork Grants

● Small grants for field research and expedition teams

The Geographical Fieldwork Grants offer support of up to £3,000 to small UK-led research teams carrying out geographical field research and exploration overseas.

To qualify for a Geographical Fieldwork Grant, the research must involve fieldwork that aims to make a significant contribution to existing geographical knowledge. The research must be conducted in an ethical, safe and responsible manner. Multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and collaborative projects are encouraged. The Society seeks to support those groups where the team members are working together on a joint project or are undertaking a set of interrelated studies.

The application deadline is **15 February**.

Interviews will be held in the week of 18 March.

Eligibility

- Through this programme, the Society supports teams of three or more people, not individuals. Each team member must be engaged to an equivalent extent in all elements of the project (planning, delivery, reporting).
- Teams must be UK-led (i.e. the team leader must be a UK national or registered at a UK higher education institution), or led by a Fellow or member of the RGS-IBG.
- These grants are primarily intended for undergraduate and Masters students.
- PhD students may also apply, but the proposed research must be unrelated to their PhD thesis. For PhD research, please consider other RGS-IBG funding schemes: www.rgs.org/grants
- A limited amount of funding is also available for independent teams not affiliated with a UK higher education institution, led by a UK national or a Fellow or member of the RGS-IBG.

- Projects that include a mix of university students and teaching staff will be supported provided the proposed research is student-led. This must be evident in the application.
- Strong preference will be given to research teams involving nationals from the host country.
- We will not support those joining a commercial or pre-paid expedition, including organised charity fundraising tours
- These grants cannot be used to cover university fieldtrip costs.
- Teams must be in the field for 30 days or more
- All members must be aged over eighteen

Application process

Application forms can be obtained from the Society's website www.rgs.org/GFG. Deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Applications should be submitted by email to grants@rgs.org

Referee statements

Two referee statements are required. Referees must not be members of the research team, nor directly involved in the planning of the research project. One must be from a university academic and one from an appropriate in-country contact.

Please send each of your referees a copy of the Referee Guidelines below and ask them to send the references directly to grants@rgs.org. Applications will be jeopardised if referee statements are not received on time.

Referee statement deadline is **15 February**.

Selection Process

Applications are assessed by a panel of expert reviewers. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in March. Financial support is awarded based on the quality of the proposed research.

Conditions

- The RGS-IBG requires that the research 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 [here](#).
- The Society reserves the right to withhold funding or approval should the project's risk analysis and safety management plans be considered inadequate by not meeting appropriate safety standards; for example, the requirements of BS 8848:2014.
- Copies of documentation providing evidence of institutional approval (health and safety and ethical approvals, if appropriate) for the project must be provided before funding can be released. Please provide information on the status of these in the grant application.
- For those projects where there is no institutional approval for health and safety, the Society requires the applicants to show sufficient planning for team safety. This includes providing evidence that a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and an emergency response plan are in place.
- The RGS-IBG will not fund projects that take place within an area where the [UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) advises against all travel before the project goes into the field.
- If there are any significant health and safety related problems in the field, your institution and the Society must be notified as soon as possible.
- Medical insurance must be in place for all team members before departure.
- **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 Society publications and on the Society website.
- The award recipients may be asked to present a lecture on the project work at the RGS-IBG at a mutually convenient date.
- The Society's support must be acknowledged in all publications and outputs. Copies of any such publications and outputs must be submitted to the Society.

Data protection

Your information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used in connection with your application. Your data will be shared with selected reviewers, but will not be shared with any other third parties. If successful, information about your project, including names of participants and affiliated organisations, will be published on our website, kept as part of the Society's archive, and may be used to promote the Society's grants programme. Information about unsuccessful projects will be entered into the Society's archive.

Contact

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

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**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● Guide to Referees

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) supports UK led research teams carrying out geographical field research and exploration overseas. It does this by granting financial support of up to £3,000 to teams making a significant contribution to geographical knowledge.

Referees

We would be grateful if you could write a reference providing a critical evaluation of:

- The proposed project's strengths in terms of originality, validity and likely contribution to geographical knowledge
- The team'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 submit your **signed reference statement on letter headed paper** to the Grants Officer by email (details below).

The Society would like to thank you in advance for your assistance. Your reference will be acknowledged by email.

Referee statements deadline is **15 February**

Contact

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