

The Geological Society – Outreach Grants

Application Guidance

1 Introduction:

The Geological Society awards a limited number of grants to support outreach, public engagement, communications and community-building activities. The purpose of these funds is to support development of activities that seek to promote awareness of geoscience topics and understanding of the Earth with varied non-specialist audiences. Applications may seek up to **£1500**.

The grants cycle opens on **4 January 2027** and closes on **7 June 2027**. Proposed activities must take place within one year of the application deadline.

All queries should be addressed to grants@geolsoc.org.uk. Please note that due to the large volume of queries we may not be able to respond immediately, especially close to the application deadline.

Eligibility:

You do not need to be a Fellow of the Society to **apply** for a grant. If your application is successful, however, you will need to become a Fellow of the Geological Society to **receive** your grant.

Individuals or organisations may apply to support running events with a public engagement and outreach focus taking place in the UK or Ireland. We welcome applications from organisations/individuals who have previously applied for or received funding. We will consider joint applications – please clarify in your application a lead contact as well as the details of all organisations/individual organisers involved.

Activities covered:

Grants will be awarded in line with the Society's objective of promoting all forms of education, awareness and understanding of the Earth. We encourage applicants to consider activities or programmes of activity that:

- Widen participation and prioritise inclusivity, including innovative SEND outreach and activities tailored to different accessibility requirements
- Encourage, foster and demonstrate creativity, including the use of varied online platforms to communicate geoscience topics
- Explore the evolving role of geoscientists in society
- Support network and community building both within geoscience fields and with interdisciplinary communities
- Foster an emotional connection with geoscience, promoting a sense of curiosity, awe and wonder

We will not support activities that look to generate a profit as part of the activity or programme of activities.

Finance:

Applicants may request up to **£1500**. All reasonable expenses will be considered, provided they are clearly justified. Examples of where funds might be used include:

Allowable costs include travel or other expenses for speakers/participants, publicity materials, room and equipment hire, and materials for demonstrations/activities

Non-allowable costs include staff salaries, events aimed at an academic audience, projects aimed solely at delivering curriculum to school children, events with an unjustifiable barrier to inclusion (e.g., a ticket fee or exclusionary setting).

We are happy to part-fund events that have already secured additional funding elsewhere – please clarify details of this in your application.

Payments will generally be made by BACS. If your application is successful, we will require BACS details to make payment. Funds will be transferred within one month of the grant being awarded – which may be after the event has taken place.

2 Applications and assessment:

Applications for Society grants should be made using the downloadable form. This form asks you to consider:

- The proposed activities in the application, describing clearly what you would like to do, explaining clearly the societal impact / relevance of the project.
- The planned approach to ensuring inclusivity of access and
- The approaches and materials necessary for the activity.
- The project plan and cost breakdown of the proposed project. The role of the applicant must be stated if the application is part of a broader project (i.e., explain your role within the team and what it is that you will do).
- That all necessary permissions have been obtained and that a risk assessment has been, or will be, carried out prior to the proposed activity.

Forms can be returned together to grants@geolsoc.org.uk and must arrive no later than the closing date. Please quote “OUTREACH” in your e-mail title on submission. Applications that arrive after the closing date without prior approval will be considered ineligible.

Please complete all sections. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The project must have a clear title and may not exceed the specified word limits and must be in a font size of 11 or larger. Applications exceeding word limits will not be considered. Please note that in-text references do not count towards the word limits. Up to two visuals/diagrams can be included.

Assessment:

Applications will be reviewed anonymously. Therefore, please avoid providing any personal details except for on the grants cover page.

- All applications are judged on the merit of the proposed project. In deciding between those of equal merit, preference will be given to those who make the strongest case for financial support.
- All applicants will receive a brief statement of feedback. This statement is intended to be constructive and to aid the applicant with future funding applications. No further feedback will be provided.

3 Expectations of the successful awardee:

The grant may be used only for the purposes described in your application as approved by the Society. If you are unable to use the grant for the specific purpose for which it was intended, please contact the Society before spending any portion of the grant.

If any significant changes are likely to be made to the activity's scope or scale, before or during implementation, or if the activity is delayed, please inform us immediately to obtain approval for any variations. If changes are made without our agreement, we may consider reclaiming any funds not used for the intended purpose.

Project report:

Awardees must produce a report within 2 months of the supported activity or activities. Please use the template to format your report. The report should be no more than two pages, for a lay audience, clearly summarising:

- An account of how the money was spent and receipts where possible e.g. venue, materials, promotion
- Feedback and evaluation of the activity, as well as any impact or output of this
- Whether the awardee has had articles published or about to be published

Awardees **must** ensure acknowledgement of funding from the Society in all publications relating to the funded project. Successful applicants may be asked to write a piece for the Society's magazine, Geoscientist, and blog – reports may be published on the Society's website. *Failure to produce a report will make future applications ineligible.*

4 Timetable:

Call for applications open:	4 January 2027
Call for applications closed:	7 June 2027
Review:	June 2027
Final results:	Early July 2027

5 Support:

Inquiries

For any inquiries about Society Research Grants that are not explained in this guidance document, please use the contact details below.

- E-mail: grants@geolsoc.org.uk

Disability support

We welcome applications from disabled applicants and will accommodate adjustments to the procedures to ensure that these applicants are able to participate fully in the selection process. Adjustments to the application procedure could include:

- Extension of the application deadline
- Additional support to complete the application form

If you have any queries about accessing the support described in this section, please use the contact details above.

6 Privacy statement:

The information that you submit with your form will be processed by the Geological Society for the purposes of administering your grant application. It will only be shared with external referees from the relevant committees as part of the review process.

For more information, please refer to our Privacy Notice on our website www.geolsoc.org.uk/privacy.