



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann Royal Irish Academy

Call for applications for the Praeger Grants 2020

Deadline: 17:00 GMT, Tuesday 14 April 2020

This document outlines:

- What you need to know about the Royal Irish Academy Praeger Grants
- How to make your application
- How we assess and decide on your application
- How we process your application

Applicants are required to read the guidelines to applicants carefully before submitting an application.

Background

The Praeger Grants scheme was established by the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in 1946, in honour of Robert Lloyd Praeger, “Ireland’s greatest naturalist” (onetime President of the RIA and he of Clare Island Survey renown), for the promotion of field study of Ireland’s geology, flora and fauna.

Since 1958, the RIA, through its Praeger Fund Committee, has used the income of this fund to disburse over 360 grants to natural historians, for small fieldwork projects throughout the island of Ireland.

- The purpose of this grant is to provide support for the costs of carrying out field study in the areas of Ireland’s geology, flora and fauna up to a maximum of €2,000
- Grants will be made in the region of €2,000
- The application form is available [here](#).
- All queries can be sent to grants@ria.ie

Criteria and priorities

Each application will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Merit of proposal, taking into account originality, relationship to, and the volume of, existing work in the field (please include details of any mentoring or other professional supervisory involvement in your project)
- Suitability of methodology
- Feasibility
- Intended primary outcomes
- Dissemination of research (plans for publication or other dissemination)

Assessors will evaluate the ability of the applicant to undertake the proposed research. The primary assessment of quality will be based on the specific research objective of the proposal, and whether the methodology and research outlined are likely to lead to successful achievement of this objective.

Praeger grantees should normally offer papers to the Academy (for Proceedings: Biology and Environment and the Irish Journal of Earth Sciences) or to the Irish Naturalists' Journal; Irish Birds; or the Irish Biogeographical Society Bulletin.

Who can apply:

- We are seeking applications from researchers who wish to carry out fieldwork into Ireland's geology, botany and zoology
- Applicants must not be professionally working in the area in which they wish to carry out the work. For example we welcome applications from Botanists who wish to carry out research in the area of Zoology or Geologists who wish to undertake fieldwork studies in an area of Botany.
- We also welcome applications from amateur natural historians
- There is no requirement for an applicant to be a university graduate however applicants must demonstrate that their research is likely to constitute a significant and scholarly contribution to the area of study
- The grant is open to applicants engaged in research on Ireland's geology, botany and zoology
- Research must take place on the island of Ireland

Costs and activities which are eligible

- Proposals for a new, clearly defined piece of fieldwork with a distinct objective and defined outcome to be carried out in 2020
- Funding for additional elements of the overall project may be sought elsewhere
- The only expenses payable are the costs directly related to the research being carried out, up to a maximum of €2,000

Costs and activities which are ineligible

- An application cannot be accepted if the applicant has a report outstanding on a previous RIA grant
- The purchase of large items of equipment are not considered eligible costs
- Grant cannot be made in support of undergraduate or postgraduate student programmes, for second level education projects or for any part of the applicants' professional work

What is required to make an application?

- A completed application [form](#)

How applications are processed and assessed

Applications that are deemed eligible will be passed on for assessment. If we decide your application is ineligible, you will receive a letter informing you that your application will not be assessed.

Eligible applications will be assessed by the Praeger Fund Committee of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) based on the criteria and guidelines within this document. Recommendations will be made to the RIA for ratification based on the budget and the applications received. You will then receive a letter of decision. If your application has been successful, we will include information about what you should do next. If you have not been successful you may contact the RIA for feedback on your application.

Application Information

How to apply

Applicants must complete the online application form by **17:00 (GMT) on Tuesday 14 April 2020**

Section one: Applicant details

- **All** correspondence will be sent to the named individual at the address specified on the form
- Relevant achievements: this space should be used to detail any relevant experience or achievements that demonstrate to the panel your ability to conduct the research you are proposing
- List any other professional qualifications and distinctions

Section two: Research Proposal

- outline the research proposal
- clearly specify the context, and research objectives of the proposed study
- describe the methodology to be used
- identify the anticipated outcomes of the research

- describe the dissemination plans for the research (articles, presentations, education events, workshops etc.)

Applicants are advised that failure to provide adequate detail on the research proposal may seriously weaken their application. The proposal must:

- provide an account of their research which does not rely on special prior knowledge on the part of assessors
- identify the primary outcomes of the research
- show value for money

Points to note:

In assessing value for money, the assessor will consider the intended outcome relative to the amount requested. However, it is appreciated that some modes of research are more expensive than others and proposals will not be discriminated against on these grounds.

Previous RIA Awards/Fellowships

Please give details of any research grants you have received from the Academy.

Please note: only one Praeger Grant may be held, or applied for, at any one time, and an application cannot be accepted if the applicant has a report outstanding on a previous RIA grant.

References

Please provide the names and contact details of two referees who are happy to support your proposal.

Section three: Costings

Applicants should prepare accurate costings for the proposed research expenses. Funding is offered competitively, and proposals on the margin for award may have a greater chance of success if they are modestly costed. Costs should be clearly itemised and justified in terms of research.

Receipts must be kept for all expenditure. Applicants are reminded that remuneration should be calculated on the basis of "out of pocket" expenses only. Vouched expenditure is the only form under which expenses will be refunded. Subsistence and mileage rates set down by the department of Public Expenditure and Reform can be used as a guideline but only expenditure that is vouched can be reimbursed. Please remember that expenses should be kept within reasonable bounds and are subject to specific Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regulations.

If the RIA is being asked to support only a proportion of the total costs, please list all the expenses connected with the research, as assessors will gauge the costs with reference to the scale of the whole project. Please indicate which costs are being sought from the Academy.

Applicants should clarify why they need additional Academy funding. During the assessment period applicants must keep the Academy informed of the outcomes of any other applications for funding. Failure to do so may jeopardise the application's prospects of success.

Subsistence Rates:

Eligible expenses, which must be receipted include food, accommodation and local daily travel and cannot exceed the daily totals within the guidelines provided by the department of Public Expenditure and Reform: For a full list of subsistence allowances abroad please see here: <https://circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/per/2017/07.pdf> The Academy does not pay per diem rates and will only cover expenses that are vouched by receipt.

No payments can be made for salary costs or for replacement teaching. Failure to present costed budgets may invalidate your application.

Declaration

Please note that submitting the application form constitutes confirmation that the information provided is complete and accurate, and acceptance of all terms, conditions and notices contained in the *Guidelines for*

Applicants. Subsequent discovery of any deliberate falsehood will automatically render the application null and void. If an award has been made, the RIA may require a full refund.

Payment of an award may be withheld if there is an overdue report on any other grant awarded by the Academy to the applicant, pending submission of the relevant final report.

A full list of successful projects will be published on the Academy website.