

Grants: Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria

The document below outlines the guidelines and eligibility criteria for each of the grants offered by the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS). All grant applications will be reviewed without bias, and personal details and location will be redacted. If you have any queries regarding our grants after reading this document, please contact admin@soils.org.uk.

Brian Chambers Soils Fund

Eligibility	This grant is available to support students or early career scientists based in the UK, who are studying or researching or are employed in a position where an understanding of soil science, nutrient or manure management, relevant to sustainable agricultural production in the UK is an important component. Membership of a relevant professional body such as BSSS is not compulsory but is an advantage.
Description	The Brian Chambers Soils Fund (BCSF) has been established to recognise the significant contribution of Professor Brian Chambers to soil science and its applications. The aim of the Fund is to help support the training and experience of early career scientists studying or working on applied aspects of soil, nutrient or manure management for sustainable agricultural production in the UK. The aim of the Fund is to ensure that essential applied soil science skills and knowledge are sustained for the future.
Value	Grants will normally be awarded of between £250 and £2,500. The fund aims to be flexible and exceptional requests may be considered.
Application Deadlines	Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review. As there are limited funds available, applicants are encouraged to apply earlier in the year to ensure funds remain available.

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Funded activities may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no restrictions on the type of activity for which a grant is requested e.g. desk based, laboratory or field research, a technical exchange visit or conference attendance • Applications which take place outside of the UK will be eligible but the activity must be relevant to the BCSF technical areas and their application to sustainable agricultural production in the UK • Conference or training fees, travel and subsistence costs, hire of facilities, purchase of equipment or materials and other justifiable costs will be considered.
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant must be able to demonstrate that the award will help to further their knowledge and career.
The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School grounds development.
Further Information	All applicants must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions set out on the BSSS website.

David S Jenkinson Fellowship Grant

Eligibility	<p>This grant is only available to Early Career members of BSSS. The grant can only be used to fund a visit by a UK researcher overseas.</p> <p><i>Despite Covid-19, we remain open to applications, and appreciate travel may not be possible. We encourage applicants to consider innovative ways they can collaborate with other organisations.</i></p>
Description	The David S Jenkinson Fellowship celebrates the research of Dr David S Jenkinson FRS. The purpose of the Fellowship is to support early career soil scientists in furthering their academic endeavours with support for international research

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	<p>visits from the UK to a collaborating organisation in an area of soil science that reflects the diverse interests of David's own research. In doing so the Society wishes to foster new collaborative relationships between UK-based soil scientists and internationally-acclaimed research organisations and soil scientists. Through this, we hope to build enduring scientific relationships, to enhance career development, and to support UK soil science.</p> <p>The award is offered annually to early career postdoctoral scientists within the first five years post-PhD award. The Society recognises that this group of scientists has few opportunities to apply for grants and is a group that David very much enjoyed mentoring and encouraging.</p>
Value	<p>Up to £5,000 to cover travel and subsistence primarily.</p> <p>The proposed project will usually involve research activities carried out by the host organisation, with the possibility of follow-up work in the UK or on a subsequent visit. Hosts must be outside the UK, but are otherwise unrestricted.</p>
Application Deadlines	<p>31 July.</p> <p>The result will be announced at the Society's Annual Conference and awarded for the following year.</p>
Funded activities may include:	<p>There are no restrictions to the type of soil science research activities that the scientist can carry out under this award, e.g. this could be used for laboratory or field work, for scientific consultation or the development of research ideas.</p>
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be within five years post-PhD or have submitted their PhD to their university and be awaiting their viva. If successful, they must have had a successful viva before claiming their award • Applicants must demonstrate that the visit will further their careers in soil science • Applicants should give relevant presentations to the international host organisation as part of their work

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although topics are unrestricted, applications which address topics which were of keen interest to David S Jenkinson are preferred. These topics are: soil organic matter, nutrient dynamics, global change and soil ecology.
The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School grounds development.
Further Information	All applicants must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions set out on the BSSS website.

Field Equipment Grant

Eligibility	This grant is only available to primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions within the United Kingdom.
Description	This grant is designed to enable institutions to buy field equipment to aid in the instruction and understanding of soil science.
Value	Up to £1,000
Application Deadlines	Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review. As there are limited funds available, applicants are encouraged to apply earlier in the year to ensure funds remain available.
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the equipment purchased will provide a worthwhile experience of soil science and be used to provide training and experience in the use of basic field skills The applicant must be in charge of the project and have full institutional support

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The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School grounds development.
Further Information	All applicants must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions set out on the BSSS website.

Innovation Grant

Eligibility	This grant is only available to primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions within the United Kingdom.
Description	<p>This grant is available to encourage teachers within primary, secondary and tertiary settings to develop innovative ways of incorporating soil science into lessons. The aim of the grant is to promote good practice in teaching soil science and to support teaching that is innovative, inspiring and intellectually stimulating.</p> <p>The grant is available to enable teachers to develop and resource innovative teaching and learning activities and/ or to undertake research to evaluate methods of teaching soil science. This can be achieved in many different ways and can include projects based in or outside the classroom.</p>
Value	Up to £500
Application Deadlines	Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review. As there are limited funds available, applicants are encouraged to apply earlier in the year to ensure funds remain available.
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the proposed activity will provide a worthwhile experience of soil science The applicant must be in charge of the project and have full institutional support

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The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School grounds development.
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Public Engagement Grant

Eligibility	This grant is only available to BSSS members
Description	This grant is available to support BSSS members undertaking public engagement activities communicating soil science to diverse audiences in the UK or internationally.
Value	Up to £250
Application Deadlines	Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review. As there are limited funds available, applicants are encouraged to apply earlier in the year to ensure funds remain available.
Funded activities or events may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External video or editing costs to develop online content, for example, YouTube videos, downloadable education or training resources The cost to design and print a new educational flyer or resource The costs of equipment required to undertake a Sci-art project The cost of a stand and equipment needed to attend a science festival, society or trade event The cost of supplies to run an experiment, dig or other hands-on activity at a school outreach event, for example during British Science Week.
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly described target audience Demonstrate activities that clearly communicate and enhance public understanding of soil science

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the impact of engagement on the intended audience and identify a means by which the impact will be evaluated Have a clearly costed budget.
The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at academic conferences and meetings Staff salaries Purchase of equipment, unless it is essential to your proposed activity Attending training courses in specific technical/ academic skills.
Further Information	All applicants must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions set out on the BSSS website.

Early Career Conference Grant

Eligibility	This grant is only available to Early Career members of the British Society of Soil Science.
Description	<p>This grant is available to support Early Career members, by covering some of the cost of attending relevant national and international conferences and workshops, either in person or virtually.</p> <p>During late 2021 and 2022, this grant will prioritise Early Career members attending the World Congress of Soil Science 2022 (WCSS22) in Glasgow. Applicants will only be eligible to receive the grant if no other funding has been given. Early Career members wishing to attend a different conference, must demonstrate in their application why WCSS22 does not suit their research/ presentation.</p>
Value	Up to £500
Application Deadlines	The deadline for WCSS22 applications is 28 February 2022. Applications will be reviewed during March and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review.

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	<p>For other conferences, applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis and applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of the review.</p> <p>As there are limited funds available, applicants are encouraged to apply earlier in the year to ensure funds remain available.</p>
The following must be met for the application to be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications will be considered from all Early Career members, including but not limited to undergraduates, Master of Research and PhD (all years) students and those in employment. Priority will be given to final year PhD students for international meetings. • Only applicants who have applied to deliver either a poster or oral presentation contributor, will be considered and awards may be approved in principle before confirmation of poster or oral presentation is received • Applicants will receive their funding once confirmation of poster or oral presentation has been received • Applicants may only be awarded one grant per calendar year and a maximum of two awards per person.
The following applications will not be considered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course or tuition fees • Applications to attend BSSS meetings or events, which are already subsidised for Early Careers members • Applications completed after the conference or workshop has taken place • Applications for conferences taking place at the same time as the World Congress of Soil Science, BSSS Annual Meeting or Early Career Conference.
Further Information	<p>All applicants must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions set out on the BSSS website.</p>

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