

**RESEARCH GRANT**

**Guidance Notes**

*The Primate Society of Great Britain awards small grants in support of primate research, with areas outside of captive care and conservation being prioritised by the Research Sub-Committee. For support of research relating to captive care or conservation, please apply to the Captive Care and Conservation Sub-Committees, respectively. Research Grants are administered by the PSGB’s Research Sub-Committee. The following notes give details of eligibility and the application procedure, and should be read carefully* ***before*** *preparing an application.*

**1. Proposals are invited for grants to assist:**

1. Research of benefit to furthering understanding in any area of primatology, excluding captive care and conservation.

**2. Obligations of grantees are as follows:**

2.1 To use the funding only in support of the agreed research outlined in the funding application.

2.2 To submit, within two weeks of receiving award notification, a 300-word abstract summarizing the project which PSGB may use for their website and social media platforms

* 1. To submit a final report (including a 500 word abstract for publication in *Primate Eye*) within three months of completion of the project, to be used by PSGB at its discretion in publications or in any way thought to be of value to the society; the report should follow the format of a scientific paper and must indicate how the grant was spent (itemised).
  2. To acknowledge the support received from PSGB in any publication resulting from the project, and to supply PSGB with a copy of any such publication.
  3. To produce, where appropriate, slides/photographs/video for non-commercial use by PSGB or others in the promotion of primate research.

**3. Eligibility**

1. PSGB Grants are open to PSGB members and to primate range state nationals who are not members. Range state nationals that are successful with a grant application will be given free PSGB membership for the duration of their grant. For details on how to become a PSGB member, please visit [Membership | Primate Society of Great Britain (psgb.org)](https://www.psgb.org/pages/12-membership)
   1. Only those projects judged to have specific attainable goals that will further understanding within primatology will be considered.
   2. Whilst the applicant may also apply for a Conservation or Captive Care grant, they may not do so in any one year or for the same project unless it may be clearly partitioned into general research goals and conservation or captive care goals.
   3. Work that has already started is rarely funded by the RSC although specific parts of an ongoing project requiring funds (e.g., laboratory / analysis / training / dissemination costs) may be.
   4. Although it is recognised that humans are primates, projects focused purely on humans will not be funded as grants are available elsewhere for this work. Research of a comparative nature involving human subjects is eligible.
   5. Applicants must request a referee from their home institution to submit the following statement:

*I confirm that I know the applicant, [applicant’s name], that I believe that their project is feasible and that is supported by myself/my institution.*

*Signed, [referee’s name]*

1. Applicants must submit a statement from any host establishment(s) where you plan to conduct your data collection (e.g., field site, zoo, museum, sanctuary, laboratory) stating that it is giving you permission to conduct the work described in the project proposal.
2. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their nominated referee submits their supporting email, and the host institution submits its supporting statement, to the Convenor (rwp@psgb.org), **on or before the deadline**. References received after the deadline may result in the application being disqualified.
3. Awards are made on a competitive basis, and the decision of the PSGB Research Sub-Committee is final. In some cases, applicants may be invited to submit an amended application.

**4. Application and award details**

1. Individual awards tend to be in the range of £250 to £1250, and the latter amount is the maximum that can be requested.
2. Applications must be made on the Application Form.

4.3 The application form should be emailed to the PSGB research Sub-Committee Convenor at rwp@psgb.org on or before the deadlines of **1st March and 1st November each year**. Please save the application in the following format: ‘Name\_application form’ (e.g. ‘StefanoKaburu\_application form’).

**5. Recommendations to applicants**

5.1 In view of the strong competition for grants, applicants are advised to make clear the significance of the project to furthering understanding in the field of primatology. It should be noted, however, that consideration is also given to maximising benefit to the individual or institution. It should thus be made clear the value of the grant to applicant at their relevant career stage and/or institution

5.2 Applicants should briefly summarise any past work (by the applicant or others) relevant to the project’s objectives.

5.3 Applicants should clearly state how the proposed project (methods, data collected) will address the stated objectives. It is also recommended that the applicants take into account the environmental sustainability of the methodologies and should design the project in order to minimize its environmental impact.

5.4 Applicants should clearly address any ethical concerns likely to arise from the proposed research.

5.5 Applicants should indicate, in the budget, how the PSGB grant will be used – this is especially so where the funding required for the project exceeds that applied for from the PSGB.

5.6 Research Sub-Committee members look favourably on applications that are clearly and succinctly presented.

5.7 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are important principles that PSGB abides by and supports. Research Sub-Committee members will therefore look favourably on applications , whose actions or dissemination could promote greater equality, diversity and/or inclusivity in primatology

**6. Evaluation Criteria**

As stated in the PSGB Constitution, a core goal of the Society is “*the advancement of research in the study of primate biology in all its branches and activities conducive thereto, including the welfare of captive primates, conservation and education*”. Our grant evaluation criteria are designed to help us select projects, under each funding scheme, that best fulfil this goal. Importantly, we recognise that advancement of research is achieved not just through funding a specific project, but also through the resulting development of the researcher.

The criteria against which research grant applications are judged are:

**· The significance of the project objectives in terms of advancing understanding in the field of primatology**

**· The feasibility of addressing the project objectives**

**· The ‘added value’ of the award to the applicant, e.g. in terms of career progression or facilitating further funding applications.**

**-the applicant’s knowledge, experience and skillset to conduct the project.**

To help us apply these criteria, the assessors consider the following:

1. *Introduction:* Clear background information (literature in the gap clearly identified)? Are research questions/hypotheses listed? Are they achievable?
2. *Uniqueness/Novelty*: Is the project unique/novel in its approach, objectives and/or methodology?
3. *Methodology:* Is the methodology valid, rigorous and clearly described? Is it feasible?
4. *Use of findings*: Does the applicant have a clear plan on how to use findings for publications and/or further grant applications?
5. *Contribution to Primatology*: Does the project have potential to further our understanding of primatology?
6. *Value of the grant to applicant* – Does the PSGB funding provide clear value to the applicant /project (at their career stage)? Here, priority is given to applications where the PSGB grant is shown to make a significant impact on the success of the project, the applicant’s career progression and/or facilitating further funding applications.
7. *Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity*: Does the project promote greater EDI in primatology?
8. *Applicant’s qualifications and skillset*: Does the applicant have the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to conduct the project?
9. *Overall Application Quality (Exceptional; Very Good; Good; Marginal; Poor – see below)*

*Overall Application Quality assessment*

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| **5. Exceptional**  A proposal of the highest quality with potential for extensive scientific advancement and/or impact. Exceptional study design, rigorous methodology and novel/important research questions, with no obvious weaknesses. The research will be publishable or contribute to future publications in the top peer-reviewed journals - results will lead to a substantial breakthrough to the field with potential for wide scientific, public and media interest and/or impact. |
| **4. Very Good**  A proposal of high quality with potential for broad scientific impact. Very strong study design, rigorous methodology and exciting/important research questions, with no major weaknesses. The research will be publishable or contribute to future publications in well-respected peer-reviewed journals - the results will provide important contributions to the field with potential for wide scientific, public and media interest and/or impact.  **3. Good**  A proposal of good quality with potential for some scientific impact. Strong study design, generally rigorous methodology and novel research questions, with no major weaknesses. The research will be publishable or contribute to future publications in respected peer-reviewed journals - potential for scientific, public and media interest and/or impact. Likely to be cited though potentially in a narrower field of study  **2. Marginal**  A proposal of acceptable quality but with some flaws. Research has potential for limited scientific impact to the field. Obvious major weaknesses with study design, methodology, techniques and/or research objectives though not necessarily lethal. The research might contribute to publishable results but outputs are unlikely to have broad scientific, public and media interest and/or impact.  **1. Poor**  A proposal that is unacceptable to qualify for funding. The proposal contains major and obvious weaknesses in one or more areas of study design, methodology and research objectives. The research is unlikely to generate publishable results. Limited potential for project to have scientific, public and media interest and/or impact. |