

CBRL: Guidance Notes for Travel Grants 2020-21

CBRL Travel Grants are offered to enable individuals undertaking study or research in the humanities and social sciences at Doctoral or Postdoctoral level to travel in the countries of the Levant (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Cyprus and Syria) in connection with their work. We will consider applications for research on contemporary issues in Egypt, only where they include a regional component relevant to the Levant. The aims of the Travel Grant programme are to give students the opportunity to travel in the region, to encourage the development of new research, and to support minor research projects (particularly for postgraduate degrees), which must be done in the region. In exceptional circumstances applications to work outside the Levant to study Levantine material or archives held elsewhere will be considered, but applicants must discuss this with the CBRL Hon. Research Chair in advance of submitting an application. Travel Grants are available for self-contained projects or for discrete elements of larger projects. All applications should demonstrate that the CBRL funds are sought for a clearly defined piece of study or research, which will have an identifiable outcome on completion.

Travel Grants are available for the direct costs of travel and maintenance away from home. They are not available for personal maintenance at home or for attending conferences. Please note that the CBRL cannot pay fees or maintenance costs for language courses, youth camps or field schools, though it can contribute to individual research and travel outside such courses. The CBRL grants are not available to fund participation on an excavation or summer school.

The maximum level of a Travel Grant is £800. Grants resulting from the present round of applications must be claimed and spent within the financial year 1 April 2020–31 March 2021.

Eligibility

Undergraduate and Masters students are NOT eligible for this award.

Application is open to anyone who:

- is a CBRL member (you may apply for membership when you submit your application for the award); and
- is of British nationality; or
- is normally resident in the UK; *or*
- is registered as a PhD student in a UK university

Please note that **awards cannot be made retrospectively for travel that has already begun**. This means that the travel to be supported by a grant applied for in the present round of applications, for which the closing date is 13 January 2020, must not have started before 31 March 2020; if the application is successful, the grant may not be claimed before 1 April 2020.

Method of application

Application forms for Travel Grants should be obtained by downloading from the CBRL website www.cbrl.org.uk.

Applicants should e-mail their applications direct to the UK Executive Officer on or by the closing date, 13 January 2020. Please check with your institution if authorisation is required to apply for a travel grant. Where institutional authorisation is required, please arrange for your institution to e-mail or send a letter of authorisation. The letter should include your name, project details and confirmation from your institution. This should be on letterhead paper and signed and dated by your department head, head of research or the respective institutional equivalent.

A report from one referee is sought on all applications for Travel Grants. You are therefore asked to approach a referee who is familiar with your work to submit a reference request form. In the case of postgraduate students, this should normally be the applicant's course supervisor. Postdoctoral applicants, however, should obtain a referee who is unconnected with their employing institution. **Please note that referees must not be members of the CBRL Committee or Staff or applicants for a CBRL award.** You should send the referee a copy of your application together with the reference form attached to it. References should be e-mailed directly to the CBRL's UK Executive Officer by the closing date (13 January 2020). It is the applicant's responsibility to inform the referee of the closing date. The CBRL will not contact your referee or chase your reference. **An application cannot be considered for an award unless both it and the reference are received by the closing date.**

Project details

Applicants should clearly identify the primary product or benefit of their proposed travel. Please therefore be specific about the aims of your travel, your itinerary and activities, and about the expenses involved. Your proposal should be complete in itself and should not depend on material facts being provided by your referees, nor rely on special prior knowledge on the part of the assessors. If your proposal is dependent on gaining access to restricted localities or materials, please address the question that appropriate permission has been obtained, so that the CBRL may assess whether the project is viable. If the project depends on interviews, it would be helpful to indicate if you have contacted the relevant individuals or organisations. The CBRL requires that you follow the code of ethics for field research recommended by your academic institution.

Please note that applicants should obtain necessary insurance for the project, ideally through their own institution.

If using a downloaded form, please **do not** expand the space provided and please **do not** reduce the font size below 10 pt. Do not exceed 300 words.

Please note that additional sheets of paper relating to the current grant application (unless containing information specifically requested) will not normally be forwarded to the Committee, so applicants are requested to supply all relevant information on the application form itself.

Financial details

Applicants are advised to prepare careful costings for the proposed travel expenses. Costs should be clearly itemized and justified in terms of the research or study programme. Air travel between the UK and the Levant should be budgeted at economy fare rate, which is normally below £400 (or up to £500 in high season). If costs exceed £800 or the CBRL is being asked to support only a proportion of the total costs, please give details of other sources of funding, so that the CBRL may assess whether the project is viable. The CBRL's UK Executive Officer **must be kept informed** of the results of other applications.

Applications to other bodies

Since awards made by the CBRL rarely cover the full costs of research, applicants are encouraged to combine their application to the CBRL with applications to other award-making bodies. In such cases, basic information about the other application(s) should be included on the application form, preferably in the form of a table indicating for which elements support is being sought from different bodies. **Please note, however, that it is no longer permissible for an applicant to be in receipt of funding from the CBRL and the British Academy, even if the items being funded by the respective funding bodies are different.** It is important to show a complete budget, so that the CBRL can judge whether the project is viable.

Assessment procedures

The CBRL follows a Code of Practice for assessing applications for research awards. The Code of Practice sets out the principles of equity, integrity and confidentiality governing the treatment of all applications for research awards.

Payments of grants

The CBRL makes payments of grants for the full amount of the award to the researcher upon request. Grants must be taken up and spent within the financial year for which they are made (in this case 1 April 2020–31 March 2021). If not taken up within the year they will be cancelled. By the same token, grant monies not spent within that year should be returned to the CBRL, unless prior written permission has been obtained from the CBRL to carry them over into the next financial year.

Conditions of award

A list of the conditions attached to the grant will be sent to successful applicants when the offer of a grant is made. Successful applicants are required to accept the conditions of award before a grant can be confirmed.

Data Protection

The CBRL is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 and adheres to the Data Protection Principles. Applicants should be aware that information that they provide will be stored and circulated as necessary for the assessment procedures to be followed. Application forms may be retained for up to seven years, and may be consulted by the CBRL in the event of future applications being submitted. Details of award holders (including name, institution, project details and amount of award) will be used to compile published lists of award-holders which may be made available on the Internet, and to produce statistical and historical information on CBRL awards. Signing the attached application form constitutes your agreement to all terms, conditions and notices contained in the notes for applicants.

For further details or advice, please contact the UK Executive Officer (cbrl@britac.ac.uk) CBRL, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH