

CBRL: Guidance Notes for Team-based Fieldwork Research Awards 2018-19

The Council for British Research in the Levant is inviting applications for proposals related to team-based fieldwork within the Levant. The CBRL has a strong record of team-based fieldwork research and wishes to maintain UK engagement and expertise. Applications should be for strategic projects that will enhance the profile of UK research in the Levant, and which offer the support and commitment of the applicant's own institution. We also encourage applicants to work to develop sustainable collaborations with local institutions. Projects should provide research / publication opportunities for developing researchers and therefore help to develop the regional knowledge and skills-base required to allow research in the region to continue beyond the current generation. Awards will normally be up to £5,000 per year for two or three years of fieldwork, with an absolute maximum of £7,500 per year.

Awards are available for the direct costs of primary research, including:

- travel and maintenance away from home
- consumables, including expendable field equipment or laboratory costs
- specialist software
- costs of government representatives in the field
- research assistance or short-term costs for specialist staff
- in certain cases, costs of preparing illustrative material and fees for reproduction rights
- essential charges made by local government agencies.

The following items are **not** eligible for support:

- FEC or other institutional overheads.
- computer hardware
- books
- permanent resources or equipment, such as vehicles or EDMs
- publication costs
- payment in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home
- replacement teaching costs
- expenses for lecture tours or attendance at conferences

Eligibility

Applicants must hold a PhD and applications from early career researchers are particularly encouraged, although applications from more senior academics are also welcomed. Joint applications may be made, but one applicant must be nominated as responsible to CBRL for accounting and reporting.

Team-based fieldwork awards are open to post-doctoral scholars who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom. Applicants must be CBRL members (you may apply for membership at the same time as applying for the award).

The CBRL follows the test set by the Inland Revenue concerning residency status: if the Inland Revenue classes you as 'ordinarily resident' you are likely to meet the CBRL's criterion for residency. To be 'ordinarily resident' in the UK you must show that you habitually and normally reside in the UK from choice and for a settled purpose, year after year. If you are living in the UK mainly to receive full-time education and would normally be living elsewhere, you will not usually be treated as being 'ordinarily resident' in the UK.

Most awards are made to staff employed in universities and other institutions of higher education. Although applicants are not restricted by either academic or employment status, teams must show a clear and active connection to a university department or major museum to demonstrate that the work is occurring within and contributing to a wider research culture, so that, for example, publications arising from the research have a good possibility of being returned for REF. Applications must show that they are seeking support for advanced research at postdoctoral or equivalent level.

Projects that demonstrate a clear commitment to building capacity within UK Higher Education in the relevant disciplines, through offering research opportunities for Doctoral and Masters students, and / or by drawing upon and involving UK-based specialists and collaborators, thus building-up the base of researchers active in the Levant, will be considered favourably.

Applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources for their research. Projects should also be designed in a manner that includes the potential for larger (non CBRL) funding applications to be made in the long-term.

Awards cannot be made retrospectively for research that has already commenced. This means that the research to be supported by funds applied for on or by 11 December 2017 must not have started before 16 March 2018. If the application is successful, the funds may not be claimed before 1 April 2018.

Subject Areas

CBRL Team-based Fieldwork Research awards are offered for fieldwork in the humanities, social sciences, and climate related research.

Within the very broad spread of academic disciplines supported, CBRL has set up a Strategic Research Initiative in *Exploring Identities in the Levant*.

It also supports a number of other Key Research Themes:

- a) *The origins, development and practice of economic and social strategies in the Middle East from earliest times to the modern day.*
- b) *Long-term landscape, environment and climate change studies, from the past through to predictive models for future developments.*
- c) *The interface between East and West.*
- d) *The investigation of multiple identities in the Middle East.*
- e) *The diachronic and synchronic study of the use of language and the written record in Middle Eastern society.*

It is important in your application to indicate which of these research themes your project fits into.

Method of application

Forms may be obtained by downloading from the CBRL website www.cbri.org.uk. **Applicants should submit their applications by e-mail to the UK Executive Officer on or before the closing date.** Where institutional authorisation is required on an application please arrange in addition for your institution to e-mail or send a letter of authorisation.

A report from one referee is sought on all applications for awards. You are therefore asked to approach one referee to submit a reference request form, **who must not be a member of your own institution or university but should be familiar with your work.** Please note that referees must

not be members of the CBRL Committee or CBRL staff or a current applicant for a CBRL award. You should send your referee a copy of your application together with the reference form which is attached to the back of the application. **Your referee should return the reference form by e-mail to the CBRL's UK Executive Officer by the closing date (11 December 2017). Applicants are advised that an application cannot be considered for an award unless both the application and the reference have been received by the closing date. It is your responsibility to inform your referee of the closing date.** In most cases, the CBRL also seeks further reports from independent assessors and we therefore request you to suggest three individuals, with no connection to the proposed project, who could be approached to act as external assessors. The same stipulations regarding suitability of the referee apply to external assessors and therefore **please note that members of your own Institution or University, or the CBRL Committee or CBRL staff, or a current applicant for a CBRL award cannot be nominated as external assessors.**

Timing of application

Applications and references from the applicant's nominated referee must be received by the CBRL's UK Executive Officer **by 11 December 2017**. A minimum of three months is required to assess applications after this closing date. Please ensure therefore that you have allowed sufficient time before the date when you plan to begin the research. Your application will be deemed ineligible if your research is timed to start before the decision on the application has been reached (i.e. before 16 March 2018). Unless otherwise specified, awards will be announced towards the end of March 2018 and may be taken up at any time after 1 April 2018. The funds designated for each year of the project will be made available on 1 April for each relevant year, subject to satisfactory progress being made. Within each year of funding funds must be expended by 31 March of the following year.

Project details

Applicants should clearly identify the primary product of their proposed research. You are advised that failure to provide adequate detail on the research proposal in the space allocated may seriously disadvantage your application. If using a downloaded form, please **do not** expand the space provided and please **do not** reduce the font size below 10 pt. The proposal must:

- clearly specify the context and research objectives of the proposed study
- describe any feasibility study already undertaken
- describe the methodology to be used
- set out a realistic research programme, including post-fieldwork analysis
- explain why the research requires two or three years work
- describe the nature of the team, including whether it is based on colleagues, students, volunteers, or requires paid staff.
- where team members are critical to the project they should be identified and their role explained
- if any aspect of the project requires resources beyond the CBRL funding being applied for, this must be made clear, and the necessary resources identified

Applicants should give an account of their research which is complete in itself and should not depend on material facts being provided by their referees, nor rely on special prior knowledge on the part of assessors.

Awards are intended only for the conduct and writing up of primary research. All applications must clearly itemize the research programme to be undertaken at any location. Where appropriate, all applicants are asked to address the question that appropriate permission has been obtained in order to carry out the research proposed. CBRL requires that you follow the code of ethics for field research recommended by your academic institution.

If a research assistant (RA) is to be employed, applicants should provide a job description, clearly stating the nature of the work to be undertaken by the RA, and the arrangements for ensuring adequate supervision. The *CV* of the proposed RA(s) (if known) should be included with the application; otherwise, applicants should state the skills and qualifications sought. If the research assistant is not identified at the time of application, any funds awarded will be subject to the CBRL's approval of the RA's suitability. Applicants should justify the period of employment (or number of hours) for which funding is sought. **Please note** that PhD candidates employed as research assistants on projects funded by the CBRL should work on the project for no more than 10 hours per week. Applicants are reminded that research funds may not be used to fund work by PhD candidates that is directly related to their PhD thesis.

Please note that applicants should obtain any insurance required for the project, ideally through their own institution, and ensure that all individuals participating in the project have necessary insurance cover.

Please note that additional sheets of paper relating to the current funding 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 research expenses. Costs should be clearly itemized and justified in terms of the research programme. If the CBRL is being asked to support only a proportion of the total costs, please list all the expenses connected with the particular phase of research for which you are seeking support from the CBRL, as assessors will wish to gauge the scale of the whole project. In this case, please indicate which costs are being sought from the CBRL by typing in bold, or putting asterisks by the relevant items.

Travel costs should be fully itemized. Thus, the length of time for which subsistence is sought should be justified in the application; *per diem* rates should be explained; hourly or monthly rates of research assistants should be specified; and the period of employment needed for a research assistant should be fully argued. Air travel between the UK and the Levant should be budgeted at economy fare rate. Hourly rates for UK-based research assistants should normally be based on the University pay scale, with Spinal point 24 (c.£14 per hour) suggested for those with a Master's degree and Spinal point 29 (c.£16 per hour) for those with a Doctorate in a related discipline. If a variation on this figure is requested, please supply justification.

In cases where funds are sought for the costs of illustrative material, please note that if there is an agreement for commercial publication, further information may be sought about the general finances for the volume(s).

Please note that no payments can be made to the principal researcher(s), either for their own salary costs or for replacement teaching. Please also note that funds are cash-limited, and there is no scope for supplementation of an award; projects should be fully-costed from the outset.

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 for the same project in the same year, 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. The CBRL's UK Executive Officer **must be kept informed** of the results of other applications.

Assessment procedures

Assessors will evaluate the application on the basis of its academic merit, taking into account its originality, its relationship to and volume of research already in the field, the scholarly importance of the research proposed, the feasibility of the research programme, the specificity of the scheme of research, presentation and intended outcomes.

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.

Payment of awards

Higher Education Funding Councils continue to take account of the volume of income received by individual universities from Research Councils and other research funding agencies in determining their block grants to institutions. For this reason, the CBRL, like the British Academy, normally pays funds to university or other institutional authorities rather than to individuals. In the case of research funding, the CBRL makes payment when advised by the award-holder that expenditure is about to be incurred. Research awards are hypothecated to named researchers and do not attract institutional overheads. Institutions may have their own arrangements for handling research funding income, including individual awards, but under the terms of CBRL awards institutions must undertake to release the full amount of the award to the researcher immediately upon request.

Awards must be taken up and spent within the financial year for which they are made. If not taken up within the year they will be cancelled. By the same token, funds 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 award will be sent to successful applicants when the offer of an award is made. Successful applicants are required to accept the conditions of the award before it 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 ten 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, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH (cbrl@britac.ac.uk) or the Regional Director, Prof. Bill Finlayson (director@cbrl.org.uk)