



Council for British Research in the Levant

CBRL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES 2024-25

GUIDANCE NOTES

CBRL offers a variety of funding opportunities for research on the Levant in the humanities, social sciences and related fields. The Levant is defined as Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. We particularly encourage applications addressing topics relating to one or more of our five current major research themes [\[see here\]](#):

1. Heritage – understanding the past and its present impacts
2. States, societies and cultures of the Levant
3. Cities and urbanisation
4. Refugees, migration, displacement, and diasporas
5. Challenges of sustainability and resilience

The listed subtopics are indicative only – proposals on other topics will be assessed on their merits. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are equally welcome.

CBRL can only consider travel to areas deemed safe by the FCDO if travelling from the UK.

Funding opportunities include:

1. ***Project Grants*** for up to **£10,000** for early career and established researchers based at one of the UK's Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or research organisation, including to undertake pilot work to establish the feasibility of a larger project or to bring an established project to completion.

Eligible costs include: travel and maintenance costs away from home; consumables; fees (e.g., to interpreters, government fieldwork representatives); specialist project staff; direct costs of scientific analyses; illustration costs; transcription and translation (maximum grant: £10,000)

UK conference attendance is permitted for up to 10% of the value of the grant.

Ineligible costs include: computer hardware, equipment, institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary, publication, replacement teaching.

2. ***Residential Fellowships*** for up to **£4,000** for early career and established researchers, either based in a UK HEI or research organisation or within ten years of obtaining a PhD at a UK university to undertake a period of research (normally three months) at the CBRL Amman Institute.

Applications which use Amman Library and Environmental and Archaeological Lab facilities will be particularly well considered.

Eligible costs include: accommodation costs, subsistence needs, travel, equipment (where a case must be made it is essential) and visas. Reasonable subsistence needs include meals, new medical or health costs, and local travel.

UK conference attendance is permitted for up to 10% of the value of the grant.

Ineligible costs include: computer hardware, institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary, publication, replacement teaching.

3. **Travel Grants for up to £1,200** for doctoral students registered at a UK HEI or post-doctoral members of staff at a UK HEI or research organisation to undertake travel in the region (or outside, if a convincing case can be made that the research proposes is essential to a Levantine research topic).

Eligible costs include: economy travel and maintenance costs away from home (maximum grant: £1,200)

Ineligible costs include: computer hardware, equipment (where a case must be made it is essential), institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary, publication, replacement teaching.

4. **Research Support Grants for up to £1,200** for graduate student researchers based in one of the countries within CBRL's remit ([The Levant - CBRL](#)).

Eligible costs include: for graduate students registered at a university in the

Levant: costs of academic enrolment for the research to be undertaken; reasonable subsistence costs, consumables (maximum grant: £1,200)

Ineligible costs include: computer hardware, equipment (where a case must be made it is essential), institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary, publication, replacement teaching.

5. **CBRL Andrea Zerbini Awards for up to £4,000** for doctoral students from universities in the UK and EU for travel to the Levant on topics related to Archaeology and Heritage. Two Awards of up to £4,000 each are available.

Doctoral students must have:

- Up to a maximum of 12 years since the completion of their Master's degree
- A track record showing promise
- A compelling proposal.

The awards are for research into: Ancient History; Landscape Archaeology; New Technologies/GIS Applications in Archaeology; Aerial Archaeology; Migration and Migrant Identities in the Near East from Antiquity to the Middle Ages; Protecting the Past.

Eligible costs include: travel to and within the Levant, visas (insurance should be covered by the home institution), local travel (e.g. car hire, fuel, bus and taxi fares), accommodation and food costs away from home (subsistence), consumables (e.g. stationery and office supplies, batteries), equipment hire, as relevant to the research, language tuition.

Ineligible costs include: significant equipment and computer hardware purchases (e.g. above £250), institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary.

6. **Networking Partnership Awards for up to £2,500** are offered to developing or established research partnerships between a UK and Levant-based scholar at any career stage. CBRL will consider applications for research on contemporary issues in Egypt where they include a regional component relevant to the Levant. Applicants must have institutional affiliations.

Funds are available to support researchers undertaking initial exploratory meetings or research, with a view to preparing a later application for funding from a research council, the British Academy or similar.

CBRL can facilitate successful applications through the involvement of its local staff and facilities, as appropriate.

Eligible costs include: direct costs of primary research, including: costs to organise small round tables or seminars in person, or virtually, or a combination, travel and maintenance away from home, consumables, including expendable equipment, specialist software, costs of interpreters, research assistance or short-term costs for specialist staff.

Ineligible costs include: institutional overheads, computer hardware, books, permanent resources or equipment, publication costs, payment in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home, replacement teaching costs, expenses for lecture tours or attendance at conferences

Essential Requirements for all grants:

- University ethics clearance is required in order to release the award.
- Before any travel to the Region, CBRL needs a copy of a risk assessment.
- Where a university is not managing a grant, copies of receipts for all expenses are required. All expenditures must be supported by relevant receipts and vouchers.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Applications open: **Friday 23 February 2024**

Deadline for Applications: **Sunday 24 March 2024 at midnight**

Deadline for References: **Sunday 24 March 2024 at midnight**

Results will be announced no later than **Monday 3 June 2024**

Applications on the CBRL Application Form should be submitted to the UK Executive Officer at (info@cbri.ac.uk).

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Provide a short (under 50 words) title and describe the research project within the wordcount of the application form. Describe in non-technical language avoiding jargon.

There is no set format, but a proposal will normally:

- explain the significance of the project in terms of the intellectual framework in which it is situated;
- describe the methodology to be used and the schedule of activities;
- provide any further information to persuade the assessors of the project's feasibility;
- and describe the planned outcomes.

BUDGET

Give the total budget in £ and show in **bold** those items for which CBRL funding is requested. Include a unit cost and a multiplier for each item of expenditure, with justification for these amounts. Funds are cash-limited, and there is no scope for supplementation of a grant; projects should be fully costed from the outset. Detail other sources to which application is being made (specifying amounts), and the result where known.

REFEREE

ONE referee is required, see your application form for details.

For students, the referee would normally be the thesis main supervisor. For the other schemes, the referees should not have a formal or informal Conflict of Interest with the applicant in the sense of working closely with them but be informed enough about the applicant's CV and research plans to be able to provide a detailed comment on his/her ability to undertake the proposed research.

Applicants for a grant should ensure that their referee writes to the UK Executive Officer (info@cbri.ac.uk) with the header **Grant Application Reference for [Your Name] by Sunday 24 March 2024.**

Applications are expected to have the approval of the applicant's institution.

GRANT CONDITIONS

Project execution, budget expenditure, equipment

The grant is to support the research project described in the application. Prior approval must be sought from CBRL by contacting the UK Executive Officer if it is proposed to vary the project or programme in any significant way.

Expenditure should be made in accordance with the items originally set out in the application. Expenditure may be varied between budget heads, within reason, but prior approval must be sought from CBRL by contacting the UK Executive Officer if it is proposed to vary expenditure in any significant way. Please note CBRL is not responsible for arranging or securing visas.

Grantees must comply with CBRL's policy on travel and subsistence. (See CBRL Research Manual Section 7 – Travel, Subsistence and Expenses)

Items of equipment purchased with the help of a CBRL grant must normally be deposited on the expiry of the grant with an institution (usually the recipient's own, CBRL, or otherwise as agreed with CBRL); such items do not become the personal property of the grantee.

Ethical and professional standards

CBRL requires the research it funds to be conducted in an ethical and legal manner. It is the grantee's responsibility to ensure that the research is organised and undertaken within a framework of best practice, as defined by the Home Institution. CBRL expects research to be conducted in accordance with the highest standards of integrity and research methodology. Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass, among other things, relevant codes of practice, the involvement of human participants, tissue or data in research, research that may result in damage to the environment and the use of sensitive economic, social or personal data (see CBRL Research Manual Section 4 – Research Ethics).

Grantees will be assigned a CBRL Lead Contact during the research period covered by the grant (see Research Manual Section 3.2.2 – Lead Contacts).

Health and safety; risk assessment

Before undertaking the research, the grantee must submit to CBRL the Risk Assessment documentation that has been submitted to, and approved by, their institution. All grantees whose application includes travel must consult the FCDO travel advice regarding travel to the region.

Payment of grant

Except in the case of student Travel Grants, Research Support Grants and CBRL Andrea Zerbini Awards, the grant will usually be paid to the employing institution to administer; the grant is made on the understanding that the institution pays the grant to the grantee in full. Payment of the sum granted will be made at the request of the grantee when expenditure is about to be incurred. When requesting payment, allow for at least two weeks to process payments. Grantees should additionally make allowance for the time needed by their own institution to complete its accounting procedures. Payments will only be made to UK bank accounts except for Research Support Grants and CBRL Andrea Zerbini Awards holders without a UK bank account.

Grants must be claimed by 31 December 2024 (latest) unless prior written approval has been granted for an extension to this date. All grants must be expended by the end of August 2025. Grant monies paid but remaining unspent should be returned to the CBRL.

Publication

Except by prior agreement, the opportunity of publication (whether as an article in CBRL's journals, *Levant* or *Contemporary Levant*, or as a CBRL monograph) shall be offered in the first instance to CBRL. If publication elsewhere is anticipated, this should be indicated in the application.

Grantees shall acknowledge the support of CBRL when making any public announcement or in any publication arising from a successful grant. In the case of publication this is the recommended form of words *This research was supported by a Project Grant/Residential Fellowship/Travel Grant/Research Support Grant/ CBRL Andrea Zerbini Award/ Networking Partnership Award [delete as appropriate] awarded by the Council for the British Research in the Levant (CBRL).*

Grantees should provide the CBRL's Executive Officer with information on all publications relating to their project. A copy of any other publications must be provided for the CBRL library.

Reporting Requirements

The **Grant Report Form** sent to successful applicants must be submitted to the UK Executive Officer (info@cbrl.ac.uk) within one month after the end date of the research covered by the application (or the end date approved by CBRL in the case of change), and no later than one month after the end of August 2025. The Report Form asks for a statement of what was achieved with the grant and details of its expenditure. Accounts must be supported by relevant receipts and vouchers where not administered by a university or research organisation.

As part of the award, we ask that you submit text, relevant links and an image about your project for the CBRL research project webpages. This is a mandatory part of the conditions of the grant.

Digital data, together with documentation, should be offered for deposit, such as at the Arts and Humanities Data Service or ESRC Data Archive, within a reasonable time after the completion of the project.

All grant recipients will be required to sign CBRL's grant Terms and Conditions and comply with the CBRL Research Manual prior to commencing their research, including submitting an ethical declaration form and completing the risk assessment template.

Further engagement with CBRL

When submitting applications elsewhere for follow-on funding that draw on CBRL-funded research, please consider including CBRL in your application: how CBRL may support your

research and you support the ongoing mission work of CBRL and its institutes in the region, e.g. seminars, workshops, partnership working. Where a CBRL award has facilitated subsequent successful funding, please report this to the CBRL for our records. We want to hear about your successes!

Data protection

CBRL adheres to the Data Protection Act 2018. Please see the CBRL Research Manual for guidance on data management.