TAWS overseas travel grants 2017: application guidance notes

The World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS) is making available two travel grants to support veterinary undergraduates undertaking a project involving working transport animals or animals used for draught work during 2017.

The aim of TAWS is to promote improved management, health and welfare of transport and draught animals. Many of the world's poorest people are dependent on horses, oxen, donkeys, camels, mules and buffaloes to cultivate land and transport goods and people. The charity concentrates on long term health, welfare and management programmes and focuses on methods of treatment and management which are technically, culturally and economically right for the users.

Applications for the next tranche of grants will be considered in March 2017. These will be for projects being undertaken during 2017.

Eligibility

Applicants must be attending a veterinary school in the United Kingdom. They must be student members of the BVA and must be undergraduates at the time of applying.

Applicants should be in their clinical years undertaking a research project in a developing country involving working transport animals or animals used for draught work.

There must be an objective reasonably achievable in the time available (probably 6-8 weeks).

The project should be the applicant's own or in conjunction with local personnel and not be part of a university-organised expedition. However, student-led expeditions will be considered; in which case joint applications should be made and one grant of £500 may be split between joint applicants.
TAWS Officers would be willing to give guidance on suitable countries, projects and contacts (Contact details: TAWS, Hardwick Court Farm, Hardwick Lane, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0AD; tel/fax: 01932 564366; e-mail: info@taws.org; website: www.taws.org)

Important points to note at the application stage

Applicants should be aware of the importance of being officially registered with the appropriate veterinary and other authorities before embarking on their projects.

Students are reminded that they should seek guidance and approval from their veterinary school’s ethical committee and from the institute involved, if appropriate.

Students are encouraged to learn the local language.

The Overseas Group strongly recommends that all applicants read the BVA Guidance Notes on Working Overseas. As well as general advice on personal and professional preparation, there are sections covering different species, country information, animal welfare in developing countries, insurance, personal safety, and general health and safety.

See also the BVA EMS overseas checklist and the EMS overseas guidance.

Amount awarded

Up to two grants of £500 each will be awarded in 2017.

Application process

You can apply for the TAWS travel grant online

The names of two referees are required. One should be an academic member of staff, the other a practising veterinary surgeon (outside the veterinary faculty) who knows the student well. Please let your referees know that TAWS will write to them for references.

TAWS officers will select the successful applicants.
Successful applicants will be expected to:

- write a 500-word summary together with supporting photographs of his/her experience, in a form suitable for publication. The report must be sent to TAWS and BVA within two months of return to the UK;
- complete a short pro forma to help BVA keep its country advice up to date;
- join TAWS and support its activities.

**Deadline**

The form must be returned by **Monday 20 February 2017** at the latest, with as much detail as possible by that time. TAWS can then make the grants available enabling the successful students to have as much time as possible to organise their projects.

**Selection criteria**

A number of criteria will be considered when applications are assessed, including:

- Contribution to the health and welfare of transport or draught animals
- Involvement with the local community
- Appropriate timescale and methodology
- Relevance to applicant’s future aspirations
- Effort and commitment
- An understanding of aims and achievement
Further information

Please contact Susie Child at susiec@bva.co.uk or on 020 7908 6373.

In addition to TAWS Officers, there are other contacts - listed on the overseas and students’ sections of www.bva.co.uk - who are may be willing to advise on projects and provide contacts for students interested in undertaking projects overseas. Staff at veterinary schools, may also be able to advise on projects and provide contacts for students interested in undertaking projects overseas.

BVA would encourage applicants to consider using their experience gained overseas on their return, e.g. by writing articles or giving talks at vet schools or to local community groups.

Whether or not you are successful in this application BVA would ask you to remain in touch and provide feedback on your experiences which would be helpful to other students in the future.