Application guidance notes and terms & conditions

A number of grants are made available by BVA every year to support veterinary undergraduates undertaking a research project in a developing country.

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

Eligibility

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

Applicants must be planning to undertake a research project in a developing country which contributes to sustainable development*, including the promotion of good animal welfare.

*There are many definitions of sustainable development, including this landmark one which first appeared in 1987: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The project should be the applicant’s own or in conjunction with locally organised projects and not be part of a university-organised expedition, straightforward volunteering or pre-clinical / clinical EMS. However, research projects overseas could be recognised as an element of EMS, in that they could support the requirement for veterinary students to undertake research projects (sometimes classed as part of EMS). 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.

Please note that projects must be completed within 18 months of receipt of the grant.
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 also encouraged to learn the local language.

BVA 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. Students must ensure they have arranged sufficient insurance for the trip - both travel and indemnity insurance. The overseas EMS guidance may also be of interest.

Amount awarded

Every year, we offer up to four grants of £500 each.

Application process

The completed application form should be returned (preferably online, via the website link).

Two references 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 ask your referees in plenty of time and ask them to send them to us by email. Referee forms will be provided upon receipt of your application and should be completed within two weeks of your original application.

Within two months of their return to the UK, successful applicants must provide a research paper to BVA. They will also be expected to write a summary report of up to 1,000-words, together with supporting photographs of their experience, in a form suitable for publication in various veterinary publications and websites. There is a small prize available for the report judged to be the best.
Deadline

The form and references must be returned BY 5PM MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2017 at the latest, with as much detail as possible by that time. BVA can then assess the applications and make the grants available, allowing the successful students sufficient time to organise their projects.

Selection criteria

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

- Commitment to undertake a specific scientific research project
- Contribution to sustainable development, including the promotion of good animal welfare
- Involvement with the local community
- Appropriate timescale and methodology
- Relevance to applicant’s future aspirations
- An understanding of aims and achievement of the project
- Benefit to overseas communities through caring for livestock or other species of importance

Further information

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

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 the BVA would ask you to remain in touch and provide feedback on your experiences which would be helpful to other students in the future.