



BES SPAN TRUST BURSARY

Guidance Notes

ABOUT

Provided by The Span Trust and administered by the British Ecological Society, The Span Trust career support programme and bursary supports UK-based undergraduates who are studying ecology and related natural sciences to develop their careers.

Under the supervision of the BES, Bursary awardees will receive 12 months of training and mentoring support, equivalent to £2,000 of support delivered by the BES and partners and including £1,287.6 of direct funds to put towards career development such as paid-for training, work experience, and equipment.

ELIBILITY CRITERIA

Individuals eligible for the Bursary should meet the following criteria:

- Must be currently based in the United Kingdom
- Be under the age of 26
- Be an undergraduate degree student pursuing ecology or related careers
- Be from a low-income background or lack access to financial support which remains a significant barrier to pursuing career opportunities
- Have a passion for ecology particularly in valuing the role ecology can play in benefitting the natural world and people

We encourage applications from:

- Individuals from low-opportunity backgrounds and facing other significant barriers e.g. those returning from significant parental leave, disabilities, caring responsibilities.
- Individuals from communities typically underrepresented in ecological careers e.g. minority ethnicities, disabilities

Due to funding guidelines, individuals from or based within the South East of England or London (either through permanent/former residence or student location) represent a priority for selection, but applications from all areas of the UK are eligible and encouraged and will be assessed competitively.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Following eligibility confirmation, applications will be competitively assessed, with the awarding panel looking for evidence of (1) your commitment to pursuing a career in ecology or using ecological knowledge, and (2) how the Bursary will make a difference to you personally due to past and present financial or other barriers to career development. The panel will include at least two members of BES Education staff.

USE OF FUNDS GUIDELINES

Please note we will not accept applications that outline using bursary funds for the following items:

- university fees (maintenance and tuition, as well as any admin fees)
- travel and accommodation costs related to university trips, and trips outside of the UK



HOW TO APPLY

The link below will take you to FlexiGrant, a grants management platform. You will be asked to create an account, after which you will be able to fill out the application form.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

We will confirm application outcomes within 28 days of the application deadline.

Please note, in the application form you will be asked for:

- A tutor/supervisor reference supporting your application
- If relevant, additional evidence of financial need e.g. student loan and maintenance grant confirmations, DSA statements, bursary or other fund letters, confirmation from Careers Office / Student Office staff. You only need to provide one of these documents. Please do not provide Doctor's notes, bank statements, or parents notes.

Please get in touch if you require access support, to discuss alternative application methods via conversation or other methods.

Likewise, if you have any questions about applying or using FlexiGrant, contact Fiona Le Ray (she/her) Careers and Inclusion Officer via email at fiona@britishecological.org or via phone on +44 (0)20 3994 8257.

