

# Strategy for Nature Fund Bursary Guidance Notes

The Strategy for Nature (SfN) Fund is a scheme funded by the States of Guernsey Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services (ACLMS) to offer financial support for environmental initiatives which aim to further the goals and objectives of the Strategy for Nature. One part of the SfN fund is a bursary to support students who wish to undertake research on the island.

These guidance notes explain the application process and rules that apply to this bursary scheme. Applicants are advised to read these notes before making an application.

## Who can apply?

Any student who is studying (or will during the next academic year) for a degree, masters or PhD in an environmental or natural history based course at an accredited University can apply for this bursary. The only requirement is that you undertake your research project or dissertation on data or a topic related to, or within, Guernsey and/or Herm.

## Which research projects qualify?

To qualify, a research project's main activity must:

- Meet the overall goals and at least one objective of the Strategy for Nature;
- Be based in Guernsey and/or Herm, or utilise data from Guernsey and/or Herm.

The area of study for the proposed research projects may relate to specific species or habitats (marine, coastal or terrestrial) or may focus on environmental social science (i.e., general education and awareness).

The research project or dissertation may include the gathering of new data, or it may focus on the analysis and interpretation of existing data.

## How to apply

Please complete the application form and send together with supporting plans, images, maps, quotes or documentation that are relevant to your application. Please email your application form to [aclms@gov.gg](mailto:aclms@gov.gg), or send by post to ACLMS, Raymond Falla House, Longue Rue, St Martins, GY4 6HG

Applications must be received by **9am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

For assistance or additional guidance in completing the application form, please contact a member of the ACLMS team on [aclms@gov.gg](mailto:aclms@gov.gg) or 01481 224567.

## Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by an approval panel. The panel is comprised of representatives from the States of Guernsey and the Biodiversity Partnership Group. They will assess each application objectively and without bias based on the below assessment criteria. Should any member of the panel believe they have a conflict of interest which does not allow them to review applications objectively, they will be asked to recuse themselves from review of that application.

All applications will be received and reviewed in confidence, however ACLMS reserve the right to promote or publicise all grants awarded, unless there are exceptional or legal reasons not to.

### Assessment Criteria

The selection process will be conducted to ensure that all applicants are evaluated fairly and to ensure that applicants fulfil all requirements of the bursary. Applicants are evaluated in order to identify those most aligned with the Strategy for Nature, whilst also ensuring their research project will result in a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Guernsey's natural environment. The selection criteria is as follows, along with the weight afforded to each criteria when considering an application.

#### **1. Alignment with the goals of the Strategy for Nature - 40%**

Applications are assessed on their delivery of the Strategy for Nature objectives below

Objective 1 – Engage the public with nature-based activities

Objective 2 – Incorporate biodiversity considerations into private and corporate activities

- Objective 3 – Integrate nature into decision making within Guernsey
- Objective 4 – Ensure an increase in habitat connectivity
- Objective 5 – Ensure the status of key species and habitats
- Objective 6 – Support species resilience and implement sustainable practises
- Objective 7 – Integrate biodiversity into education
- Objective 8 – Share and use data effectively
- Objective 9 – Improve biodiversity data sets

## **2. Measurable benefits of the project - 40%**

Applicants should provide information on what benefit the research project will provide and how it will further our understanding of the island's natural environment.

## **3. Academic track record - 20%**

Applicants should provide results and evidence of previous studies including A-Levels, and any degrees where relevant. They may also include information of previous research projects or dissertations they have undertaken.

## Payment

- The maximum funding for any one bursary is £3,000.
- Payment will be made upon approval of the bursary by the panel and subsequent receipt of a signed Bursary Agreement.
- Payment will be made by cheque or BACS into the successful applicant's designated bank account.

## Conditions

1. Applicants do not need to have local residency status in Guernsey, however you will be responsible for ensuring that you have any relevant permits necessary to undertake your research project.
2. ACLMS is not able to provide supervision for students. Applicants should ensure that they are assigned appropriate supervisors by their university.
3. Provision of funding is discretionary and applications may be rejected or deferred if they do not meet the objectives, or due to budgetary constraints.
4. The panel reserves the right to set funding conditions relevant to each bursary. Any conditions set will be detailed in the Bursary Agreement.

5. The research project must be completed according to the Bursary Agreement, including ongoing reporting. Failure to comply with the Bursary Agreement may require all or part of the grant to be repaid.
6. The research project must be completed within the specified academic course. If the project is not completed within this timescale, ACLMS reserves the right to request all or part of the grant be returned.
7. Copies of all necessary details relating to each research project and the finalised reports must be submitted to ACLMS, where they will be kept for 10 years and be available for inspection by the Office *of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure*, the Biodiversity Partnership Group or their appointed agents during this period. The full Fair Processing Notice for the Office *of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure* can be found [here](#).
8. Subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, copies of all biological records and reports relating to each research project should be submitted to the Guernsey Biological Records Centre.
9. ACLMS reserves the right to withhold part or all of the payment, or require part or all of the payment to be re-paid if information provided in the application or in subsequent correspondence is found to be substantially or materially incorrect or incomplete.
10. ACLMS and the Biodiversity Partnership Group accept no liability in respect of loss due to any delay in the payment of funds, or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of funding.