

Getting Over the Fear

Conference funding: where to find it and how to get it

Useful places to locate funding to attend and organise conferences and events:

1. Your School; LLC (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/graduate-school/current-students/taught-masters-students/conference-grants>) and HCA (School wiki – finance pages) offer financial help for current postgraduate students
2. IAD Researcher-Led Initiative Fund (max £3000): <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/institute-academic-development/postgraduate/doctoral/funding/researcher-led>
3. Innovative Initiative Grant: <http://www.iig.ed.ac.uk/>
4. Research Professional Website: www.researchprofessional.com
5. Individual conference organisers (especially larger conferences)

Some external bodies that provide funding relevant to HCA and LLC:

- **Royal Historical Society:** up to £200 for conference organisation (deadline 14 April 2014): <http://www.royalhistoricalsociety.org/postgraduates.php>
- **The Great Britain-China Educational Trust (GBCET):** Funds British postgraduate students (i.e. UK citizens only) giving conference papers in China (usually between £1500 and £2000): <http://www.gbcc.org.uk/chinese-student-awards.aspx>.
- **German History Society:** Small grants for research trips, travel to GHS events or other conferences, or organising workshops / conferences (deadline 1 May 2014): <http://www.germanhistorysociety.org/postgraduates/#small-grants>
- **The Classical Association:** will provide funding to attend conferences and events (but must be applied for by the organiser not the individual): <http://www.classicalassociation.org/grants.html>
- **The Medieval Settlement Research Group:** Maurice Beresford memorial bursary to help defray the cost of attending a conference in the field of medieval settlement and landscape in Britain and Ireland from 400 to 1600 AD. Two student bursaries are available annually up to the value of £100: http://www.archaeologyuk.org/msrg/beresford_award.htm
- **The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies:** fund for overseas (outside UK) conference presentation up to £600: <http://www.basees.org/baseesgrants/>
- **The Association of Hispanists of Great Britain & Ireland:** financial support for postgraduate students in Hispanic Studies attending a conference that has direct relevance to their subject of study (**deadline 28th March**) and grants for postgrads and early-career researchers giving papers at its conference: <http://community.dur.ac.uk/hispanists/postgradsearly-career/>

Things to bear in mind:

- Most applications will require a reference or a written statement from your supervisor or programme director/personal tutor in support of your application.
- Some external bodies will require you to be a member of the group/association in order to be eligible e.g. The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies.
- You may be offered less than you apply for.
- Postdoctoral studentships often have funding to attend conferences included; ensure you make use of this.

Successful applications are:

- Precise. Specify exactly how much money you are asking for and what it is for. Don't be embarrassed about indicating exact amounts. If there are criteria for the fund make sure you clearly indicate how your proposal fulfils these.
- Relevant. Make sure you clearly state the relevance of the event to your research, detailing how presenting at this conference will develop or contribute to your academic work. State your contribution to the conference (giving a paper, chairing a panel etc).
- Accurate. Ensure that you have included all necessary information (don't forget to ask for references ahead of time) and have provided any additional documentation in the required format.
- On time. Make sure you leave enough time to complete your application.

Conference travel applications are usually assessed by some version of the following questions:

1. How effectively will this travel meaningfully advance the applicant's education and career?
2. How effectively will this travel encourage the applicant's professional development?
3. How well-written (e.g. clear, concise, comprehensible, and convincing) is the entire application?