



BCRA Research Fund – Cave Science & Technology Research Fund

Application Form

Project title

Applicant's name

Address

Daytime phone

Home phone

Email

BCRA membership no.

You **must** be an individual member of BCRA. This means that you must hold Individual Membership of BCA, and have paid the supplement to join BCRA. Your BCA membership card will state "includes BCRA".

Summary of Project

Please write a few sentences here (about 50 words) and an extended outline of the project (up to 1000 words) on the next page.

Previous BCRA grant aid (if any) and any resulting publications and / or conference publications

Individuals involved and their roles

How will cavers and cave science benefit from this project?

Proposed start date for project

Proposed completion date

Detail of proposed expenditure

(note that the fund is not intended to be used for the purchase of items of personal or group caving equipment)

Intended journal for final report

Intended project supervisor

A referee that we may contact

Outline of the project

Up to 1000 words. Please include at least two key references to published literature

BCRA has managed a research fund for many years and, in 2005, after the fund had been boosted by several bequests, a new Cave Science and Technology Research Initiative (CSTRI) was launched that made available a total of £45,000 up to the end of 2014. In 2015 the fund was renamed the Cave Science and Technology Research Fund (CSTRF) and it was agreed that a further £25,000 be allocated for the five years to 2019.

The objective of the fund is to increase interest in caves and to further our understanding of them and the technologies employed to enter and explore them. The BCRA Cave Science policy focusses on four major themes: **speleogenesis (including hydrogeology), archaeology / palaeontology, biology and technology**. However worthwhile projects in other areas of research will also be considered. At the core of our intentions is a desire to make the caving community and the scientific community more aware of the scientific importance of caves – and the synergy between exploration and science. **It is a requirement of awards that the findings of the research be published in a BCRA journal and recipients are encouraged to present their results at a BCRA Cave Science Symposium and/or the national caving conference, Hidden Earth.**

Objectives of the Fund

- To encourage research activity by cavers and cave scientists who may have no (or limited) support from research establishments – you don't have to be an expert, but it helps if you discuss your ideas with one. We might be able to help in providing you with a contact.
- To stimulate new research which could contribute significantly to any aspect of caving – i.e. beyond the traditional earth sciences and into the technologies.
- To support research that is unusual, particularly innovative, or likely to be of great interest or benefit to cavers.
- To assist in the purchase of consumable items or scientific equipment without which it would be impossible to carry out or complete a research project. Applicants should note that the fund is not intended to be used for the purchase of items of personal or group caving equipment.
- To provide a contribution to funds for travel in association with fieldwork, or to visit laboratories which can provide essential facilities (see notes below).
- To provide financial support for the preparation of scientific reports and presentations.

How to Apply

Proposals for CSTRF grants are considered by our **Awards Panel** comprising a Chairman and five members who have expertise in each of the major themes. Applications will usually be reviewed in April, August and December.

A PDF version of the application form is available but, to complete your application, you should download the Microsoft Word version, type your answers in the Word document and return it by email to the Fund Administrator, research-fund@bcra.org.uk. You will receive an acknowledgement by email within a few days.

Applicants should bear in mind that the awards panel is unlikely to meet more frequently than four-monthly intervals but, if your application is for less than £250, we may be able to 'fast-track' it. Please contact us for further information.

Fast Track Applications

If we agree to 'fast-track' your application, we may require you to email the following information to us – but please check our current requirements before doing so.

- Name, address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, email address
- BCRA membership number
- Details of previous BCRA grant aid and any resulting publications
- An outline of the proposed project in about 1000 words. Please include a title and appropriate references to literature
- A list of individuals involved and roles
- A statement of how cavers and cave science will benefit from this project
- The proposed start and completion dates
- Detail of the proposed expenditure
- The publication(s) to which you expect to offer your report (We would like to see the results in a BCRA publication, but other publications might also be appropriate)
- Your intended project supervisor and a referee that we may contact

Rules and Guidelines for Applicants

Before writing your application please read the guidelines set out below.

1. Awards will be made at the discretion of the Fund Administrator and his advisers. The Fund Administrator reserves the right to refuse an application and to impose additional conditions.
2. The principal investigator(s) must be individual members of BCRA at the time of the application, and must remain so during the period of the award. This means that you must hold Individual Membership of BCRA, and have paid the supplement to join BCRA. Your BCRA membership card will state "includes BCRA".

3. A report describing the results of the project must be submitted for publication to an appropriate BCRA magazine or journal within one year of the award terminating.
4. A written or verbal progress report may be requested by the panel at any time.
5. A separate statement detailing expenditure of the award, a summary of the activities of the project and a summary of the results, must be emailed to the award administrator as an MS-Word document, within one month of the award terminating. This statement or parts of it may be published by BCRA.
6. BCRA may use interim reports, the final summary, the project description and other information about the award, for publicity purposes.
7. Publications arising from research supported by the Fund must contain due acknowledgement to the BCRA.
8. Commercial exploitation of intellectual property, resulting from work carried out under a grant award, must make BCRA a beneficiary.
9. The BCRA retains the right to retain equipment purchased with an award.
10. The balance of any award, which remains on termination of the project, must be returned to the BCRA.
11. BCRA reserves the right to terminate an award at any time.
12. Funding will not be available for: a) Salaries, tuition fees and similar remuneration of the applicants, their teams and assistants. b) Attendance at conferences, and associated travelling expenses. c) Travel to or from the applicant's usual/local caving area, and expedition travelling expenses. However, other travel specifically associated with the project (e.g. UK fieldwork, visits to laboratories with essential facilities etc.) is eligible for funding. d) Purchase or maintenance of personal caving equipment, clothing or vehicles.
13. Applicants shall be deemed to have given their permission for any information supplied by them to be stored on a computer and passed to other parties.
14. It is a condition of acceptance of a Research Fund Award that grant holders agree to abide by these rules. Award holders who have not complied with these rules may be ineligible for further funding.
15. Any other essential information should be included on extra sheets.