



## Cave Science & Technology Research Initiative

Application Form

**Project title**

Applicant's name

Address

Daytime phone

Home phone

Email

BCRA membership no.

You **must** be a personal 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" next to the membership number

**Summary of Project**

Please write a couple of 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

Individuals involved and their roles

How will cavers and cave scientists benefit from this project

Proposed start date for project

Proposed completion date

  

Detail of proposed expenditure

Intended journal for final report  
(e.g. Cave & Karst Science, Speleology, etc.)

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

# BRITISH CAVE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

## Cave Science & Technology Research Initiative

The **Cave Science and Technology Research Initiative** (CSTRI) was announced by BCRA President Dave Checkley at *Hidden Earth 2005*. This is an exciting new initiative for BCRA and a chance to focus on promoting cave science and technology. It is also your chance to get involved in furthering our understanding of caves and developing our caving techniques.

BCRA has £25,000 to support research over 5 years (2006 to 2011). The objective of this grant aid is to raise interest in caves and to further our understanding of them and the technology employed to enter and explore them. Our Cave Science Policy is to focus on four major themes: speleogenesis, archaeology/palaeontology, biology and technology. However worthwhile projects in other areas of research will also be considered. Clearly at the core of our intentions is the publication of the ideas and the findings of the research. If the caving and science community doesn't get to know of the outcome of the studies then we have failed in our objectives.

### 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.
- 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.

### The Awards Panel

Proposals will be considered by a panel comprising Nick Williams, David Checkley, Graham Proudlove/Paul Wood, Andrew Chamberlain and Trevor Faulkner, who may consult outside experts for advice. The panel will be involved in regular monitoring of projects and will be chasing you for a full report on completion of the work. Elections

to the Awards Panel will be every four years on a staggered basis.

### How to Apply

Applicants should read the guidelines below, and then provide the following information, ideally on our official application form.

- 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 any appropriate references to literature
- A list of the individuals involved and their roles
- A statement of how cavers and cave scientists will benefit from this project
- The proposed start date and completion date
- Detail of the proposed expenditure
- The publication(s) to which you expect to offer your final 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

Applications will usually be reviewed in April, August and December. Applicants should bear in mind that the awards panel is unlikely to meet more frequently than four-monthly intervals.

**Five** copies of the application should be sent on **paper** to the BCRA-CSTRI Administrator, David Checkley, 36 Copperfield Road, CHEADLE HULME, SK8 7PN. (0161 439 4387, [d.checkley@bcra.org.uk](mailto:d.checkley@bcra.org.uk)). It would also be useful if an electronic copy could be sent by email.

### 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 Research Initiative Administrator and the Research Initiative Panel or their advisers. The Research Initiative Administrator and Panel reserve the right to refuse an application and to impose additional conditions.
2. The principal investigator(s) must be personal 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 BCA, and have paid the supplement to join BCRA. Your BCA membership card will state "includes BCRA" next to the membership number.
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 terminal summary, the project description and other information about the Research Initiative award, for publicity purposes.
7. Publications arising from research supported by the Research Initiative 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 Initiative 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.