

DAVIS EXPEDITION FUND

The criteria for funding by the Davis Fund are as follows:-

1. Applicants must propose substantial **biological** fieldwork in the largely botanical and zoological spirit of Davis (e.g. not human physiology). Fieldwork in arctic or near-arctic destinations is excluded by the terms of the Trust. Work in non-natural systems (e.g. zoos) is unlikely to be supported. Where funds allow, Davis will consider support for post-expedition curation of herbarium specimens.
2. Preference will be given to first time applicants.
3. Preference will be given to independently planned group projects.
4. Projects that are substantially organised by others (i.e. projects not planned by the applicants) are unlikely to be funded. For example, Research Assistants on Operation Wallacea projects will not be funded.
5. Davis will not support projects which are substantially part of undergraduate assessed work.
6. Applicants must be one of the following:
 - Current undergraduates in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th academic years at time of application. Direct entry is treated as 2nd year.
 - Current postgraduate students.
 - Early career postgraduates.
 - Sibbald Trust Fellows based at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh; **N.B.** There is no guarantee that Fellows will automatically be supported; they will be required to compete for available funding with other applicants, and will be expected to submit strong applications of a quality appropriate to their expertise (to allow fair comparison with undergraduate applicants).
7. Exchange students are eligible to apply to the Davis Expedition but only if they are students of the University of Edinburgh at the time of their application. External exchange students are also eligible.
8. Applications for support for a major part of a PhD are unlikely to be supported, particularly for research council supported students. Davis will consider support for students who are self-funded or have very limited support for fieldwork, and whose project is highly appropriate to the spirit of Davis. Proposals in the difficult grey area between these extremes are likely to be given low priority in competitive years. Students should indicate on their application form or in their justification why the research council is unable to provide funding for this work.
9. Where there are more applicants than funds (the normal situation), MSc projects are **less likely** to be funded.
10. Awards to applicants who were funded in the previous year will only be made once a report has been submitted. A preliminary or interim report will usually be sufficient at the discretion of the Chairman.
11. Repeat applicants will be considered but will be given a lower priority in competitive years. Proposals from applicants who have already been funded on three occasions will be given a low priority.
12. Applications for **Tropical Biological Association** courses are eligible providing that there is clear evidence that a fieldwork project will be completed. A full report will be requested afterward to confirm this.
13. The Davis Fund will not support travel to conferences or solely for the purpose of networking or collaboration development.

14. Applicants are expected to make a meaningful personal contribution towards expedition costs compatible with their means and the total cost of the project.
15. Fully completed Health & Safety Risk Assessments ***must*** accompany all applications. These risk assessments must include a ***Fieldwork Risk Assessment*** and ***Travel during Covid-19 Risk Assessment***.

Risk assessments should be specific to the proposed research and must include full contact details for local hospitals and an evacuation strategy.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety/online-resources/risk-assessments>

16. An appropriate level of travel insurance must be secured.
17. Where a project proposal falls within the timeframe of a funded PhD programme, a letter of permission from the student's supervisor must be included, stating that there will be no detrimental effect to PhD progress.