

Research & Innovation Grants Guidelines

We're looking for projects that inform better practice, share learning, and deliver long-term value for Scotland's woodlands.

What kind of projects will be supported?

We are open to receive applications for projects which can be shown to benefit Scotland's woodlands, their associated biodiversity and the people who work in them. Projects should aim to meet at least one of the following outcomes:

1. Supporting people working in woodlands to solve practical problems or increase capacity.
2. Improving our ability to better steward woodlands in the face of climate change and invasive species.
3. Enhancing productivity, biodiversity and resilience.
4. Strengthening collaborative research and enaction on the ground.
5. Building stakeholder consensus on issues.
6. Supporting positive development of woodland and forestry policy.
7. Improving monitoring and surveying to aid our understanding.

There is no geographical limit for this activity but there must be clear benefits for the woodlands and forests of Scotland.

We support a wide range of projects which might include academic research, events that promote the value of native woodland, or the trialing of innovative approaches to woodland management and enterprise. Essentially any project which, in the view of the trustees, will benefit woodlands directly or increase understanding and appreciation of their value.

We are unlikely to fund projects which will only benefit one site, unless it is innovative and the lessons learnt can be applied elsewhere.

You can find descriptions of all previously funded projects [on our website](#), along with reports and resources for all completed projects.

Who can apply?

Any organisation or individual that can demonstrate they have the skills and capacity to carry out the proposed work can apply. When individuals apply, we generally ask that they nominate a suitable host organisation to pay the grant to. Applications demonstrating a partnership approach to achieve common goals are particularly welcome. Private companies are not excluded from applying but must show clear replicable benefits to the wider sector. Additional criteria may apply.

For those approaching the end of an existing grant funded project it may be possible to apply for continuation funding. However, successful applicants must demonstrate delivery of the majority of the initial aims and objectives.

What the grants cannot be used for

- General appeals and circulars including contributions to endowment funds.
- Projects which are intended to promote political or religious beliefs.
- Work that does not clearly benefit woodlands in Scotland.
- Core revenue costs for organisations.
- Salary or overhead costs for existing members of staff unless it's under 50% of the total grant. Salary and overhead costs over 50% of grant will be considered for new members of staff required to deliver the project. All costs for specialist contractors required are acceptable.
- Personal travel or expedition costs for individual students or support organisations.
- Personal study unless it's part-funding of a relevant PhD project at an accredited institution.
- Capital or maintenance costs of providing access or other site-based infrastructure.
- The purchase of buildings and/or land.
- Charities which collect funds for onward distribution to others.

How much can the grants be for?

Grants up to £10,000 are available. Projects which can demonstrate at least 50% matched funding in place will be looked on favourably but this is not essential. The whole project can be of any size and there is no defined maximum project cost.

Where applicable, the funding will only be granted once match funding has been secured. Match-funding can include in-kind or volunteer support that directly relates to the project.

Application and budget

An application form and confirmation of deadline dates can be accessed [via the website](#).

A completed budget is required. It is important that you explain any funding already secured; how much and where the funding is from, and whether it is restricted to a particular piece of work or specific post. Please also detail any other projected income, i.e. from applications to other Trusts or Foundations and when you expect to receive a decision on these. Where you have a projected shortfall, please also tell us how you expect to meet this. If applying for funding towards salary costs, please provide a job description for the post. Please also tell us whether it is a new or existing post.

Assessment

When we receive your application, you will be sent an acknowledgement which will tell you the date of the trustee meeting at which your application will be considered.

A panel made up of Future Woodland Scotland employees and trustees plus independent researchers will review and score applications on the basis of:

- relevance to our charity's objectives
- clear rationale and sound methodology / delivery plan
- awareness of wider context and previous relevant work
- collaborative approach
- meaningful opportunities to put learning into practice through dissemination of guidance, case studies, events.

The panel will make recommendations to the board of Future Woodland Scotland and decisions will be communicated within one month of the deadline.

Claiming the funding

If an application is approved, written confirmation of the funding award will be sent to the successful applicant. On return of the signed Terms & Conditions, the project can then be implemented and a payment schedule will be agreed. Generally, this will be part upfront and part on completion of work and the production of a report. However, full funding in advance can be considered and, if agreed, will be detailed in the schedule.

End of grant report

An end of grant report must be submitted prior to final payment so that the impacts of the projects can be recorded and shared. The report should evaluate the outcomes of the project and confirm what work was carried out and how objectives were met. Photographs and links to other media are encouraged. We publish reports on our website and will redact any sensitive information as requested.

The report must include:

- results of the project compared to initial proposal, including achievements against targets
- any substantial alterations to the project
- the impact of the project and its legacy - how others might benefit from your work or put learning into practice
- breakdown of project costs
- what difference the project made and what difference the Future Woodlands Scotland contribution made.

Information and support

If you would like to discuss an idea or need support to develop your project, please contact Ailsa Watson on ailsawatson@futurewoodlands.org.uk.