

# Conference Bursaries and Grants

## Introduction

The Museum Ethnographers Group, like many membership groups that host conferences, offers bursaries to attend our conference. However, these are often oversubscribed. This list was developed to signpost to alternative funding opportunities for MEG and other conferences. This list is not exhaustive, but hopefully highlights the various avenues to funding conference attendance as a marginalised scholar.

No matter when you come across this list, please also check the grant finder created by [Turn2Us](#). Turn2Us is an invaluable resource for professional development grants alongside broader financial hardship in the UK, and is updated regularly. These grants can often be tailored to your specific circumstances and location, which are too specific to include in the main list.

If you need an alternate version of this list for accessibility reasons, please contact [accessibility@museumethnographersgroup.org.uk](mailto:accessibility@museumethnographersgroup.org.uk)

## Disclaimer

This list was created in March 2025, so some organisations may no longer offer these funding sources, or may have updated their conditions. Please go to the respective organisations' websites to find the full conditions and application process.

Also be aware that many organisations do not accept applications for retrospective funding, and some only review applications at certain points in the year.

## A Definition Note

ECR stands for Early Career Researcher. Different organisations will define this differently. Typically, this includes students and postdocs within c. five years of completing their PhD, but can sometimes exclude earlier levels of study like masters and undergraduate students. As a summary, this list might not reflect those distinctions – always check the exact wording and definitions with organisations directly.

## Credits

This list is indebted to similar resources that were built to widen access, namely lists created by Museum Development groups across the country, and a list created by [Dr Yeliz Teber](#). The latter list also includes grants for organising conferences, research travel funding, and fellowships.

# The List

## Museums Professional Development Associations

It seems likely that most local areas offer similar funding, but as shown by the examples below, they can vary in eligibility.

Name	Max Amount	Eligibility	Topic Restrictions	Coverage
Museums Association Professional Development Fund	Unclear	Member undertaking AMA or FMA for external opportunities (any member for MA activities)		Conference and other professional development
Museum Development South East Skills Builder Grant	£800	Individual at South East museums	N/A	Conferences and other professional development – should discuss with Museum Development Officer first
Museum Development Midlands CPD Bursary	£750	Individual at Midlands museums		Conferences, other professional development opportunities, <b>not including</b> subsistence/accommodation
Museum Development North CPD Bursary	Unclear as closed presently			

## Subject Expert Societies

Many organisations exist for different academic disciplines and sub-disciplines which offer bursaries. Some, like MEG, can only offer funding to attend their own conference, but others have broader funding available.

Name	Max Amount	Eligibility	Topic Restrictions	Coverage
BABAO Rapid Turnaround Grants	£250	Anyone (non-members include membership cost in bursary total)	Osteology, Biological anthropology	Any professional development
British Archaeological Association	£500	Anyone on a UK postgraduate course	European and Mediterranean archaeology	Conference or other research travel costs

Black Trowel Collection	Unclear - applications on hold	Any archaeologist	N/A	Mutual aid, but have funded conferences in the past
Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies	£500	Any member – priority to postgraduates, ECRs, insecure employment	Classics	Conferences and other research costs
Thomas Wiedemann Memorial Fund	£150	Postgraduates	Classical studies	Conferences and other research travel costs within the UK
Sportula (Europe and US)	\$300 (US), £/€100 (Europe)	Anyone in Classics/Classic-adjacent fields; students only (US)	N/A	Mutual aid fund
MAA Belle Da Costa Greene Award	\$2000	Members of colour (unclear if US-only)	Medieval studies	Conferences and other research costs
MAA Olivia Remie Constable Award	\$1500	Postdoc ECRs and unaffiliated scholars (unclear if US-only)	Medieval studies	Conferences and other research costs
ICMA	\$600	Members speaking at ICMA-sponsored conference sessions	Medieval art history	Travel and accommodation for in-person sessions, registration fees for virtual conferences
Association for Art History	£1000	Members	Art history	Conferences and other research costs
Decorative Arts Society Grants	£1000	Anyone (non-members include membership cost in bursary)	Decorative arts 1850-present	Conferences are considered, any research with public benefit and clear outcome e.g. newsletter/journal article
Henry Moore Foundation Research and Travel Grants	£2500	Sculpture historians, academics, and conservators	Researching and publishing on sculpture conservation production history and interpretation	Research and travel (possibly conferences?)
Anna Plowden/Clothworkers' Foundation Continuing	£1000 or 50% of costs	Practicing conservator	N/A	Conferences and courses UK/abroad

Professional Development Grants	whichever is lower			
Association for the History of Glass	£500	Anyone	UK glass history or UK-based glass historian	Conferences and other research and travel
Pasold Research Fund PhD Bursaries for Textile history	£2500	Non-first year PhDs at UK institutions	Textile history	Conference attendance and other research
Royal Historical Society Early Career Fellowship	£2000	UK ECRs without FT academic employment	History	Conferences as part of research project
British Society for the History of Philosophy	£500	Any predoctoral student	History of philosophy	Conferences and other research costs
Royal Society Lisa Jardine Grant Scheme	£8000	PhDs and ECRs	Intellectual history and science collections	International travel to UK (or vice versa) including one-off events, must include Royal Society visit if non-UK based; research more broadly
Historical Geography Research Group	£500	Postgraduate members	Historical geography	Conferences and other research travel, particularly for those without funding
German History Society	£1500	UK postgraduates/ECRs	German history	Conferences and other research costs
Society for the Study of French History Conference Bursary	£300	UK/Ireland-based Postgraduate members (membership can accompany application)	French history and history any of its present/former colonial territories	Conference attendance
Society for the Study of French History Postgraduate Conference Panels	£2000	Postgraduate members (can accompany application)	French history and any history of its present/former colonial territories	Attendance of a one-off panel at non-UK or Irish conference
Society for French Studies Research Support	£500	ECRs without a permanent post or those without	French studies	Conference travel and other research

		any access to funding		
Barakat Trust	£1500	Postgraduate students and ECRs	Islamic world history and museums	Conferences and other research and training costs
BIPS ECR Conference Grant	£1000	A group of ECR conference panellists	Persianate world research	Conference registration fees for panellists, up to £200 each
HIAA Grabar Travel Grant	\$1000	Postgraduate students	Islamic art and heritage	Conference/professional meeting costs for speakers or chairs
Regional Studies Association	£500	RSA members	Sub-national studies	Travel to non-RSA conferences
Postcolonial Studies Association Scholars from Lower Income Countries Conference Assistance Fund	£500	Members from lower-income countries	Postcolonial studies	UK conference attendance
Postcolonial Studies Association	£500	Members	Postcolonial Studies	Conference attendance and other research costs
British Sociological Association Support Fund	£1000	UK BSA member for 1yr+, ECR, FT Student, Unwaged, Teacher, Retired	Sociology	Conferences and other research costs
British Sociological Association ECR Bursary	£500	BSA member for 1yr+, ECR	Sociology	Conference costs
Royal Musical Association	£400	Members – student or without institutional support	Music (including music ethnography)	Conferences and other research costs
ICOM UK Bursary Fund	£750 (Europe) £1000 (International)	ICOM member	ICOM conferences or sufficiently international conferences	Funding for online or in-person attendance
ISKO Conference Grant	£500	Undergrad or recent graduate	Knowledge Organisation	Travel to ISKO conferences and other KO-heavy conferences

## General Regional Grants

Only one grant on the list fits this category, but similar options may exist when looking at more specific inter-country options for international travel.

Name	Max Amount	Eligibility	Topic Restrictions	Coverage
Association of Commonwealth Universities Early Career Conference Grant	£2000	ECR at ACU member university		Presenting at conference at a Commonwealth country they do not live in

## On the Move: International Funding Guides

[On the Move](#) has created similar lists to support museum and heritage professionals travelling to and from countries and regions across the world, in multiple languages. These can vary in age, but their website hosts guides for:

### Americas and Oceania

- Regional:
  - Latin America
  - Latin America and the Caribbean
- Individual Countries:
  - Brazil
  - USA
  - Australia
  - New Zealand Aotearoa
  - Laos
  - Malaysia
  - Mongolia
  - Myanmar
  - Pakistan
  - Philippines
  - Singapore
  - South Korea
  - Taiwan
  - Thailand
  - Vietnam

### Africa and Asia

- Regional:
  - Africa
  - Asia
  - South Mediterranean Region
  - Arab States
- Individual Countries:
  - Bangladesh
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Cambodia
  - China
  - India
  - Indonesia
  - Japan
  - Kazakhstan

### Europe

- Regional:
  - Europe
  - Balkan Region
  - Nordic-Baltic Region
- Individual Countries:
  - Albania
  - Austria
  - Belgium
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Bulgaria
  - Croatia
  - Cyprus
  - Czechia
  - Denmark

- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kosovo
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- UK