

Strategy for Nature Fund

Bursary Guidance Notes

The Strategy for Nature (SfN) Fund offers financial support for environmental initiatives which aim to further the objectives of the Strategy for Nature and address negative drivers of change stated in the State of Nature 2024 report. The scheme is funded by the States of Guernsey Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services (ACLMS) and managed by the Nature Commission.

One part of the SfN Fund is a bursary to support students who wish to undertake research on the island of Guernsey and/ or Herm.

These guidance notes explain the application process and rules that apply to this bursary. Applicants are advised to read these notes before making an application.

Who can apply?

Any student who is (or will be during the next academic year) studying for an undergraduate degree, master's degree or a PhD in an environmental or natural history based course at an [accredited university](#) can apply for this bursary. The only requirement is that you undertake your research project or dissertation on data or a topic related to, or within, Guernsey and/or Herm.

Which research projects qualify?

To qualify, a project's main activity must:

- Meet the overall goals and at least one objective of the Strategy for Nature;
- Address one or more drivers of change stated in State of Nature 2024;
- Be based in Guernsey and/or Herm, or utilise data from Guernsey and/or Herm.

The area of study for the proposed research project may relate to specific species or habitats (marine, coastal or terrestrial) or may focus on environmental social science (i.e. general education and awareness).

The research project or dissertation may include the gathering of new data, or it may focus on the analysis and interpretation of existing data.

How to apply

Please complete the application form and send, together with supporting plans, images, maps, quotes or documentation that are relevant to your application. Please email your application form to office@naturecommission.gg.

Applications must be received by **9am on Monday 18th November 2024**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

For assistance or additional guidance in completing the application form, please contact the Nature Commission on office@naturecommission.gg.

Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed by an approval panel. The panel is comprised of representatives from the States of Guernsey and the Nature Commission. They will assess each application objectively and without bias, based on the below assessment criteria. Should any member of the panel believe they have a conflict of interest which does not allow them to review applications objectively, they will be asked to recuse themselves from review of that application.

All applications will be received and reviewed in confidence, however ACLMS and the Nature Commission reserve the right to promote or publicise all grants awarded, unless there are exceptional or legal reasons not to.

Assessment Criteria

The selection process will be conducted to ensure that all applicants are evaluated fairly, to ensure best value for money and that applicants fulfil all funding requirements. Applicants are evaluated in order to identify those most aligned with the Strategy for Nature and State of Nature 2024, whilst also ensuring they will achieve measurable and meaningful benefits. The selection criteria is as follows, along with the weight afforded to each criteria when considering an application.

1. Alignment with the objectives of the Strategy for Nature – 35%

Applications are assessed on their delivery of the Strategy for Nature objectives:

Objective 1 – Encourage everyone to get out into nature

Objective 2 – Increase awareness, understanding and support for nature

Objective 3 – Ensure the economic, social and environmental value of nature is understood and integrated into local decision making

Objective 4 – Ensure an integrated, broad-scale approach to the conservation and management of our nature

Objective 5 – Maximise the diversity of species and ecosystems

Objective 6 – Reduce pressures on nature and ensure the resilience of our natural capital and assets

Objective 7 – Bring nature to life through learning

Objective 8 – Share and use information effectively

Objective 9 – Improve knowledge about nature to inform decision making

2. Addressing drivers of change as stated in the State of Nature 2024 – 25%

Applications are assessed on whether they address one or more of the drivers of change stated in [State of Nature 2024](#).

- Land management

- Development and land use change
- Invasive non-native species
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Commercial/recreational fishing and harvesting
- Gaps in knowledge and understanding

3. Measurable benefits of the projects – 20%

Applicants should provide information on what benefit the research project will provide and how it will further our understanding of the natural environment of Guernsey and/ or Herm.

4. Academic track record – 20%

Applicants should provide results and evidence of previous studies including A levels, and any degrees where relevant. They may also include information of previous research projects or dissertations they have undertaken.

Payment

- The maximum funding for any one bursary is £3,000.
- Payment will be made upon approval of the bursary by the fund panel and subsequent receipt of a signed Bursary Agreement.
- Payment will be made by cheque or bank transfer into the successful applicant's designated bank account.

Conditions

1. Applicants do not need to have local residency status in Guernsey; however, you will be responsible for ensuring that you have any relevant permits necessary to undertake your research project.
2. The Nature Commission or ACLMS are not able to provide supervision for students. Applicants should ensure that they are assigned appropriate supervisors by their university if relevant.
3. Provision of funding is discretionary and applications may be rejected or deferred if they do not meet the assessment criteria, or due to budgetary constraints.
4. The panel reserves the right to set funding conditions relevant to each bursary. Any conditions set will be detailed in the Bursary Agreement.
5. The research project must be completed according to the Bursary Agreement, including ongoing reporting. Failure to comply with the Bursary Agreement may require all or part of the funding to be repaid.
6. The research project must be completed within the specified academic course. If the project is not completed within this timescale, ACLMS and the Nature Commission reserve the right to request all or part of the funding to be returned.
7. Copies of all records and details relating to each research project must be submitted to the Nature Commission, where they will be kept for a minimum of 6 years and be available for inspection by the Nature Commission, the Office *of the* Committee *for the* Environment

and Infrastructure, or their appointed agents during this period. [The full Fair Processing Notice for the Nature Commission can be found here.](#)

8. Subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, copies of all biological records and reports relating to each research project should be submitted to the Guernsey Biological Records Centre.
9. The Nature Commission and ACLMS reserve the right to withhold part or all of the payment, or require part or all of the payment to be re-paid if information provided in the application or in subsequent correspondence is found to be substantially or materially incorrect or incomplete.
10. The Nature Commission and ACLMS accept no liability in respect of loss due to any delay in the payment of funds, or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of funding.

Reviewed October 2024