

To continue to enhance the role that the CSG plays in supporting research into catfishes and to foster a closer relationship between scientists and aquarists, the committee is delighted to announce a Research Support Fund (RSF). The RSF will provide small sums (e.g., £500) to students and other researchers to support fieldwork, museum visits, laboratory work and page charges in peer-reviewed journals. Award recipients will agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal OR present their research at a CSG event via poster or talk. Like any new program, the RSF is a work in progress and we welcome the input of subscribing members. Email us at: secretary@catfishstudygroup.org

***Where does the money come from?***

RSF awards will be drawn from journal subscriptions, advertising revenue, member and corporate contributions, back issue purchases, donated auction lots and other fund-raising activities.

***How often will we make awards?***

We will invite applications on an annual basis in September, with the successful applicant(s) being announced via social media and at our annual convention the following March.

***Who is eligible to apply?***

Initially, we will open this to students and junior researchers that are subscribing members of the CSG. The committee discussed opening the competition to advanced aquarists, and we may try this in the future. But for now, we will invite applications from those enrolled or working with catfishes in a registered school, university, research institute or natural history museum. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time the award is made.

***What items, services or expenses should the award be used for?***

Awards will be used to offset travel costs for fieldwork (e.g., specimen collecting, museum visits or environmental measurements), equipment purchases (e.g., nets, meters, cameras, lenses, aquaria, lab consumables, software licenses, etc.), services (e.g., DNA sequencing and genome assembly, page charges in journals) and possibly the purchase of specimens (e.g., for observation, DNA samples, etc.).

***How do I apply?***

Applicants will complete an electronic form available from the CSG website. The form will include a brief description of the intended research project or trip, an itemized budget and a brief explanation for how the award will enable or enhance the work (see below).

***How will applications be judged?***

The committee and invited reviewers will independently review applications and assign scores on the basis of their merit, feasibility and appeal to CSG members. Scores will be assigned and the highest ranked application(s) will be funded in full or to the maximum amount available. None, one, or more than one application may be funded during each cycle. In the event that no applications are received or less than the maximum amount is awarded, the RSF will transfer funds to the next cycle and increase the number or size of awards accordingly. Finally, in order to receive the award, the successful applicant must agree to provide two articles for the CSG journal describing their project, its results, and how the award helped them in their work, or a talk or poster to be presented at a future CSG event.

**Applicant data**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Date of birth:**

**Institution and address:**

**Academic Advisor/Supervising Professor:**

**Current academic program (subject and level):**

**Funding amount requested in GBP:**

**Itemized budget in GBP**

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| **Item description** | **Cost in GBP** |
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| Total amount requested |  |

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**Project description and justification of funds requested**

If successful, I will provide two articles for the CSG journal or a talk or poster to be presented at a future CSG event describing the project, its results, and how the award has helped in its completion:

**Date:**

**Signature:**