



Société Jersiaise Roderick Dobson Award for Natural History

in memory of Jersey's multi-talented naturalist

July 2023

Registered Jersey Charity No: 114



*History,
culture,
language &
environment
since 1873*

**Constitution (and application process) of
the Société Jersiaise Roderick Dobson
Award for Natural History**

**In memory of Jersey's
multi-talented naturalist**

July 2023

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1. The purpose of the fund

The Société Jersiaise reinstated this awards scheme established in memory of Roderick Dobson, one of Jersey's most distinguished field naturalists. Roderick is best known for his *Birds of the Channel Islands* published in 1952. The award, originally intended to recognise original field work by school pupils, is now being widened to include school leavers, students, mature naturalists, and also groups.

This is an award to support people who are producing work in the natural history field. It can support writing, research projects, publications or other forms of production. Applicants will be expected to set out their previous work, and what future work the award will support.

Awards of up to £1,500 would be made on the understanding that the proposals would result in hard copy suitable for publication.

Definitions

The definition of 'research' in this document is the creation of new knowledge and interpretations.

The definition of 'field work' in this document is work done in the field.

1.1 Origin of the fund

The fund was originally established by the Société Jersiaise in memory of Roderick Dobson.

2. Distribution of the fund/ the nature of the awards

The fund will be awarded as one off grants whenever a suitable application is received.

2.1 Grants

These are one-off grants to pay for specific expenses incurred by research projects. It is open to school pupils, school leavers, students, mature naturalists, and also groups.

The Société Jersiaise encourages proposals as well as finished work.

Applicants may put forward a detailed synopsis of a proposed area of study backed up by an explanation of why an award would be justified.

The research should nonetheless meet the standards of quality and objectivity that would be required for inclusion in the Annual Bulletin.

The grants are designed to cover, or help with, expenses incurred by:

- research trips to Jersey, including possibly the provision of office facilities while working in Jersey
- work in the field
- retrieval / photographing / photocopying of archival material (where this cannot be accomplished remotely)
- publication of research in the form of scholarly monographs, a specialist work of writing (in contrast to reference works) or exhibition on a single subject or an aspect of a subject, often by a single author on a scholarly subject
- Purchase of essential equipment and materials

COST = single grants will range from £100 to a maximum of £1,500.

3. Administration of the fund grants

The Roderick Dobson fund is administered by the Société Jersiaise.

The committee awarding the grants will consist of:

Committee	Role
The President of the Société Jersiaise	To preside over the committee and to recruit suitable other members To oversee the safe running of the fund within the bounds of its constitution To ensure the grants are advertised appropriately To generate suitable media coverage for the fund (all of the above with support from the Société CEO)
Another member of the Société Jersiaise (at the invitation of the President)	To apply an interest in the natural environment and a knowledge of bringing research to a publishable level, in order to advise on award winners
One or more other members (as required for individual applications)	To provide specialist knowledge on specific subjects as required

The committee will meet at intervals relevant to the applications received at the direction of the President of the Société Jersiaise.

The committee will assess awards according to the terms set out in this constitution, and made clear in the application process. Brief informal enquiries to the Société CEO are welcomed, and will be forwarded to the committee.

4. Requirements of recipients/awarding of grants

Grants are not means-tested. They are, however, competitive, and awarded strictly on merit.

All recipients of awards will be obliged to:

1. Give at least one public lecture or presentation of their research in Jersey
2. Provide a report on their finished research for the Société Jersiaise Bulletin by an agreed date
3. Deposit a final copy of their research into the Lord Coutanche Library at the Société
4. Cooperate with the media to help promote the Roderick Dobson Award. The committee recognises the value of publicity generated by the funded research in further promoting the existence of the awards to other prospective researchers. The Société CEO will offer assistance in liaising with the media on the award holder's behalf.

5. Support for recipients

5.1 Possible areas of research to be undertaken

The Société is conscious that the Lord Coutanche Library collections and the Entomology collections constitute a huge body of work which could provide many different topics of study. The Librarian, Entomology Section and other natural history Sections (Ornithology, Mycology, Zoology, Botany, Environment, Marine Biology, Meteorology, Geology), will give advice on the many collections held and the range of various avenues that could be pursued. The Photo Archive is another important research resource. Research could be into new primary sources, or be fresh research on secondary sources. Remembering that the definition of research in this document is the creation of new knowledge and interpretations.

5.2 Supervision

To help students optimise their research time, support will be available from the Société Jersiaise, whose departments and Sections can provide help, advice, and introductions. Students should feel free to ask for guidance from the Société.

Recipients of grants should seek guidance in Jersey from those who can share existing knowledge and point them toward appropriate records and documents to research.

6. Application process

The one-off grants (of up to £1,500 for a year) are intended to pay for specific expenses incurred by research projects and are open to school pupils, school leavers, students, mature naturalists, and groups, able to produce a substantive body of work. Candidates are invited to submit their applications at any point in the year using the form on this link <https://www.societe.je/grants-scholarships/>

6.1 Applications

Applications must include:

- One off grant: State the amount that is requested and the purpose for which the funds are required.
- A Curriculum Vitae
- Two academic/scholarly referees to be provided.
- Research aims: an outline proposal of not more than 350 words on the research intended, where the main originality of the project lies, and how it meets the terms expressed in this constitution. The applicant should describe the aims and objectives of the proposal and explain the specific targets to be achieved. Explain how the proposed activities demonstrate values such as innovation, creativity and engagement. These are the principle criterion for support.
- Context: The applicant should describe the context for the proposed activities, clearly identifying any existing piece or body of research the proposed activities may be based on, and how the proposal will strengthen the impact of that research. Or outlining clearly any fresh work, and the purpose of it.
- Research activities: A description, not more than 250 words, of the specific activities that would be carried out if funding were to be agreed. The proposed (or completed) work should be fully explained, taking into account the scheme criteria. Justification should be provided for the chosen approach/methods.
- A description of the form in which the research will be submitted. Examples are: a substantive work that meets scholarly standards for publishing and/or dissemination, an academic paper or journal article, a lecture or lecture series.

- Outcomes and impact: Who will benefit and how and why does it matter? How are the specified aims and objectives being met? Describe what will happen at the end of the funding period.

7. Notification of award

Candidates will be notified in writing within one month of the receipt of the application whether they have been successful or not. The decision of the committee will be final.

8. Promotion of the grants

The importance of suitably-targeted publicity cannot be over-emphasised. The success of any grant scheme in stimulating research depends on how effectively the scheme, and therefore the research potential, is publicised.

9. Maintaining records

The CEO of the Société Jersiaise will maintain all records of the fund.

Terms and Conditions

The following applies to all grant support relating to this award:

- grants will be considered only for applications that are of direct importance to Jersey C.I.
- applications must be submitted in writing and include full information on the aims of the project and the targeted beneficiaries. If the application is site-based please provide: full site details including ownership/tenure; maps and site drawings; and time-scale and duration of the project along with a full and a detailed breakdown of the costs
- no grants for retrospective applications will be considered
- applications for support which will initiate longer term projects or stimulate funds from other sources will be encouraged
- applications of a commercial or a business nature or those which are intended to result in a financial benefit for the applicant will not be considered
- projects involving annual or seasonal repetition will not be considered beyond the initial cycle
- applications for research must provide a report for the inspection of the Fund Committee on completion of the project, within 4 months of project completion
- the grant(s) applies to the application specified in the application letter. It is not transferable
- money granted for a specified project cannot be transferred
- a request or invoice for money to the Fund for work carried out without written authorisation from the Fund Committee will not be paid
- unless provided for in the application, projects must be completed within 12 months of notification of support being provided. Should completion be delayed, authorisation to continue must be obtained from the CEO of the Société Jersiaise
- unclaimed funds will be written off after 12 months, unless otherwise agreed in writing and the applicant must re-apply to the scheme
- equipment purchased with grants from the Fund for temporary use in a research project will remain the property of the Fund and should be returned to the Fund when the research is completed as it may be used in other projects. Equipment purchased under these circumstances may continue to be used after the research is completed with written consent from the CEO
- no application for grant support can be made by any member of the Fund Committee and applications for funding a project from which a Committee members derives direct economic benefit will not be considered
- applications that result in the provision of services or equipment for the exclusive or general benefit of a Committee member cannot be considered
- the decision of the Fund Committee is final

