



Applicant's Guidelines



75th Anniversary Joint Grant for Promoting Soil Science

Document version 1.0

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1 Overview

On the occasion of the joint celebration of the 75th anniversary of both the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) and the Sociedad Española de la Ciencia del Suelo (SECS), we announce this grant call aiming at promoting collaboration between members of both societies for the benefit of Soil Science domain. There will be a grant available for the development and delivery of innovative teaching/outreach resources aiming at supporting and encouraging the education of Soil Science. The teaching/outreach resource will develop innovative ways of incorporating soil science within primary, secondary and/or tertiary settings. The resource in question will be developed in both English and Spanish language by a group of applicants involving at least one member of BSSS and one member of SECS. A team of a minimum of two applicants, one from each society, is required.

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) was founded in 1947 and is an established international membership organisation and charity committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects. The Society brings together those working within academia, practitioners implementing soil science in industry and all those working with, or with an interest in soils.

Also founded in 1947 by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the Spanish Society of Soil Science (Sociedad Española de la Ciencia del Suelo, SECS) promotes the cohesion and collaboration between soil science experts. The main objectives of SECS are to promote the study, knowledge, research and protection of the soil, and to disseminate the importance of the soil for our society.

We, BSSS and SECS, promote research and education, both academically and in practice, and build collaborative partnerships to help safeguard our soil for the future. This grant provides an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of nurturing our soils and the collaboration across countries for the benefit of the human society.

2 Eligibility and number of applicants

This grant scheme is intended for teachers, researchers, scientist, and professionals with a keen interest on soils conducting their main activity in the United Kingdom and Spain. There is no restriction on the profile of the applicants, but applications are particularly welcomed from Early Career scientist or professionals (see marking criteria).

When it comes to the Early Career status, the current grant assumes academic applicants are Early Career until past 5 years of the obtention of the PhD degree. Soil professionals will need to have up to 5 years of experience in the soil sector.

The application team must involve at least one member of BSSS and one member of SECS. A team of a minimum of two applicants, one from each society, is required. Single applicants belonging to both societies is not enough to meet eligibility criteria.

Eligibility questions can be asked to admin@soils.org.uk and secs@us.es

3 Award conditions and funding

One grant of up to £4,000 is available, which has been sponsored by BSSS and SECS.

The grant prize must be used to perform the development and, when relevant, delivery of teaching/outreach resources supporting and encouraging the education of soil science within primary, secondary and/or tertiary settings. The prize must not be used to pay salaries, overheads, attendance at conferences or to cover publication costs and the English and Spanish versions of the resource must be produced.

Please note that the submitted project must be **stand-alone, independent from the current activity** of the co-applicants: the money cannot be used to expand a component of an already funded activity.

Obtaining required permits and permissions required to undertake the funded project is the responsibility of the applicants.

The grant prize is given to the applicants and not to their organisations.

The project team will have to submit a 1-page report to the satisfaction of the grant sponsors, BSSS and SECS, at the end of the project.

4 Application

4.1 Application process

The application process comprises 4 steps:

Step 1. The documentation must be submitted online by the applicants to admin@soils.org.uk and secs@us.es by **31 January 2023 at 11:59pm**. This documentation includes:

- 1) an application form (see section 4.2)
- 2) a 1-page CV of each co-applicant (see section 4.3)
- 3) a case for support (see section 4.4)
- 4) a diagrammatic work plan (see section 4.5), and
- 5) a Justification of Resources (see section 4.6).

Step 2. Applications will be assessed by a joint committee of the BSSS and SECS. The award may be subject to conditions applied by the reviewing panel.

Step 3. The granted team will have **12 months to undertake the funded project**.

Step 4. At the end of the grant, a brief **1-page report must be submitted**. As required by BSSS and SECS, grant recipients agree to:

- Present at a future BSSS and SECS meeting (presenting remotely will be considered)
- Write an article to appear in a BSSS journal (European Journal of Soil Science and Soil Use and Management) and/or SECS journal (Spanish Journal of Soil Science) and/or websites
- Provide copyright-free images of the project or taken whilst completing the project which could appear in BSSS and/or SECS journals and/or websites
- Acknowledge the BSSS and SECS funding in all presentations, press releases, and activities relating to the grant output
- Provide any tangible outcomes of grant funding, which may include but is not limited to, factsheets, teaching materials, event programmes, to BSSS and SECS which will be hosted on the websites
- Provide an interview with, or complete a case study form, which will be used to promote the outcome of the grant award to BSSS and SECS members and the wider public via BSSS and SECS journals and/or websites.

BSSS and SECS may ask grant recipients to undertake additional activities to promote the outcome of the grant.

4.2 The application Form

Applicants will be required to complete the application form which will include the:

- title of the project/activity
- amount of funding requested
- names and roles of the applicants in the group

- project summary.

The summary is intended as an overview of the project suggested by the applicants targeting and should be aimed at both specialised and non-specialised public.

4.3 CV of the applicants

All co-applicants must provide a short CV (1 side of A4). The CV must state the ongoing research or related professional work with soil being undertaken by the co-applicant including, if needed, the title and a brief description of the research/work activity in question. When relevant, the CV must provide enough details to demonstrate the condition of Early Career of the applicant(s).

A full list of publications is not required. A selection of the publications most relevant for the case for support (see section 4.4) can be added to the CV.

4.4 Case for Support

Applicants must describe their plans for the grant in a case for support document (project) to be annexed to the application form. While writing the case for support, applicants should note the available assessment criteria (section 5).

In addition to the title of the project, it is suggested that the case for support includes:

- **Applicants.** Description of the applicants' profiles, their adequacy for the project, and their condition as Early Career, if relevant.
- **Background.** Describe briefly the relevant background and rationale to frame the project.
- **Aim of the project.** Describe the aim(s) of the suggested project including, when relevant, specific objectives.
- **Workplan.** This section should describe how the activity will be organised, describing relevant tasks, deliverables, and milestones. A diagrammatic work plan is optional but, if provided, must be submitted in a separate document.
- **Impact of the project.** Describe briefly how the project will contribute to support and encourage the knowledge of soil science.
- **Key references.** Include references cited at the end of the case for support. There is no specific style, but the reference must include sufficient information for reviewers to easily locate the sources listed.

The case for support document must be written in 11-point Arial font A4 size, with all page margins set to 2 cm. The page limit for the Case for Support is 2 sides of A4, including figures and references.

4.5 Diagrammatic workplan

A diagrammatic work plan illustrating the workplan described in the Case for Support is highly recommended but optional. This cannot be used to extend the case for support. Project-specific timelines, milestones and deliverables should be clearly and accurately shown.

Deliverables are distinct outputs of the action, meaningful to attain the action's overall objectives (e.g., reports, technical diagrams, ...). Milestones are check points in the action allowing to chart progress (e.g., completion of a key deliverable, critical decision point in the adoption of different technologies or strategies in the light of the action's development).

The workplan should not exceed 1 side of A4.

4.6 Justification of resources

The JoR is a free text document providing a justification of the funding amount requested on the application form.

We recommend matching the costs to the headings shown in Table 1. Subheading can be used to better explain the resources requested.

Table 1. Justification of Resources heading and brief description.

JoR heading	Description
Travel and subsistence	Resources required for travelling purposes (e.g., meetings).
Other directly incurred costs	Costs directly derived from the realisation of the project. For example, consumables or advertising costs should go in this heading.
Impact	Resources aimed at boosting the impact of the action among the general public.

5 Assessment criteria

The activity proposed will be assessed according to:

- (i) Quality and originality of the proposed activity (50%)

- (ii) Impact potential across the identified stakeholders (20%)
- (iii) Feasibility (20%)
- (iv) Scientific/professional age of the application team (10%).

For further details, see marking guide document.