



Guidance for Applicants

1 In order to be considered for financial support from the Trust, projects must

- **be relevant**
 - to UK forestry in the broadest sense
 - to wider UK forestry research priorities
- **have clear**
 - objectives / research questions
 - methods
 - expected research outcomes
 - timeframes
- **have additional funding** from other sources

2 The Trust will not normally support

- projects that have already started
- projects that are the statutory responsibility of other organisations
- general appeals

and will not fund

- major capital costs
- working capital costs
- equipment hire costs
- overheads

3 Intervention rates/payment

Assistance from the SFT will not normally exceed 30% of eligible project costs and will not normally provide more than £20,000 in any one year to a given project. There may be exceptions to this general position if the project is particularly significant in impact terms and the Trustees will take a flexible approach where it is appropriate to do so. All awards are paid net of VAT, which will not be eligible as part of the grant award. All payments of grant are made by cheque ONLY.

4 Open Access

Where possible, we wish to support open access to the results of projects and research that we support. We realise that there is a cost attached to securing open access rights and are willing to consider this cost as an eligible item of expenditure to which our intervention rates would apply.

5 Full applications and concept notes

Full applications are required for all project proposals, but applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the Director and to submit a concept note before writing a full application. Full applications and concept notes must be submitted using the Trust's forms.

6 Project assessment

Each project is assessed by a sub-committee of Trustees. Further details are available on our website. Applications are reviewed to ensure that there is good relevance to the Trust's aims and objectives; the proposal represents good value for money and has contributory funding in place and, importantly, has a strong project rationale and method description with clear evidence of prior experience, collaboration with others and shows an appropriate dissemination plan.

7 Appeals

The decision of the Trustees is final and no appeals will be considered under any circumstances.

8 After approval

Full information is contained here <http://www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk/once-your-application-is-approved.asp> We will require to see evidence that your project is fully funded before you start and certainly before you seek a payment from the Trust. If compelling evidence is presented that you are unable to find additional funding once you have received our initial approval offer, we may, in exceptional circumstances, agree to a variation of approval not exceeding 50% of total eligible costs.