Early Career Researchers Conference Fund

Introduction

The purpose of this funding initiative is to provide support for conference attendance by recently qualified forestry researchers (those with fewer than 4 years post-doctoral experience, or for non-doctoral staff fewer than 7 years post-graduate experience) who are employed in UK research institutes. The support is aimed at staff attending conferences both in the UK and overseas at which they may be involved in presentations (including posters) or actively building networks or contacts linked to future research funding proposals. Those attending will be expected to provide the Trust with a short report on their experience at the event including any networking outcomes achieved. Applications should be submitted on behalf of the attendees by the employing organisation.

This is a time limited fund and has a defined budget of £10,000. Applications will be accepted up until the end of March 2023, but may close earlier if all the funds have been allocated.

Eligible Events

The Trust will provide funding for up to three researchers per conference.

Events should be

- Held either in the UK or overseas but must include international participants present;
- concerned with research topics related to or impacting on forestry in the UK.
- Structured in such a way as to maximise networking and visit opportunities
- Provide participants with an opportunity to present a topic at conference or support a poster session to inform delegates.
- Take place no later than 30th September 2023.

Eligible items for support include

- Reasonable travel costs to and within the Conference
- Reasonable accommodation costs
- Event registration fees
- Cost of meals not already provided for in the registration fees.

Support will not be available for

- CPD events required by professional bodies and institutes
- Conferences held to convey information about statutory requirements related to forestry
- Internal organisation training events

Intervention Rates/ Payment

Support will be available for up to three eligible researchers per Conference. Assistance from the Trust will be applied at a rate of 30% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £1,000 per attendee. All awards are paid net of any reclaimable VAT. All payments will be paid in arrears following submission of a claim with supporting evidence of expenditure and a satisfactory written report, suitable for publication on our website.

Applications Process

Applications must be submitted using the Trust's Early Researcher Conference Attendance Application Form available to download from our website **– insert link**. Each application will be assessed by the Chair of the Trust's Projects and Research Committee and the Director. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that the researcher, conference and activity proposed is eligible, that there is a good match between the proposal and the Trust's aims and objectives, that the proposal represents good value for money and that the match funding is in place from other sources. If more than three applications are received for researchers proposing to attend the same conference they will be considered on a first come first served basis.

Appeals

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

After Approval

Full information relating to what will happen should your application be approved is available here. It is important you read and understand this, particularly the section regarding acknowledging any Scottish Forestry Trust funding support.

We expect to be able to use any reports provided from successful applicants on our website and therefore any reports should be written with that in mind.

If more than one researcher from an institute is attending a Conference with SFT's support, the employing organisation, and claimant, should consolidate the reports from the different researchers into a single report.

Reports along with a claim for funds with accompanying evidence of costs incurred (copies of receipts) should be submitted to the Director.