

Research Grant Scheme

Application Package 2025–26

If you require this document or the form in an alternative, accessible format, then please contact the [SLSA Administrator](#).

Guidance Notes

The Board of the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) has determined that funds will be set aside annually for the award of research grants. We welcome and encourage applications for research funding in all areas of socio-legal studies.

Terms and Conditions

- Applications will be considered only from those who are fully paid-up members (or registered as free student members) of the SLSA. Fees are payable through the members' area of the website. Contact the [SLSA Administrator](#) for queries about membership fees.
- If an applicant's fees are due during the period of the funding scheme (between November and end of February) then they will be asked to pay their future fees prior to acceptance of the application.
- No individual grant will exceed £4000.
- Decisions will be communicated in early February 2026. All projects funded through this year's competition must be scheduled for completion by 31 January 2027.
- Applications cannot be made to retrospectively cover work already undertaken. Grants can only cover work scheduled to be carried out after the award is announced (i.e. from February 2026).
- Joint applications are welcome and particularly encouraged where permanent members of academic staff are partnering with precarious/unaffiliated researchers. Any such application must specify the institution to which payment should be made.
- The application must be costed in, and any award will be made in, GBP (£s).
- A member of the SLSA shall be awarded a maximum of one research grant per year.
- No award may be made to a member of the Board of Trustees of the SLSA.
- The Research Grants Committee will make an annual report to the Board about the number and quality of applications for awards and the awards actually made.
- The scheme will be advertised regularly in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* and weekly e-bulletin.

- Recipients of awards will be required to submit to the *Socio-Legal Newsletter* a brief (max 200 words) summary at the start of their project. In addition, after completion of their research and no later than 30 April 2027 – except in special circumstances and with the agreement of the Newsletter Editor and/or Chair of the Research Grants Committee – recipients must submit a final report (max 350 words) for publication in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*; OR contribute a blog to the SLSA Blog (max 1000 words); OR submit a video for the SLSA YouTube channel. Applicants should liaise with the Grants Committee Chair and the Newsletter Editor about their reporting choice.
- If the above condition is not fulfilled (i.e. the applicant does not provide a report on the project) then the SLSA will approach the applicant's institution to seek a refund of the award. Furthermore, the applicant will be barred from applying for future grants until the report is provided.
- Grant recipients will be required to acknowledge the fact of the award in any publication which stems from the research funded by the award.

Organisation of Awards

Awards will be made by the SLSA Board. If there is any conflict of interest such that a member of the Board feels that they are unable to reach an unbiased decision about an application, they shall withdraw whilst the decision is made about that application. If, in the opinion of the SLSA Board, there are insufficient appropriate applications to justify allocating the full sum available in the fund then the Board will make only such awards as it considers appropriate.

Criteria

In making awards, the SLSA Board shall consider *inter alia* the criteria set out on the [Application Form](#) which are summarised as follows:

- clarity of the aim/s and objective/s of the research;
- originality, innovativeness and importance of the research;
- methodology (including coherence with aim/s and objective/s, practicability, and, if applicable, ethical considerations);
- budget; and
- potential impact.

Funding will not normally be provided for the support of conference attendance (unless such attendance is itself integral to a research project) or the subsidising of postgraduate or other course fees. Postgraduate student members of the SLSA should consider applying for funding under the [SLSA PhD Fieldwork Grant Scheme](#).

The Research Grants Scheme covers costs for 'research' only, which excludes, *inter alia*, costs for teaching buy-out, institutional overheads, or applications solely for funding conferences/seminars, which fall within the scope of the [SLSA Seminar Competition](#).



Privacy

The data supplied to the SLSA in the application process will be used solely for the purposes of processing your grant application, informing you of the outcome, and making any relevant payments. The name, institutional affiliation, amount awarded, and project title of successful applicants will be recorded on our [website](#) and in the *Socio-Legal Newsletter*. We will check the SLSA membership database for your current membership status. Our legitimate basis for processing your data under Article 6 of GDPR is the performance of a contract. Any queries or data access requests should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#) in the first instance.

How to Apply

- All applications must be submitted online using the appropriate online forms. These forms are available via the [SLSA Funding Schemes Page](#) and in the dropdown menu within the members' section. Applications can only be submitted by members with a registered account and who have an [active membership subscription](#).

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- The strictly enforced deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.
- In the case of joint applications, the person applying through the online form will be treated as the lead applicant. If applicants are employed in different institutions, payment will be made to the lead applicant's institution.

- Applicants must name an Academic Referee who has been provided with a copy of the Application Form and consents to act as a referee. Referees may be contacted if an application is short-listed.
- The lead applicant's Head of Department, Research Director or other appropriate officer must complete the [endorsement form](#), which must be uploaded as part of the application.
- Applicants are asked to cost their proposal clearly and precisely (or as best as possible). Costing particulars should have specific headings for all parts of the claim.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the scheme and application process should be addressed to the [SLSA Administrator](#).