PhD Fieldwork 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 Fieldwork Grant Scheme's aim is to support fieldwork for which other funding sources are not available and to encourage socio-legal research initiatives in a practical way. The Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) welcomes and encourages applications from PGR members 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.
- The applicant must have completed their first year of PhD study (or part-time equivalent) before funding will be made available.
- No individual grant will exceed £2000.
- Decisions will be communicated in early February 2026. All fieldwork 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).
- The application must be costed in, and any award will be made in, GBP (£s).
- A PGR member shall be awarded no more than one grant in respect of the same PhD.
- 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 ebulletin.

- 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 300 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 Research Grants Committee 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); and
- budget.

The SLSA will award funding where applicants have exhausted the possibilities for obtaining funding from their own institution or any other relevant sources. The SLSA would not normally fund fieldwork for postgraduate students funded by Research Councils where the fieldwork is integral to the PhD. 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.
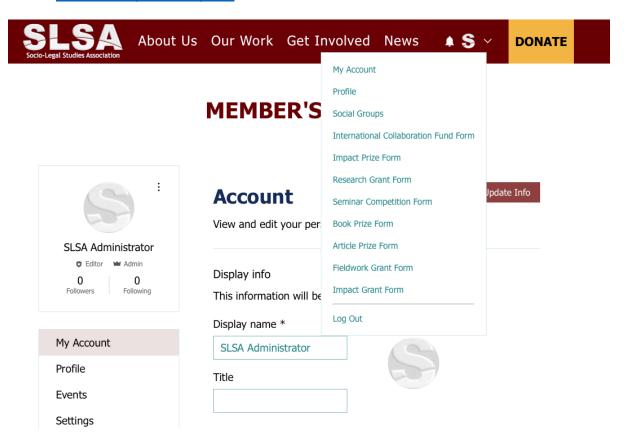
The PhD Fieldwork Grant Scheme will not cover costs for teaching buy-out, institutional overheads, or applications solely for funding conferences/seminars, which fall within the scope of the [SLSA Seminar Competition](#).

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.

- The strictly enforced deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**.
- The applicant must upload with their application the PhD Fieldwork Grant Supervisor Certification Form. This must be signed by the supervisor, certifying that no other funding for the fieldwork costs applied for is available from the institution.

- 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](#).