

PGS TRAVEL AWARDS

OPs and pupils aged 16 to 23 who are still in full-time education and who are planning a travel experience either during the school holidays or a gap year, are able to apply for a range of travel awards.

Three awards are available – the Tim McDowall Travel Award, the OP Club Travel Grant and the Young Explorer’s Award (available for pupils on British Exploring Society expeditions).

Each award has certain eligibility criteria. In general, the travel experience needs to be voluntary, charitable or educational in nature or result in other personal development. It also needs to be organised by an individual rather than involving participation in a group venture organised by the school.

Name of Award	Summary Criteria
<p>Tim McDowall Travel Award</p> <p>Up to £500 annually shared between successful applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For PGS pupils aged 16 or over. • To enable PGS pupils to undertake activity of an educational, medical, social welfare, community development, environmental, scientific or volunteer nature in the UK or overseas • To enable personal development. • Clear reasons for going on chosen travel need to be provided. • Must have some significance beyond own personal enjoyment. • Favours less financially fortunate pupils.
<p>OP Club Travel Grant</p> <p>Up to £3,000 annually shared between successful applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For pupils at PGS aged 16 or over or alumni aged between 16 and 23 who are still in full time education. • The proposed travel must have some significance. Consideration will be taken into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How the trip will help with your personal/professional development ○ How the trip will benefit others ○ Any voluntary work undertaken and how this will impact on the local community ○ How the trip will enhance your work experience or education. <p>For a full set of criteria, please contact the Development Office on development@pgs.org.uk</p>
<p>Young Explorers Award</p> <p>Up to £1,000 annually shared between successful applicants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For PGS pupils aged 16 or over participating in the British Exploring Society (BES) expedition programme. • Need to be accepted on a BES expedition before can apply for the Young Explorers award.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Applicants should submit:
 - A letter of application describing the purpose of the activity
 - A budget for the whole trip
 - An up-to-date CV
 - A reference from a member of your teaching staff (either PGS or university)
 - Details of other sources of funds (including other grants sought)
2. Detailed information on applying for the 'OP Club Travel Grant' is provided separately. Please request a copy from the Development Office by emailing development@pgs.org.uk
3. Pupils applying for the 'Young Explorer's Award' need to be accepted on a British Exploring Society expedition before being eligible. Further details can be found on www.britishexploring.org
4. Applications for the awards should be sent to the PGS Development Office on development@pgs.org.uk

ADDITIONAL POINTS

1. A letter or email of thanks (addressed to the award benefactor) must be provided before receipt of the award.
2. Any grants will normally be provided via a cheque once the recipient has provided evidence of their travel booking (e.g. a copy of a flight booking).
3. If an individual does not undertake the planned activity, any award paid must be returned in full.
4. Awards will not normally be made for travel to countries where the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) currently recommends against travel.
5. The welfare of any individual undertaking any activity funded by a PGS Travel Award is entirely the responsibility of that individual.
6. A brief report (approx. 3 pages A4) on the travel experience is required within one month of the completion of the activity. The report should include the following.
 - Description of the travel experience – where it was, what it involved, activities.
 - A summary of what was gained from the travel experience in terms of personal development and acquiring new skills (e.g. working in a team, leadership etc.), broadening horizons and the impact on future plans and ambitions.
 - Photos, if possible.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

While the COVID-19 pandemic is underway and the FCDO is advising against non-essential international travel, normal application deadlines are suspended. Instead, applications will be considered on a rolling basis as travel advice evolves.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office on development@pgs.org.uk