



TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AWARD FUND (TAAF)

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION'S AWARD FUND*

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY AWARDS

The Tropical Agriculture Award Fund (TAAF) is now inviting applications from MSc students in natural resource subjects, for awards of up to £1000 to enable them to undertake overseas studies and assignments (normal minimum duration 8 weeks) relevant to their on-going studies.

Purpose of the TAAF award fund

The purpose of the TAAF is to assist young British nationals or long term UK residents to gain experience and understanding of overseas rural development with a view to:

- Bringing benefits to the local community and recipient country;
- Opening possible paths to a career in development;
- Contributing to knowledge and understanding in the UK of development issues;
- Contributing to links between UK institutions and developing countries.

Applicant qualifications

Applicants for TAAF MSc awards are normally required to be UK citizens or long term residents of the UK, to hold a first degree in a natural resources-related discipline, to have a serious interest in international development and to be under 30 years of age.

Selection criteria

15 University Departments offering MSc courses in natural resources-related subjects relevant to overseas development are being invited to put forward suitable candidates for these awards. A maximum of five applicants, shortlisted by department heads, will be considered from each university.

Priority will be given to strong applicants with well prepared proposals relevant to the needs of the local population, and with a commitment to working in the long term in development.

Endorsement of candidates by the Head of Department, and confirmation from the host institution of willingness to receive and support the applicant, are essential requirements.

Awards available

For the current academic year the maximum number of awards available is expected to be 10 (not more than 3 from any one university). Depending on demand and funds available this number may increase in future years.

* Chairman: Antony Ellman. Email: taa_award_fund@taa.org.uk
Secretary: Dr Jim Watson. Email: secretary_tAAF@taa.org.uk
Treasurer: Jim Ellis-Jones. Email: treasurer@taa.org.uk

Application and reporting procedure

The application procedure and reporting requirements are described in Annex I.

Applications and referee's comments should be emailed to: taa_award_fund@taa.org.uk with copy to secretary_tAAF@taa.org.uk no later than 31 March.

The TAAF committee expects to announce awards by 30 April.

Notes

- (1) TAAF also offers awards of up to £2000 for overseas projects of minimum 6 months. Details of the application procedure for these awards can be found on the TAA web site www.taa.org.uk (click [TAAF](#)).
- (2) The offer of a two-month TAAF award does not exclude awardees from putting in future applications for a six-month award.

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ANNEX I: Application and reporting procedure

Application procedure

Applications for eight week study awards must comprise:

1. A completed application form, which can be downloaded from the [TAA web site](#).
2. Outline of the proposed study and travel (the proforma is included in the application form). The following information should be provided:
 - a. Aims and objectives of the project;
 - b. Relation to Masters' study;
 - c. Wider relevance and impact of the project with particular reference to the objectives of the TAAF;
 - d. Support offered by the overseas host institution (copies of correspondence indicating the host institution's willingness to support the student **MUST** be attached);
 - e. Budget breakdown for travel, living and research expenses, and statement of the amount requested (to a maximum of £1000).
3. A single A4 sheet should provide references from the Applicant's Supervisor and from the Head of Department
 - a. The Supervisor should comment on the candidate's potential, on the added-value of the study/travel in relation to the on-going course of study and on the feasibility of achieving the objectives of the project, and should confirm that there are specific contacts with the overseas hosts. Other comments which will assist the Committee in selecting outstanding candidates and proposals for the award will be welcomed.
 - b. The Head of Department is asked to endorse the Supervisor's recommendation and to provide any other comments that may be of use to the Committee.

Applicants are advised that late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Head of Department is asked to forward the applications and referee comments in a single e-mail to secretary_tAAF@taa.org.uk no later than 31 March.

Administration of the awards and reporting procedure

Applicants and Heads of Department will be notified of the outcome of their submissions by email not later than 30 April.

Awards will be paid directly to the successful applicants. A member of the TAAF Committee with experience in the research field of the applicant will be assigned to each awardee as professional mentor, and will act as the TAAF contact person with the awardee.

Awardees must submit a report to TAAF, endorsed by their Course Supervisor, before the end of their course of study. The report template can be downloaded from the TAA website (click on TAAF and MSc/Masters Award)

As extracts from the reports may be published in the TAA Journal or on the website, confidential or sensitive information must be clearly highlighted in the report.