

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN & NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

Registered Charity no. 259262

www.bilnas.org

APPLICATIONS FOR BILNAS FLAGSHIP RESEARCH SCHEME

Guidance Notes for Applicants

In 2022, the Society for Libyan Studies (SLS) evolved into the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS) (www.bilnas.org). To mark this development, BILNAS is offering **two Flagship Research Grants of £20,000** to support researchers working in the social sciences and humanities on projects focused on Northern Africa. Grants are tenable for up to 24 months starting from **30 September 2023**. Applicants must be postdoctoral scholars (at any career stage) ordinarily resident in the UK.

Through this funding scheme, BILNAS aims to support UK-based researchers to support primary research in the humanities and social sciences that advances in particular our understanding of historical, social, political, economic developments and challenges in Northern Africa. Disciplines include, but are not limited to: anthropology, history, art history, archaeology, heritage management, education, geography, the natural and social sciences, literature, linguistics, and political science. Applications are welcomed from those working in Northern Africa (Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali, Chad, Sudan) or who explore connections between Northern Africa and the Mediterranean or the African Continent.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- They must be postdoctoral scholars who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and must hold a PhD. To be 'ordinarily resident' in the UK you must show that you habitually and normally reside in the UK from choice and for a settled purpose, year after year. Co-applicants may be from anywhere in the world, but the Principal Applicant must be ordinarily resident in the UK.
- Applications from early career researchers and established researchers are encouraged. Joint applications may be made (with UK or international partners), but only one person (the 'Principal Investigator') will be recognised as the applicant. The Principal Investigator will be held responsible for the fulfilment of the terms of any grant awarded.

What can be funded:

Awards are available for the direct costs of primary research, including:

- travel and maintenance away from home, including travel to disseminate results of the research at conferences held either in the UK or abroad;
- research assistance or short-term costs for specialist staff (based in the UK or abroad);
- workshops or conferences to advance the programme of research (principally the costs of travel and maintenance for key participants, though organisational costs may be considered);
- consumables, including expendable field equipment or laboratory costs;
- specialist software;
- costs of government representatives in the field;
- essential charges made by local government agencies;
- costs of interpreters in the fields;
- open-access fees associated with publishing in the BILNAS monograph series or journal (*Libyan Studies*);
- in certain cases, costs of preparing illustrative material and fees for reproduction rights;
- costs associated with deposit of digital material in an appropriately accessible repository.

The following items are not eligible for support:

- FEC or other institutional overheads;
- computer hardware;
- books;
- permanent resources or equipment, such as vehicles or EDMs;
- publication costs other than those specified above;
- payment in lieu of salary, or for personal maintenance at home;
- replacement teaching costs;
- expenses for attendance at conferences.

*Please note that research assistance costs for UK-based research assistants should normally be based on the University pay scale, with point 24 suggested for those with a Masters degree and point 29 for those with a Doctorate. If a variation on this figure is requested, please supply justification.

Referees

Applicants are required to supply the names and contact details of **ONE referee**, who should be asked to write directly to BILNAS with an assessment both of the value of the project and of the ability of the applicant to complete it successfully. The referee should normally be the external examiner or a senior colleague in the field from another university or, if not available, someone else who is as external to the applicant as possible. The applicant's PhD supervisor(s) cannot act as referee. N.B. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that BILNAS receives the reference by the application deadline: no application will be considered in their absence.

Publication and outputs

Applicants should include a clear and feasible plan of their outputs and public dissemination activities, including at least one substantive output in leading journals for their discipline. Applicants are encouraged to consider the opportunity of publication in the Institute's journal *Libyan Studies* or as a monograph in the BILNAS series, where appropriate. If publication elsewhere is anticipated, this should be indicated in the application.

Reporting and Terms

Any grant awarded must be disbursed by **30 September 2023** and spent by **30 September 2025**. In the case of unforeseen delays to the planned research, a formal request for extension should be made by **1 February 2025** at latest. A report on the outcomes and expenditure of the grant will be required by **31 October 2025**. Awardees will also be asked to give a public lecture on their research that will be recorded and made accessible on the BILNAS website to reach further interested audiences either during the award period, or soon after (dates to be agreed with BILNAS in due course).

Application Formats

Applications should be submitted via email no later than midnight on **25 August 2023**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications should include: **(1) the application form** (see page 3 below); **(2) your full CV**, including list of publications if any; **(3) contact details of one referee**. Please send all these documents to:

Pauline Graham, General Secretary, BILNAS gensec@bilnas.org

BILNAS FLAGSHIP GRANT SCHEME

Title of project:	
Abstract of project (max 150 words):	

Surname of applicant:	
First name(s) of applicant:	
Postal address:	
Email address:	
Telephone contact no(s).:	
Date of birth:	Nationality:
If you are not of British nationality, please confirm that you are normally resident in the UK:	
Present position or occupation:	

Case for support (max. 1500 words). Provide a project outline and case for support that explains the research context, aims and objectives of the project, the methodology, and its scholarly relevance within the respective field. This should also include a timetable/plan for the research, any relevant language or research skills, and how any particular challenges of working in these regions will be addressed.
Details of proposed outputs and dissemination activities (max. 500 words). Provide details of the envisaged outputs (journal articles, books etc.), dissemination activities (e.g. public lectures, workshop/ conference, website/ blogposts, social media, podcasts etc.) and where applicable, the deposit of any digital data produced during the project. Please note which outputs will be open access.

Budget:	Itemised breakdown of estimated expenditure (including all costs up to the point of submitting a report for publication):

Names and contact details of ONE referee:	
If you have previously received an award from BILNAS (formerly the Society for Libyan Studies), please indicate the project name and date:	

<i>Please state briefly how you heard about this award scheme:</i>	(e.g., familiar with BILNAS website; web search; departmental contact; other)
<i>Signature and date of application:</i>	