

BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR LIBYAN & NORTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES

Registered Charity no. 259262

www.bilnas.org

APPLICATIONS FOR CELIA HENSMAN GRANTS

Guidance Notes for Applicants

In 2022 BILNAS received a legacy from the late Celia Hensman which has enabled us to offer small grants to support UK-based students to participate in **field projects, research programmes, language courses, and training courses in Northern Africa**. These can encompass all disciplines supported by BILNAS, which include, but are not limited to: archaeology, history, art history, geography, natural and social sciences, anthropology, literature, linguistics, and political sciences. These projects/programmes can take place in any of the Northern African countries within the remit of BILNAS: Libya, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Mali, Chad, Sudan.

The Celia Hensman Grants are designed to support undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at UK universities in participating in projects or language programmes in Northern Africa where they are able to develop applied skills for the future.

The maximum amount of each grant is **£1,000**. Funds can be used for travel and subsistence costs and project/programme fees.

Eligibility

The Celia Hensman Grants are open to students currently enrolled on an undergraduate or postgraduate programme (Bachelors, Masters, and PhD) at any higher education institution in the United Kingdom. Applicants may be of any nationality but must be resident in the UK and have a UK bank account. Anyone who has been awarded a BILNAS grant in the past, in any category, cannot reapply for any of the available grants for at least 1 year after the date of acceptance of the previous award. In order to ensure fairness, awards cannot be given to members of the BILNAS Council: should they wish to apply they must resign.

What can be funded:

- travel and subsistence to attend projects/programmes in Northern Africa;
- fees to participate in projects/programmes;
- essential charges made by local government agencies (e.g. visa costs).

Referees

Applicants are required to supply the name and contact details of **ONE academic referee**, who should be asked to write directly to BILNAS with an assessment both of the value of the project/programme and of the ability of the applicant to complete it successfully. **The referee should be your dissertation/ PhD Supervisor, Personal Tutor, or a Staff Member of your own institution or university** who is of recognised status and position, and who has agreed to supervise the grant if this is awarded. The reference must clearly indicate agreement to be responsible for overseeing the work, comment on the quality and viability of your proposal, and demonstrate an assessment of any risks involved.

N.B. It will be the applicant's responsibility to ensure that BILNAS receives the reference by the application deadline: no application will be considered in their absence.

Reporting and Terms

Any grant awarded must be accepted by **30 April 2026** and spent by **31 March 2027**. Grants are only awarded for a single year. In the case of unforeseen delays to the planned project/programme, a

formal request for extension should be made by **1 September 2026** at latest. A report on the expenditure of the grant will be required by **30 April 2027**.

Application Formats

Applications should be submitted by email. Please complete the form below and submit it to:

Victoria Leitch, General Secretary, BILNAS
gensec@bilnas.org

CELIA HENSMAN GRANT FORM

Personal data

<i>Surname of applicant:</i>	
<i>First name(s):</i>	
<i>Postal address:</i>	
<i>Email address:</i>	
<i>Telephone contact no(s).:</i>	
<i>Nationality:</i>	
<i>Current Higher Education Institution:</i>	
Academic Record (max. 500 words) List current and any previous degree course (give dates, degree title and qualification and classification awarded); previous fieldwork experience (if relevant); languages (and levels reached); any other experience that may be relevant to your application.	

Project details

<i>Date, duration, and location of project/programme:</i>	
Project summary (max. 300 words). Clearly specify the objectives of the proposed project or training, the programme of activities, and your reasons for pursuing it.	
<i>Please confirm that you will follow the guidelines for health and safety (including ethics and risk assessment and travel insurance) recommended by your academic institution.</i>	
<i>Have you use AI to write or to review parts of this application? Yes or no</i>	
<i>Itemised breakdown of estimated expenditure</i>	
<i>Total amount requested from BILNAS (max £1,000):</i>	
<i>Details of other grants applied for and results where</i>	

<i>Names and contact details of ONE referee:</i>	
<i>If you have previously received an award from BILNAS (formerly the Society for Libyan Studies), please indicate the project name and date:</i>	
<i>Please state briefly how you heard about this grant scheme:</i>	(e.g., familiar with BILNAS website; web search; departmental contact; other)
<i>Signature and date of application:</i>	