

# Learning & Leading: Gap Scholarships

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

## ● Support for young geographers to undertake pre-university gap experiences

... The RGS-IBG Learning & Leading Gap Scholarships will be awarded to young geographers who, through challenging circumstances or lack of opportunity, would not normally benefit from such an experience. The scholarships are offered to post A Level (or equivalent)/pre university students who wish to take a year out (a gap year).

Each scholarship includes a bursary of up to £4,000 plus support and mentoring to plan and prepare for the gap experience.

Part or all of the gap year will be spent undertaking meaningful learning experiences abroad. The kinds of activities that might be undertaken by participants include fieldwork, expeditions, cultural exchanges, conservation, research, teaching, educational courses and independent travel amongst others.

Applications are currently being invited from students wishing to take a gap experience between **summer 2010 & autumn 2011**. (You cannot apply postdate).

The overall purpose of the programme is to increase opportunities and motivation for self development among young people, through learning outdoors and the experience of studying and experiencing 'new' environments and cultures.

### Eligibility guidelines

#### Applicants to be:

- In a maintained school/6<sup>th</sup> form college completing A Level/Advanced Higher /IB /equivalent in geography in summer 2010
- Submitted or intending to submit an application to study geography at degree level at a UK HEI
- A UK national and resident in the UK
- Taking a year out between school/college and HEI
- Wishing to spend at least part of the year undertaking meaningful activities and learning opportunities abroad

### Judging Criteria

- Applicants must demonstrate a clear argument for why and how this opportunity would make a difference to them in terms of their personal development, later study of geography/related subject, career etc.
- Applicants must demonstrate why it is an opportunity that would not otherwise be available to them.
- Applicants must outline the kind of activities they would be interested in undertaking.
- Applicants must demonstrate how their participation in a gap experience through Learning & Leading is outside their previous experience
- Applicants must commit to becoming an active Geography Ambassador for the Society. More details about the Ambassadors programme can be found at [www.rgs.org/ambassadors](http://www.rgs.org/ambassadors) They should also be willing to commit to share experiences with others at their own institution and through the project website more broadly and in the longer-term
- Applicants must commit to undertake detailed research and planning (with the guidance of the Society and their mentor) to plan a meaningful gap experience (the nature of which will be decided as part of the planning process). The gap scholar's gap experience proposal must be agreed by the Society.

### Application procedure

Full application details are available to download from [www.rgs.org/learning&leading](http://www.rgs.org/learning&leading)

Applicants should read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' before submitting an application. Only application forms will be accepted. The questions should be answered fully to meet the judging criteria. Applications should be completed electronically and submitted as an email attachment to the Project Co-ordinator at the Society by **16<sup>th</sup> October 2009**.

A supporting statement needs to be completed by the student's geography teacher and emailed to the Project Co-ordinator by **16<sup>th</sup> October 2009**.



Teachers should refer to the 'Referee Guidelines' downloadable from [www.rgs.org/learning&leading](http://www.rgs.org/learning&leading) and should also see a completed copy of the student's application form.

If you are under 18 and are successful in your application we will require a written statement of agreement from your parents/guardian.

If you intend to submit an application, or have any queries about the programme, please contact the Project Co-ordinator at the Society: [landl@rgs.org](mailto:landl@rgs.org)

#### **Selection process**

- Applications will be assessed by an external panel of experts
- Shortlisted applicants will be requested to attend an interview at the RGS-IBG in London (or conducted via 'Skype' if travel time prevents attending in person)
- Travel expenses to and from the interview will be paid

#### **Welcome & Induction Day**

- Applicants accepted onto the scheme will need to attend a welcome and induction day at the Society in London. Travel expenses will be paid for this

#### **Contact/ Applications**

For applications or any questions about the programme, please contact:

Amber Sorrell

Project Co-ordinator: Learning & Leading

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR

T: (0) 20 7591 3180

F: (0) 20 7591 3031

E: [LandL@rgs.org](mailto:LandL@rgs.org)

W: [www.rgs.org/Learning&Leading](http://www.rgs.org/Learning&Leading)

**The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) offers many other grants for different areas of geographical research at different career stages. Full details of all grants can be found at [www.rgs.org/grants](http://www.rgs.org/grants)**

# Learning & Leading: Geography teacher master-classes

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## ● Funded teacher weekend fieldwork master-class: London & 2012 Olympics, 6-8<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Each academic year the RGS-IBG *Learning & Leading* programme is providing geography teachers from UK maintained schools, the opportunity to attend two weekend fieldwork master-classes.

This will bring together teachers to enhance their field teaching skills, to develop and share teaching resources for GCSE and A Level and to reflect on how their learning can be adapted to provide quality fieldwork locally to their school.

Our aim is to support teachers particularly working in challenging circumstances or where attainment in geography is low. We aim to enhance the skills and motivation of teachers and thus the quality of the geography lessons and fieldwork in their schools.

Course activities will involve field visits, case studies, introduction to and use of a variety of fieldwork techniques, ideas for low cost and local activities, safety management, sharing of ideas & adapting to use with own school.

The first of the two weekend master-classes being held during the 2009/10 academic year, will be based at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London from 6-8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 with a London and Olympics 2012 theme.

The second master-class will be held in a different location in the UK during Spring 2010.

There are 16 places on each weekend course. Teachers applying for and selected to attend the first course will be given priority for a place on the second course.

The course fees, accommodation and meal costs are covered by the project. All you need to pay for is your return travel to the course.

Teachers attending the course will be expected to:

- Share examples of the fieldwork their school currently undertakes
- Review their experiences with and against others and good practice
- Actively participate in different approaches and techniques showcased in the master-class
- Undertake work relevant to the specific site of the master-class, (London and 2012 Olympics in Autumn 2009)
- Upon return to school, to redevelop their existing programmes, document their experiences and new schemes of work, and share these through the *Learning & Leading* web pages

### Eligibility guidelines


Applicants must:

- Be teaching geography in a maintained (state) school in the UK
- Be working in a school that presents challenging circumstances in its provision of geography

### Judging Criteria

Applicants should:

- Give evidence for how your school presents challenging circumstances in its provision of geography. E.g. higher than average social deprivation or disadvantage for the pupils (demonstrated through the proportion of pupils having free school meals, Ofsted data; or 'Value Added' information etc) or other forms of challenge which impact on the provision of geography
- Give evidence of the levels of achievement for the geography students in your school
- Outline how you as a teacher are helping to address and overcome students' disadvantaged circumstances in their geographical education
- Outline how you plan to embed the learning from the master-class programme in your school

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- Outline your commitment to undertake follow-up work to provide fieldwork resources for the website for the benefit of other teachers

#### **Application procedure**

Full application details and guidance notes are available to download from [www.rgs.org/learning&leading](http://www.rgs.org/learning&leading)

The teacher should complete the teacher **master-class application form** electronically. Only application forms will be accepted. The application form should be submitted by **Friday 2 October 2009** as an email attachment to the Learning & Leading Project Co-ordinator at the Society: [landl@rgs.org](mailto:landl@rgs.org)

A **teacher nomination form** also needs to be completed by the teacher's senior colleague. This should also be submitted by **Friday 2 October 2009** as an email attachment to the Learning & Leading Project Co-ordinator at the Society: [landl@rgs.org](mailto:landl@rgs.org)

The senior colleague should outline:

- How through the nominated teacher attending the master-class, it would make a difference to the provision of geography in your school
- How the master class offers an opportunity that would not otherwise be available to your school. To the extent possible providing explicit evidence of challenging circumstances experienced by the nominated teacher and/or your school
- Any additional information that might help the selection panel

#### **Selection process**

- Applications will be assessed independently by a panel of the Society's educational advisors. Teachers will *not* be required to attend an interview

#### **Contact/ Applications**

For applications or any questions about the programme, please contact:

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