

Small-grant schemes for BAS members

The BAS welcomes applications from its members to its three small-grant schemes to support arachnological research and education. The scope of the schemes and the application procedures are outlined below.

All applications must include details of how the aims and objectives of the Society would be furthered or other benefits to the Society realised.

It is not the intention that any of the grant schemes will contribute towards any project that will result in commercial gain for the applicant.

1. BAS Research and Survey Grants

Applications are invited for grants to support travel, subsistence and specialist equipment costs for research, survey and monitoring work on UK arachnid species. Examples include support for surveys of the current status of arachnid species (potentially including molecular work), autecological studies or manipulative experiments to understand a species' ecological or micro-habitat requirements, and behavioural projects. Note that we do not normally support the purchase of basic equipment required for the routine examination of arachnids, such as microscopes and lighting systems. Typical grants would be in the region of £500-£2,500, but larger grants will be considered depending on the merits of the case submitted.

Applicants should provide a one-page summary of the project, which should include the rationale, methodology and timetabling of project elements including reporting. In addition, it should describe how the proposed work would lead to a better understanding of the UK arachnid fauna or other benefits to the Society. The application should also include a detailed budget (not greater than one page) explaining whether other, named, funding sources are expected to contribute to the delivery of the proposal. We may ask for supplementary information, particularly for larger proposals.

All applications will be considered on their comparative merits but every endeavour will be made to support applications which further the aims and objectives of the Society. We particularly welcome applications relevant to arachnids of conservation concern.

2. Ted Locket Grants for attending conferences and courses

Applications are invited for grants to assist with travel and other expenses relating to attendance at recognised conferences or participation in a recognised training event within the UK and relating to UK species. Grants would typically be in the region of £100-£500, exceptionally up to £1000.

Applicants should supply: details of the conference/course, a breakdown of costs, a very brief outline of its relevance to their work, and how this will benefit the Society (the latter can include submission of an article to the Society's *Newsletter* or a paper to *Arachnology*). Preference will be given to conference applicants who intend to present a poster or talk. Applications for travel outside the UK will be considered on the merits of the case presented.

For attendance at a training event, the applicant should supply: details of the event including the expected outcome, a breakdown of costs, a brief outline of their background and arachnological intentions, and how the knowledge gained will be applied to benefit the objectives of the Society.

Successful applicants for either of the above two grants will be required to produce a written report which may be in the form of an article for the *BAS Newsletter* or a paper for our scientific journal *Arachnology* (to be agreed when the grant is awarded). The grant must be acknowledged in any publication arising from the work. Claimants must also provide any records resulting from the grant to the appropriate BAS Recording Scheme, in suitable format.

3. The Stanley Dobson Award

This award scheme is intended to provide financial support to amateur arachnologists who are looking to advance their knowledge or field study of British arachnids. Encouraging amateur naturalists to engage in arachnology and expand their knowledge was very important to Stan and this award was established in 2025 with support from his family as a lasting legacy, recognising his many contributions to the study of spiders and the British Arachnological Society.

Applications for grants can be made by any amateur arachnologist aged 16 or over. The total value of all awarded grants will not exceed £750 in any calendar year.

The grants will be used to support the purchase/acquisition of books, microscopes or field equipment to be used in studying or surveying for, spiders, harvestman or pseudoscorpions in the UK, or to attend relevant courses. It is anticipated that **they will be awarded to those that have insufficient resources, or find it difficult, to pay the full costs.** Each grant will not exceed 50% of the total purchase cost.

Applicants should provide a detailed explanation (not exceeding one page) of what equipment is needed, for what purpose, and why a grant is requested. The decision on successful awards and the value of each grant will be made by the Council of the British Arachnological Society.

The names of successful applicants will be published in the autumn edition of the BAS Newsletter each year and will also be shared with Stan Dobson's family, together with the uses to which the money is to be put. If any publications arise from work to which the Award is put, suitable acknowledgment should be made of the Stanley Dobson Award.

Applications for all three grant schemes should be made to the Honorary Secretary (secretary@britishspiders.org.uk). Awards can be made before the project/travel arrangements or purchase is made but might be staggered for larger grants payments. Applications will be considered from new as well as longer-standing members.

Reviewed and revised by Council November 2025