

# Options for funding your PhD or junior postdoc projects



中国科学院  
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



The  
**LINNEAN  
SOCIETY**  
of London  
*A living forum for biology*



**British Ecological Society**



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung/Foundation

 **NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC**



**Smithsonian**

**FULBRIGHT**  




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# Outline

- I. Funding for your project (material, services, travels...)**
- II. Funding yourself (stipends, salaries...)**

Martin Volf

- Various sources of small funding for students
- Options in Germany

Katka Sam

- Smithsonian options
- Bilateral grants

Martina Konečná

- Fulbright fellowships

Jan Hrček

- General strategy for postdoc projects
- Marie Curie

# Sources of funding

Universities and other institutions – restricted to their students and employees

Charity funds – usually focused on social aspects of your research, very often quite strict rules limiting who can apply

**Governments - restricted to their citizens or territory, sometimes focused on more advanced researchers**

**Societies - restricted to their members**

**Public – crowd funding...**

## GAJU – teams, students (mainly Ph.D.)



Jihočeská univerzita  
v Českých Budějovicích  
University of South Bohemia  
in České Budějovice

## Postdoc fellowships

- 2 types
- support of salaries vs. support of mobilities



Akademie věd  
České republiky

**I.**  
**Funding for your project**  
**(material, services, travels...)**



### **Grants up to £5,000:**

Focused on student projects, which would not be funded otherwise.

Funding is not available for work that will form part of a degree/thesis/fellowship. Those with research fellowships that cover their salary only, can only apply for funds to cover research that is additional to, and independent of, any already funded research programme.

### **Grants over £5,000 up to a limit of £20,000:**

Grants are limited to ecologists at an early stage in their career (less than 5 years post- Ph.D.)

### **Eligibility and Conditions**

It is not possible to use it as co-funding

It cannot be used to supplement the salary of the applicant



## **Statements of Support**

Each application requires two personal reference statements. If the applicant is a student, at least one should be from their institution and verify that the proposed project is not part of a degree or thesis

Both reference statements must be completed online before the application deadline.

## **The current round is now closed.**

The next round will open to applications in January 2017 with a deadline in March. All project start dates will need to be after 14 May 2017.

# Linnean Society and Systematics Association



<https://www.linnean.org/the-society/medals-awards-prizes-grants>

Focused on field work, collecting material and taxonomy

Several options...

**Usually small grants for ca £500-£1500**

**Systematics Research Fund (SRF)**

**Percy Sladen Memorial Fund Grants**



# Typical supported activities

fieldwork

expeditions

purchase of scientific equipment

specimen preparation

assistants

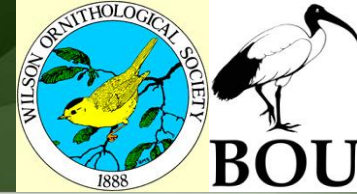
## **Who can apply?**

Members of either organizaion

Generally no degree needed

**They generally fund independent projects  
(similar to BES)**

# Special ornithology awards



## Wilson Ornithological Society Research Grants

no limitations to country,

membership not required but encouraged

Deadlines: February 1, but grants this year range 1000 – 2500 USD only

## British Ornithologists Union

PhD projects and funding for early postdocs, members only.

Current limit £2000 covers research only, not salary – focused on specific skills, stays in labs Deadlines: November 30

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/be-an-explorer/>

## Several grant categories

All strongly focused on interdisciplinary research and conservation (in some way)  
(e.g., loss of biodiversity and habitat, effects of human-population pressures)

If you carry out your research abroad you are supposed to have at least one local collaborator

Some of the grants with a geographic focus (only citizens of specific countries may apply). Several others are focused on a specific topic (**The National Geographic Air and Water Conservation Fund**)

# Committee for Research and Exploration Grants

## **Eligibility**

Applicants are expected to have advanced degrees (Ph.D. or equivalent) and be associated with an educational organization or institution.

## **Grant Amounts**

most range from U.S. \$15,000 to \$20,000.

## **Restrictions**

No salaries, overheads, conferences, building...

No deadline – you can apply any time

Grants funded by the Committee are generally for one year's work.

ca 250 grants awarded annually

# National Geographic Society/Waitt Grants

## **Eligibility**

No degree needed.

Very fast processing – less than 10 weeks to get a decision

## **Grant Amounts**

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## **Restrictions**

No salaries, overheads, conferences, building...

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# Experiment

experiment

<https://experiment.com/>

## **Crowdfunding Science**

### **All-or-nothing Funding**

Experiment uses the all-or-nothing funding model.

Each project is required to pick a funding target and campaign duration. Most projects pick a funding target that is the minimum amount of money necessary to start the project.

Backers of a project are only charged after the project has reached the funding target and the campaign duration has expired.

### **Who is eligible?**

Academic scientists include professors, graduate students, postdoctoral scientists, undergraduates, or anyone doing research that takes place at a university.

## **What do you need to provide?**

Standart stuff:

Title, Abstract, Project Budget, The Funding Target, Project Context, Project Significance, Banner Image, Research Team

**All of these are generally quite short – ca one paragraph  
It needs to be concise and catchy for a broad audience**

**Storyboard, Project Video**

## **Find an Audience (keep in mind they are mainly U.S.)**

Once you've determined if your project is a good fit for Experiment, finding an audience is the first step towards building a successful experiment.

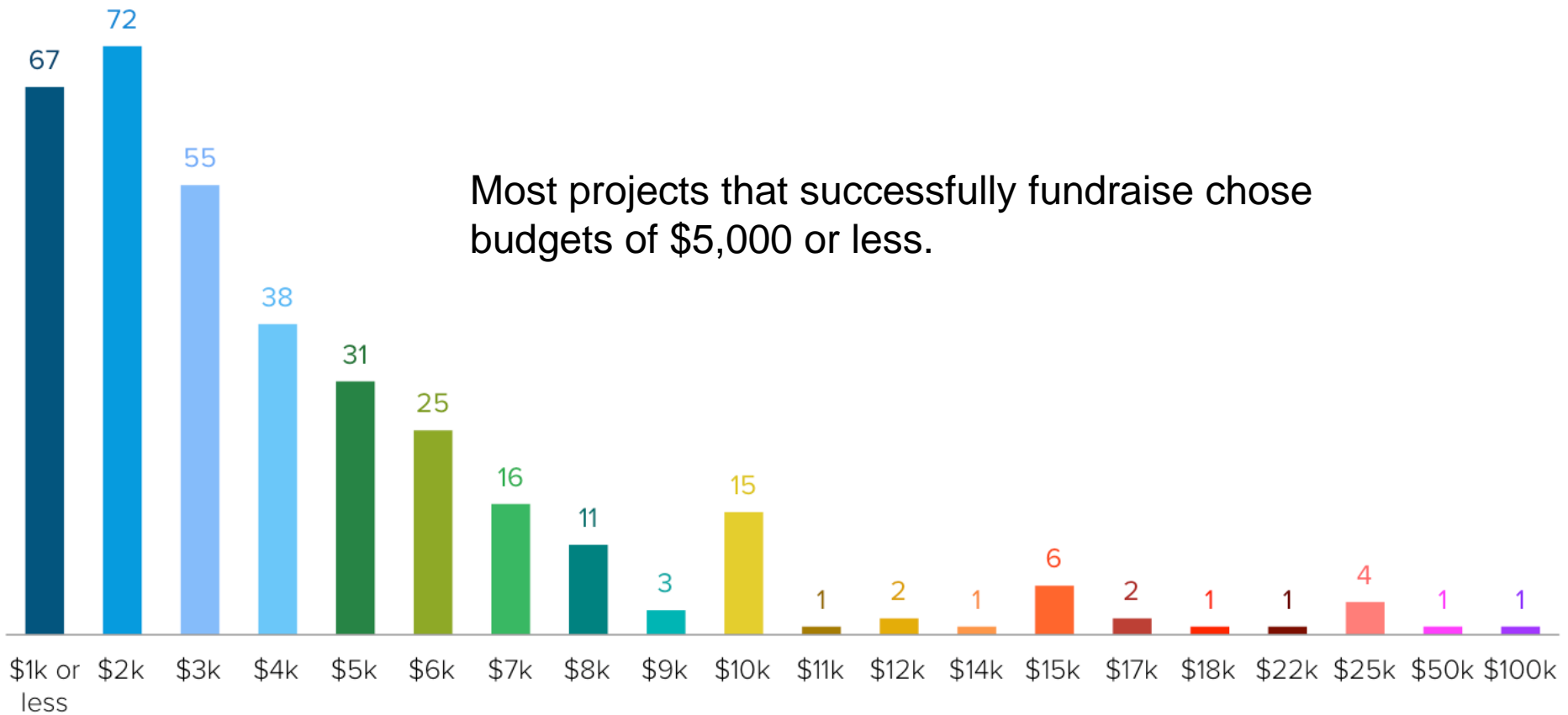
## **Campaign Duration**

Most researchers choose to run their campaigns for 30 days.

It is essential to be prepared and available during the days your campaign is running.

## **Uploading your preliminary results, photos, videos....**





Distribution of Budget Sizes for Successful Experiment Campaigns  
n = 353 projects

Experiment charges an 8% fee for all the funds you raise. Experiment receives 5% to run operations and 3% goes to credit card processing.



**startovač**  
vypustte to do světa

<https://www.startovac.cz/>

**Czech crowd funding website for all sorts of projects**

**Works similarly to Experiment**

**All sorts of projects can apply**  
- really broad audience  
- broad competition

**Amount of funding varies a lot – commonly 10.000 – 500.000 CZK**

## **II. Funding yourself and your mobilities**

Usually these programmes involve visiting foreign institutions  
You need to find a host or supervisor!

<https://www.daad.de>

Number of fellowships – use their database to find a one for you....

## **Research Grants – One-Year Grants / Short-Term Grants**

Optimal for Ph.D. and master students

provides funding for your stay in Germany for up to 1 year  
1000 Euro per month

Deadline is usually in November

Beginning of your scholarship will start in October next year  
= you need to plan in advance

The proposal itself has normal structure

- You need to submit:
- Normal stuff (Proposal itself, CV, Support letter, List of your publications)



**There is a considerable amount of byrocracy involved**

- Language certificate (English)
- All university certificates on all annual examinations with grades
- Copy of high school-leaving certificate
- Proof of admission to a doctoral programme

# Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/humboldt-fellowship-postdoc.html>

**For those who completed their doctorate in the last four years (you can apply 6 months prior to obtaining your PhD)**

6-24 months in Germany

2,650 EUR per month as a stipend

Some money for the host  
800 EUR per month



**Generally very flexible, easy to apply...**

**Your project makes the majority of the application**

**No fixed deadlines – 3 committee meetings annually**

Application – very simple

- Abstract
- Impact on the further development of your academic profile
- Proposal
- CV + list of publications
- Support letters

**Important things for a successful application**

- Good host and very good support letters
- Demonstrate that you are independent and this opportunity will help you to start your own research in a novel field



## Other stipends you can get

- for family members
- language courses

## Alumni Programmes

**for both abroad and Germany**

- **Return fellowships**
- **Further research stays in Germany**



## Fellowships

Offer many different programs (within the museum, botanical gardens, research stations ...)

For all of them, you need to have internal supervisor

Special topics are for example stable isotopes, biodiversity, marine ecology

<http://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/>

Most of them have deadline December 1

Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program (SIFP) ten  
week graduate students: \$7,000 for 10 weeks

graduate students: \$32,700 per year

predoctoral students: \$32,700 per year

postdoctoral researchers: \$48,000 per year

Fellows in residence for 60 days or less are eligible to  
receive up to \$150/day.

## Internships

<http://www.smithsonianof.com/internship-opportunities/>

less predictable, currently more than 40 offers

pays your stipend, while you work on some project for them  
OR bring you to Smithsonian to work on some project there.  
Suitable for people working on encyclopaedias, museum  
samples ...

Maybe considered as side-job related to your PhD?

Stipends vary a lot