

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PAST invites applications for grants, bursaries and publications from researchers, educators and post-graduate students based at or meaningfully affiliated with African institutions in support of projects involving palaeo-anthropology, palaeontology, Stone Age archaeology and cognate disciplines. Five categories of funding are available:

1. Post-graduate degree support (Honours, Masters, PhD, Postdoc)
2. Technical training and capacity support (includes field school attendance)
3. Research project support
4. Publication support
5. Conference and workshop attendance (See separate guidelines and application form at www.past.org.za/grants/)

Deadlines are: 01 February and 01 August

Processing time for grants is a minimum of three months from each deadline. Outcomes will be communicated to applicants by May and November, respectively.

PAST prioritizes research from the earliest origins of life (Archean ~4 billion years ago) to the emergence of modern humans through the Stone Age. Projects focused on palaeoenvironmental evidence in Iron Age contexts will also be considered. Applications from organisations with interests in the above mentioned fields of the origin sciences may also be considered. Each application is considered individually. If you are unsure whether your application qualifies for consideration, please contact the Chief Scientist (rjb@pastafrica.co.za) in advance of the application deadline.

Please note the following:

- Grants are paid to the institution with whom the applicant is affiliated.
- Preference is given to African nationals. However, applicants from countries outside of Africa will be considered only for projects within Africa and if the applicant has an well-established and significant affiliation with a relevant African institution, including collaboration with African scientists. In addition, such applicants should also seek funding support from their home institution and/or an outside funding source, or provide reasons why such support has not been sought.
- Progress reports for previously funded projects are due **BEFORE** renewal applications, and at the end of your project.
- Applicants must complete the application form after reading the application guidelines (available on website). Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications will automatically be rejected.
- In the application form the project details should state the research problem explicitly, justify its importance, and describe how the problem will be addressed. For students, please also provide a brief statement on the manner in which the work covered by this proposal will contribute to the development or completion of your thesis research. Provide a research schedule, and a brief statement on the logistical and administrative (e.g., permits) feasibility of the work. Do not include photos or sketches unless crucial.
- Applications must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the African institution involved. For students, supporting letter from the academic supervisor and/or the head of department is required.
- The applicant's curriculum vitae and publication list are also required, limited to three pages.

- Please provide a total project budget, itemised, justified and limited to two pages, listing the status, source and amount requested/available from all other funding proposals (confirmed, pending, planned) for this work. Explain whether the project will be able to proceed if some or all of the additional pending and planned grants are not awarded. List in separate columns those budget items requested from PAST and all other confirmed, pending and planned sources. Provide a clear motivation of the necessity of each budget item to your research. Do not request items that are not related directly to the completion of your project. Note that PAST will not pay institutional overhead, support, or cost recovery fees. PAST will consider equipment purchases, but only under exceptional circumstances and where the equipment will become the property of the applicant's department/institution at project's completion. PAST will not pay salary for staff employed at the applicant's institution. You may be required to produce a full accounting of expenses, including original receipts, at any time. PAST will consider favourably applicants who have applied for and/or received support from sources in addition to PAST.
- Funding can be requested for only one year with each application.
- Provide a comprehensive description of the educational, technical training and/or public understanding and engagement component of the project, limited to one page. Applications meaningfully incorporating such components will be prioritised. Volunteering assistance for PAST's education and public engagement programmes will be considered as an educational component. However, it is up to the applicants to explore how this might benefit the project and to propose this to PAST before the application is submitted.

- All correspondence relating to funding proposals should be sent via e-mail (in Microsoft Word or PDF format only) to hq@pastafrica.co.za. E-mailed applications must include only the one application form and no other files with the exception of the support letter/s, which may be e-mailed separately.