

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT



Guidelines for Grant Applications

May 2016

- 1. The Mount Everest Foundation (MEF)** is a registered Charity (No 208206). Its aims are to encourage and support expeditions that explore mountain regions. Support is given to education and research across a wide range of subjects including geography, glaciology, and the effects of altitude. Expeditions without this emphasis must have a strong exploratory element to be deemed eligible for support. Expeditions planning geographical exploration, first ascent, or major new routes on high and remote mountains are likely to qualify. Applications from expeditions proposing to visit little-explored or formerly inaccessible areas are particularly encouraged. Normally the MEF will only support expeditions where the majority of members are from the UK or New Zealand.
- 2.** The knowledge acquired during an expedition must be made publicly available. In return for support or approval the MEF requires a Summary Report within four weeks of returning home, and a Final Report as soon as possible after that. Reports should be submitted as e-mail attachments in pdf format. Failure to observe this important requirement is likely to lead to expedition members being refused future support.
- 3.** Expeditions with climbing and mountaineering objectives should be aware that there may be other grant options available. Some of these are listed below. For further details see their websites.

British Mountaineering Council: www.thebmc.co.uk (under 'International': Note that expeditions applying for BMC approval only can use the MEF form)

Jeremy Willson Charitable Trust, and Julie Tullis Memorial Award. Applications via the BMC as above.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland Climbing and Mountaineering Bursary: www.mcofs.org.uk

Welsh Sports Association Overseas Expedition Grants: www.welshsports.org.uk

The Alpine Club Climbing Fund: www.alpine-club.org.uk/expeditions

Mark Clifford Climbing Grant: www.markclifford.co.uk

Nick Estcourt Award: www.nickestcourtaward.org

Gino Watkins Memorial Fund (for Polar Regions): www.srri.cam.ac.uk/about/funding/ginowatkins

Alison Chadwick memorial Grant: all applicants for MEF support will automatically be considered for this grant without need for separate application.

- 4.** As the MEF does not normally expect to provide more than a minor part of an expedition's finances, organisers of large and expensive expeditions should be aware that the MEF has limited resources. Expeditions should therefore be able to show that a large proportion of the estimated budget will be raised elsewhere, and that personal contributions are of a sufficient size. When completing the application form, details of any type of commercial assistance (eg a support trek, paying clients, sponsorship etc) must be fully declared. Failure to do so could result in the grant being cancelled and/or reclaimed.
- 5.** One or more of the expedition members may be asked to attend an interview with the Screening Committee in London. These interviews are normally held in November and March. Completed application forms must be submitted to the Hon Secretary by the 30th September and 31st January respectively. In order for references to be checked. These dates are strictly observed. If you are proposing to carry out scientific work, you must ensure that whoever comes to the interview is competent to discuss the scientific programme with the Committee. The MEF does not normally support scientific work that is part of an individual's undergraduate degree course. Although

applications may be considered from expeditions that have left their country of origin prior to the date of the interview, no expedition that has already returned home can be considered. The Screening Committee reports to the Committee of Management, which holds its meetings about four weeks later. Shortly after that the Hon Secretary will inform the expedition leader of their decision.

6. For each expedition member give the name, age, occupation, nationality and previous relevant experience (eg Scottish winter, Alpine, Greater Ranges). While it is not necessary to provide complete biographical details, names of significant completed routes or notable ascents should certainly be included. Scientific expeditions should give a detailed description of the work proposed in the Appendix to the application form.
7. It is important that you comply with the current regulations of the countries you propose to visit. These may include the payment of peak fees, the insurance and equipping of porters, the employment of a Liaison Officer, and the deposit of environmental, customs and rescue bonds. It is a condition of MEF support that all political requirements are satisfied. Where appropriate you should also advise the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of your intentions.
8. If an expedition is unable to go to its stated locality after a grant has been awarded, it should obtain MEF approval before taking any steps to go elsewhere. Likewise changes in the team must be approved.
9. No grant can be awarded to an MEF Trustee. However, an expedition that includes one or more MEF Trustees can apply for and be awarded a grant on the clear understanding that the grant must benefit only the other members of the team. The Trustee(s) must sign a statement confirming that no personal benefit was gained from the MEF grant.