

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT



Guidelines for Grant Applications

July 2020

- 1. The Mount Everest Foundation (MEF)** is a registered Charity (No 208206). Its aims are to encourage and support expeditions that explore mountain regions. Expeditions planning geographical exploration, first ascents, or major new routes on high and remote mountains are likely to qualify. Equally, support is given to education and research across a wide range of subjects including geography, glaciology, and the effects of altitude. 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 information 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 in pdf format as email attachments. Failure to observe this important requirement is likely to lead to expedition members being refused future support. MEF support should also be acknowledged on the expedition's social media, and in any publications (copies of which should be sent to the MEF), lectures, formal presentations, and expedition films. Wherever possible details of MEF support should be included on the websites of expedition sponsors. The aim of all publicity is to provide visibility of the support available through the MEF, and to alert and inform others who might themselves apply for an MEF grant.
- 3.** Expeditions with climbing and mountaineering objectives should be aware that there may be other grant options available. Some of these are listed below: see their websites for further details.

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

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

The Montane Alpine Club Climbing Fund: www.alpineclub.org.uk/expeditions/expedition-funding

Gino Watkins Memorial Fund (for Polar regions): www.spri.cam.ac.uk/about/funding/ginowatkins/grants

Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant, Roger Chorley Memorial Grant, and the Nick Estcourt Award: all applicants for MEF support will automatically be considered for these grants without need for separate application.

- 4.** MEF grants are currently between £1,000 and £5,750. However, the MEF recognises that highly ambitious scientific and exploratory expeditions may require a level of funding well above the norm.
- 5.** The MEF will only support expeditions that are deemed to meet the objectives of the Charity as specified above (guideline 1). Applicants are thus expected to be able to show how an expedition will meet these objectives, and grants may be prioritised accordingly.
- 6.** Scientific expeditions undertaking original research are strongly encouraged by the MEF. In the Appendix to the application form, applicants should give a detailed description of the research work proposed and the plans to publish the findings – the MEF acknowledges this may be a year or more post expedition, but it will wish to publicise the research at a later date if the expedition has led to peer-reviewed work.
- 7.** Climbing or Mountaineering Expeditions (as opposed to scientific or caving expeditions) that take drilling equipment will not be supported or approved. Members of expeditions in receipt of MEF grants, who fail to report the taking of drilling equipment or its use, are unlikely to be supported in the future.
- 8.** When completing the application form, details of any type of commercial assistance (e.g. 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.

- 9.** 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 Secretary by the 31st January for expeditions taking place after mid-April of that current year, and the 30th September for those expeditions taking place after mid-November the same year and before the end of the following year. These dates are strictly observed, and no application can be considered unless it is received by the closing dates. If you are proposing to carry out research work, you must ensure that whoever comes to the interview is competent to discuss the scientific programme with the Committee. 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 the decision.
- 10.** 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.
- 11.** 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.
- 12.** Where possible, leaders are encouraged to pay local porters, mule men, cooks and cook helpers their agreed wages directly, and not through a third party such as an agent or sirdar.
- 13.** 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.
- 14.** 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.