



Grant Application Guidelines

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 Wilson 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 the need for a separate application.
4. Grants from the Mountain Everest Foundation are normally between £2,000 and £6,000. However, the MEF realise that highly ambitious expeditions to remote areas for mountaineering, caving or scientific reasons may require more funding than the norm and, in these exceptional circumstance, the grant may be increased.

The overall grant may also be increased by small supplemental grants such as the Alison Chadwick award for women, either individually or as an all-female team; the Nick Estcourt award for exceptional mountaineering objectives; and/or the Roger Chorley award for young climbers going to the greater ranges for the first time, especially as part of university clubs.

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, especially where they involved early career researchers and engage scientists in the countries being visited. An Appendix for scientific expeditions at the end of the application form allows scientists to provide a detailed description of the research work proposed, the participants and the plans to publish any findings. The MEF acknowledges that final reports may take many months or more than a year to complete post-expedition. The MEF will 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 normally not be supported or approved. Applications will only be considered where the use of drilling equipment advances exploration without adversely affecting the environment. 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. The MEF does not support expeditions that use helicopters to facilitate access, apart from rare occasions when the viability of an expedition would critically depend on such transport. There are increasing issues, from an environmental, socio-economic, and ethical standpoint with helicopter access to the mountains or remote wilderness areas around the globe. If you plan to use helicopter transport, you need to make your case at question 16 in the application.
10. 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.
11. For each expedition member give the name, age, occupation, nationality, and previous relevant experience. For mountaineering expeditions this might include Scottish winter, alpine, and Greater Ranges ascents. Similarly for cavers, by summarising their experience both home and abroad. For science expeditions, note previous research and field work. While it is not necessary to provide complete biographical information, details of significant completed routes, notable ascents, descents, or scientific research should certainly be included.
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.