



## Guidelines for Grant Applications

December 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 email attachments in pdf format. Failure to observe this important requirement is likely to lead to expedition members being refused future support. The MEF also expect recognition of the MEF contribution on the expedition website, extended blogs, newspaper/magazine articles and in any lectures, formal presentations or subsequent film and/or book about the expedition. In scientific publications MEF support should be acknowledged in the appropriate section, and if Open Access, a link to the publication should be provided to the MEF for inclusion on its website upon publication. 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 in future.
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](http://www.thebmc.co.uk) (under 'International': Note that expeditions applying for BMC approval only can use the MEF form)

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

**Mark Clifford Climbing Grant:** [www.thebmc.co.uk/the-2010-mark-clifford-mountaineering-grants](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/the-2010-mark-clifford-mountaineering-grants)

**The Montane Alpine Club Climbing Fund:** [www.alpine-club.org.uk/ac2/expeditions/expedition-funding](http://www.alpine-club.org.uk/ac2/expeditions/expedition-funding)

**Nick Estcourt Award:** [www.nickestcourtaward.org](http://www.nickestcourtaward.org)

**Gino Watkins Memorial Fund (for Polar Regions):** [www.spri.cam.ac.uk/about/funding/ginowatkins/grants](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/about/funding/ginowatkins/grants)

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

4. The MEF seeks to provide meaningful support to expeditions. Whilst we have no firm upper or lower limits on our grants we do have limited resources and so we want to target our expenditure at expeditions where our support will make a difference. Applicants may apply for what funding they feel is required but are expected to be able to say clearly why the level of grant is needed and what impact it will have on the expedition taking place or its chance of success. Note that the MEF may award less than the requested amount at our discretion.
5. MEF does not normally expect to provide more than a minor part of an expedition's finances (typically less than 25%). Applicants seeking a greater level of support in proportion to expedition costs will need to strongly justify this in terms of need and impact.

6. The MEF recognises that highly ambitious and exploratory expeditions may require a significant level of funding well above the norm. Such expeditions (typically those seeking more than £5000) will need to demonstrate an exceptional fit with MEF objectives – in particular in terms of exploration and the dissemination of information. They will also be expected to show how they will effectively acknowledge such a significant level of MEF support.
7. 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.
8. Scientific expeditions undertaking original research are strongly encouraged by the MEF. Applicants should give a detailed description of the research work proposed in the Appendix to the application form and the plans to publish the findings – the MEF acknowledge this may be 1- years post-expedition but the MEF wish to publicise at a later date where expeditions have led to peer-reviewed work. Applicants should also show how the finding of successful research might inform the wider mountaineering community – for example, through revising information on the approaches and conditions to areas since previous mountaineering reports, or in the wake of natural disasters.
9. Climbing or Mountaineering Expeditions (as opposed to scientific or caving expeditions) that take power drilling equipment will not be supported or approved, both on environmental grounds and for removing the uncertainty of outcome. Uncertainty is, of course, the main ingredient of a good adventure! Any intent to take drilling equipment should be noted on the application form and 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.
10. 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.
11. Applications for funding may be made up to two years in advance of a planned expedition. 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 30<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> 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. 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.
12. For each expedition member give the name, age, occupation, nationality and previous relevant experience (e.g. Scottish winter, Alpine, Greater Ranges). While it is not necessary to provide complete biographical details, names of significant completed routed or notable ascents should certainly be included.
13. 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.

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.