

Report of the BSG Research Sub-Committee 2024/5

The Research Sub-Committee (RSC) met twice during the year, in November 2024 and in March 2025. Both meetings were held online via MS Teams.

Grant funding

A total of £35,000 is available to the RSC to fund grants in each calendar year. Two grant rounds were held across 2024/25: September 2024 (£21,000 available) and February 2025 (£20,500). Three things to note: 1) the 2024 Linton Award winner, Sanjeev Gupta, kindly donated their award money to the RSC to support ECRs – this was used to support an extra PGR conference attendance (awarded to the highest ranked application); 2) we allocated £20,000 of baseline funds instead of the usual £15,000 for the Feb 2025 round - this means the Sep 2025 allocation will be slightly reduced from £20,000 to £15,000 to balance our 2025 budget; 3) the University of Liverpool-BSG Luminescence Dating Award has been withdrawn as of September 2024. In total, 29 grants were awarded to a total value of £41,463 (overall success rate: 50.9%; 14F, 15M). The outcomes and allocations for each grant, summed for the September 2024 and February 2025 rounds, are as follows (also including success rates and gender split):

- Early Career Grant: 3 awarded, totalling £12,034 (20%; 2F, 1M)
- Research Grants: 15 awarded, totalling £22,179 (50%; 5F, 8M). This is broken down as follows:
 - Full member: 4 awarded, totalling £6,097 (36%; 1F, 3M)
 - PGR member: 11 awarded, totalling £9,930 (21%; 6F, 5M)
- PG Conference Attendance Grants: 9 awarded, totalling £16,082 (58%; 4F, 5M)
- Decolonising Geomorphology Grant: 0 applications
- Carers Grant: 1 awarded, totalling £500 (100%, 1F, 0M)
- Conference Support Grants: 1 awarded, totalling £500 (100%; 0F, 1M)

RSC members grade and rank the applications and provide detailed feedback to unsuccessful applicants. The criteria, guidance and review process for all grants are clearly outlined on the website to ensure a fair and transparent application process. The administrative load on committee members continues to be significant and we continue to monitor demand and success rates for specific schemes to tailor our funding portfolio accordingly.

There remains £15,190 available from the current budget for the September 2025 call. You must be logged in as a member to apply. Please contact grants@geomorphology.org.uk, which both the VC and Grants Officer have access to, for all communication around grants.

Society Awards

Decisions were taken on the society's Awards (Linton, Warwick, Chorley; overall 7 nominations: 2F, 5M). Nominations for the Mike Kirkby Best Paper Award and Fiona Kirkby Award for Excellence in Reviewing are provided by the ESPL Editorial Board (ratified by the RSC).

The 2025 awards are conferred as follows:

- Linton Award: winner Professor David Thomas
- Warwick Award: winner Professor Lisa Mol
- Chorley Award: winner Dr Sophie Horton
- Mike Kirkby Award: winner Wren Raming, Kelin Whipple and Ayron Strauch (<https://doi.org/10.1002/esp.5806>)
- Fiona Kirkby Award: winners Xavier Bodin, Theresa Frimberger, Karen Gran, Ralf Hetzel, Lu Honghua, Anya Leenman, Ivo Pink, Julianne Scamardo, Monica Sund, Fanny Ville

The window to nominate candidates for the BSG Awards 2026 is now open until 31 December 2025. Nominations can be made through the BSG website via "My Account" and selecting "Award Nominations". You must be logged in as a member to nominate.

Awards can only be made based on nominations received, so **we urge any member - at any career stage - to think carefully about who should be recognised**. Please do help the Society recognise deserving individuals and nominate. In particular please give consideration to meritorious individuals from groups who may be under-represented in our discipline.

Personnel changes

Dr Lucy Clarke finished her tenure as Vice Chair and is replaced by Dr Emma Shuttleworth. Dr Seb Pitman finished his tenure as Grants Officer and is replaced by Dr Natasha Wallum. Prof Steve Derby finished his tenure as Awards Officer and is replaced by Prof Jeff Warburton. Dr Josh Wolstenholme has also joined the RSC as Reports Officer. We thank Lucy, Seb and Steve for all of their hard work and contributions to the RSC over the past 3+ years.

We are looking to co-opt a new grant reviewer with a background in glacial/quaternary geomorphology, for the Feb 2026 grants round to replace Dr Christopher Darvill at the end of his tenure. **Please contact Emma Shuttleworth if you would like to be considered for the role.**

Emma Shuttleworth (VC Research, and on Behalf of the Research Sub-Committee)