

Report of the BSG Research Sub-Committee 2025/6

The Research Sub-Committee (RSC) met twice during the year, in November 2025 and in March 2026. 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 2025/26: September 2025 (£15,000 available) and February 2026 (£15,000 available). We allocated £20,000 of baseline funds instead of the usual £15,000 for the Feb 2026 round - this means the Sep 2025 allocation was slightly reduced from £20,000 to £15,000 to balance our 2025 budget. In total, 25 grants were awarded to a total value of £29,885 (overall success rate: 38.4%). The outcomes and allocations for each grant, summed for the September 2025 and February 2026 rounds, are as follows (also including success rates and gender split):

- Early Career Grant: 2 awarded, totalling £8,075 (20%; 1F, 1M)
- Research Grants: 7 awarded, totalling £12,140 (25%; 1F, 6M). This is broken down as follows:
 - Full member: 3 awarded, totalling £5,920 (33%; 0F, 3M)
 - PGR member: 4 awarded, totalling £6,220 (21%; 1F, 3M)
- PG Conference Attendance Grants: 13 awarded, totalling £7,660 (59%; 4F, 9M)
- Decolonising Geomorphology Grant: 0 awarded (0%; 0F, 1M)
- Carers Grant: 0 valid applications
- Conference Support Grants: 2 awarded, totalling £100 (50%; 1F, 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 £21,245 available from the current budget for the September 2026 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 17 nominations: 2F, 15M). 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 2026 awards are conferred as follows:

- The **David Linton Award** is given to a geomorphologist who has made a leading contribution to the discipline over a sustained period: winner **Professor Stuart Lane** (with two independent nominations)
- The **Gordon Warwick Award** is given for excellence in geomorphological research by someone within 15 years of being awarded their doctorate: winner **Dr Martin Hurst** (with two independent nominations)
- The **Dick Chorley Award** is given for a published paper based on PhD research: winner Dr Yuval Shmilitovitz
- Mike Kirkby Award: winner TBC
- Fiona Kirkby Award: winners TBC

The window to nominate candidates for the BSG Awards 2027 is now open until 31 December 2026. 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 Catherine Sanders steps down as the Research Committee Secretary in Nov 2026 and we co-opted Prof Andy Russell to replace Chris Darvill as Strategic Officer in Feb 2026. We thank Catherine and Chris for all of their hard work and contributions to the RSC over the past 3+ years and look forward to welcoming our new Secretary in November. Special thanks to Catherine for staying on for an extra 12 months while new members of the committee settled in.

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