

5. Annual report of the Awards Officer 2022

a. Standard Awards

In the Standard Awards rounds for the financial year 2021-22 **£28,905.33** was distributed. This was substantially higher than in the financial year 2020-21 (£21,825). This year, application numbers were higher with 32 total applications compared to 22 in the previous financial year. The healthy increase in applications may reflect the progressive resumption of diverse research activities following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions on travel, conference attendance, laboratory access, fieldwork, etc. Nevertheless, the total value of awards and number of applications remain somewhat lower than in the financial year 2019-2020 (£34,205 awarded, 43 applications). The overall success rate of applications was very good (average 85%).

Fund	Round	No. of applications ¹	Total monies requested (£)	No. funded	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded
NRWA	May-22	5	7545	4	5995	80%
	Jan-22	0	0	0	0	na
	Sep-21	3	4500	3	4400	100%
	Total	8	12045	7	10395	88%
PQCF	May-22	5	3320.33	5	3170.33	100%
	Sep-21	2	1305	0	0	0%
	Total	7	4625.33	5	3170.33	71%
QCF	May-22	1	750	1	750	100%
	Jan-22	1	750	1	750	100%
	Sep-21	0	0	0	0	na
	Total	2	1500	2	1500	100%
QRF	May-22	4	4940	4	4940	100%
	Jan-22	1	1500	1	1500	100%
	Sep-21	2	3000	2	3000	100%
	Total	7	9440	7	9440	100%
QRA	Sep-21	2	8200	1	3600	50%
Bill Bishop	Jan-22	1	800	1	800	100%
¹⁴ C Dating Short Course	Jan-22	0	0	0	0	na
¹⁴ C Chrono ²	May-21	3	-	2	-	67%
	Jan-21	2	-	2	-	100%
	Total	5	-	4	-	80%
	TOTAL	32	36610.33	27	28905.33	85%

¹ Refers only to eligible applications

² Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested
Note- the Geoconservation, Outreach Awards and prizes are not listed here

Table 1: Summary of Standard and Special Awards 2021-2022. For details of award holders, please see Appendix 1 below.

b. Special grants

- The QRA would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Queens University Belfast ¹⁴CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology for an annual allocation of radiocarbon determinations for New Researchers.

c. Notices and Activities 2021-2022

In the financial year 2021-22, the maximum value of all awards was raised by £150 to reflect the eligibility of carer support costs (by £500 for the Quaternary Research Award).

QRA funding currently falls into different categories of “grants”, “prizes” and “special grants” without a clear rationale. To streamline online funding information under a single banner of “Grants”, the names of awards will be changed to “Grants”, without impacting on the nature or values of those awards. For example, the New Research Workers’ Award (NRWA) will be renamed the New Research Workers’ Grant (NRWG). An exception is the Bill Bishop Award, retaining the original name established by the Bill Bishop Memorial Trust.

The Executive Committee proposes that as of next financial year (2023-2024) the number of main funding rounds will be reduced from three to two per year. This change is to reduce the administrative burden on the Awards Panel and to ensure that each funding round has a competitive number of applications. From September 2023, funding rounds will have deadlines of 15th September and 15th February. Upcoming funding rounds will have deadlines of 15th January 2023, 15th May 2023, 15th September 2023, 15th February 2024, 15th September 2024, and so on.

William Fletcher
December 2022

Appendix 1 - STANDARD AWARDS - Award holders

Award	Name	Institution	Title	Awarded (£)
NRWA	Daniel Parkes	Royal Holloway, University of London	Investigating the cause and structure of abrupt climate change events during MIS 11c	1500
NRWA	Dylan Gaffney	University of Cambridge	Tropical plant processing behaviours during the northern colonisation of Sahul (Pleistocene New Guinea and Australia)	1400
NRWA	Sarah Walton	Sheffield Hallam University	Holocene Climate and Environmental Change in South East Iceland	1500
NRWA	Conner Morison	Edinburgh University	Environmental and Societal Impacts of the 939 AD Eldgjá Fissure Eruption, Iceland	1500
NRWA	Charlie Rex	University of Glasgow	A comparison of deglacial monsoon evolution at Lake Suigetsu, Japan	1500

NRWA	Tom Thorne	University of Aberystwyth	Role of climate change in depositional features in an active glacial region	1500
NRWA	Maria Zicos	Natural History Museum	Diet reconstruction of the extinct ground sloth <i>Myodon darwini</i> at Cueva del Milodón, Chile, from the DNA of coprolites	1495
Bill Bishop Award	Kathryn Price	University of Reading	Ancient rivers, early humans: The River Thames, 500,000–1 million years ago	800
PQCF	Shashank Nitundil	University of Manchester	Investigating records of dune activity in the western Thar desert of India by combining field and laboratory techniques	500
PQCF	Nataschia Pannozzo	University of Liverpool	Testing luminescence as a tool to investigate erosional/depositional processes in salt marsh settings	500
PQCF	Sophie Williams	Durham University	Relative sea-level changes in Australia over the 19th and 20th centuries	670.33
PQCF	Nina Atae	University of Aberystwyth	Using polymineral fine grains to date Chew Bahir lake core from East Africa	750
PQCF	Annabel Everard	University of Aberdeen	Scotland's Ancient Woodlands: Palaeoecological insights into woodland restoration	750
QCF	Bethan Davies	Royal Holloway, University of London	Topographic controls on ice flow and recession for Juneau Icefield (Alaska/British Columbia)	750
QCF	Laura Basell	University of Leicester	Exploring the realms of virtual reality: New Survey Results from Mwanampambe Cave, Kajengwa, Unguja	750
QRA	Tim Atkinson	University College London	Speleothem dating and the onset of ice-sheet glaciation in NW Scotland	3600
QRF	James Bendle	University of Birmingham	Unlocking New Palaeolimnology Proxies	1500
QRF	Ben Chandler	University of Nottingham	Testing the limits: luminescence dating of inferred Younger Dryas glacier limits in the Central Scottish Highlands	1500
QRF	Lauren Davies	University of Cambridge	Modelling and mapping historical volcanic ash dispersal: Katmai 1912	1500

QRF	Kathryn Adamson	Manchester Metropolitan University	Reconstructing palaeoenvironmental conditions in the Egyptian Nile Valley using rhizolith micro-morphology	1440
QRF	Ian Candy	Royal Holloway, University of London	Is there isotopic evidence for a Little Ice Age in Southern England	1500
QRF	Charlotte Spencer-Jones	Durham University	Environmental Reconstruction of Paleo-Mega Lakes: The Makgadikgadi Basin	1500
QRF	Aidan Starr	Rutgers University	The Antarctic Circumpolar Current in the Glacial Southeast Indian Ocean: A Multi-Site Flow Speed Reconstruction	500
¹⁴ C Chrono	Junglas Solveig	Oxford University & British Museum	Establishing a use chronology of Buddhist Cave Temples through stratigraphic paint sampling	3 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Sally Derrett	University of Sheffield	Future fens: using palaeoecology to inform restoration and conservation of the Lincolnshire Fenlands	3 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Jessica Gauld	University of Manchester	Learning from the Past: A Palaeoecological Study to Inform Restoration of Greater Manchester's Peatlands	2 dates
¹⁴ C Chrono	Naima Harman	Royal Holloway, University of London	Extending coupled cryptotephra and palaeoclimatic analysis of marine cores to the Eastern Mediterranean over the last ~200ka	2 dates

Prepared by William Fletcher, Awards Officer