

Expeditions Fund 2025/26

The Expeditions Fund provides grants to students towards travel in the long summer vacation. The Fund is made up of two historic endowments – the Alice Mutton and the Ruth Owen bequests – and annual contributions from the University and from the Development and Alumni Engagement Directorate.

Applications are open to all **continuing** undergraduate and postgraduate students who are enrolled and in attendance on a course at Queen Mary and who wish to travel in the UK or worldwide during the long summer vacation. Eligible dates for travel are those that apply for the long summer vacation at the Mile End campus and for summer 2025/26 these are **Saturday 06 June 2026 – Sunday 20 September 2026 inclusive**.

The Expeditions Fund Panel consider applications at a meeting shortly after the closing date and successful applicants informed of the outcome via MySIS. Successful students will receive their award once their risk assessment form is approved, before travel or by 31st July 2026 at the latest. There is no appeal to the Panel's decision.

What is offered?

- Awards are made to travel that is related to students' academic interests or personal development.
- Successful applications demonstrate a detailed schedule or programme of events with a planned outcome.
- Students travelling in a group each need to submit an individual application.
- The funds at the Expeditions Fund Panel's disposal are limited and awards are intended to contribute to, not cover, the cost of the trip.
- Awards are typically between £200 - £350.
- The Alice Mutton bequest is specifically for Geography students, to travel worldwide (bequeathed by Dr Alice Mutton, Reader in Geography).
- The Ruth Owen travel grant is for undergraduate students in Drama, English, French, German, Hispanic Studies or History, travelling out of Europe (established by Mrs Ruth Owen, student of Westfield College from 1949 to 1952).

Conditions attached to the award

- Awards are provisional upon the completion of a detailed Queen Mary Risk Assessment. Please note students **should not** travel to any part of the world that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office designate as "advising against all travel to" as at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> Funding will **not** be allocated to a student who wishes to travel to an area which may endanger their safety.
- Recipients **must** take out adequate travel insurance for the duration of their trip.
- In accepting an award, students agree to undertake travel as described in their Expeditions Fund application and to provide a written report of the expedition, at least two sides of A4, to be submitted during the autumn semester by the deadline of end of the semester.
- The report may be used in marketing and publicity by the university. The Alumni Office may contact successful students to participate in their fundraising events, if appropriate, though this will be optional.

- The Covid-19 pandemic has had long lasting effects on travel and may continue to do so for some time. Travel rules can change very quickly. The Expeditions Fund is subject to Queen Mary University policies and the University reserves the right to withdraw funds at anytime.

Criteria

- Undergraduate students in their final year of their degree programme are not eligible as they will no longer be a continuing student at Queen Mary while travelling.
- If a student has previously received an award they can apply again but the fund is relatively small and therefore first time applicants are a priority.
- PhD students will also be considered as a lower priority for awards from this fund as there is a considerable amount of other funding available for PhD students to travel, details of the Queen Mary Postgraduate Research Fund and Doctoral College Initiative Fund are here: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/doctorscollege/doctors-students/current-students/>

HEAR

Providing students submit a written report of their trip, the Queen Mary Expeditions Fund award will be recorded on the student [HEAR](#) as an Additional Recognised Activity