BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS’ UNION

grants@bou.org.uk | **Tel** +44 (0)7485 385451 | **www**.bou.org.uk

The BOU is a Registered Charity: 249877 (England and Wales), SC044850 (Scotland)

## MEMBER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT

GUIDELINES

**ABOUT THE BOU**

The BOU is an international charitable society whose aim is to promote ornithology and a better understanding of ornithology, birds and related issues, within the scientific and birdwatching communities. The provision of grants to promote the dissemination of ornithological research is a small part of how we achieve our aims. To see how we further achieve our aims visit our website at [bou.org.uk](http://www.bou.org.uk/).

The aim of this scheme is to enable BOU members to attend continental/regional and global ornithology conferences to present their work.

Please read these guidelines carefully. They contain important information relating to your application for funding and not following these guidelines may jeopardise your application.

Please email your completed application form to [grants@bou.org.uk](mailto:grants@bou.org.uk) by **18 February 2024**.

When completing your application, please carefully note the following:

**1. Qualifying events**

The BOU will support applications to attend the following regional and global events.

European Ornithologists’ Union Fledglings Meeting – next held in 2024

American Ornithological Society Annual Meeting (AOS) – next held in 2024

North American Ornithological Congress (NAOC) – next held in 2025

Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) – next held in 2025

European Ornithologists’ Union Conference (EOUC) – next held in 2025

International Ornithological Congress (IOC) – next held in 2026

Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) – next held in 2026

Ornithological Congress of the Americas (OCA) – next held in 2027

**2. Who can apply?**

Applications only accepted from BOU members who are presenting their work at one of the above events. This includes oral presentations, research posters or delivering a workshop.

Important note: if you have received any funding from the BOU previously and failed to provide the required report(s) relating to that award, this will render this application void.

**3. What we fund and size of awards**

We recognise the need to promote low carbon attendance but not at the expense of excluding members who do not have such options.

Also, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the conference landscape with remote attendance now increasingly an option for many larger events. Remote attendance not only significantly reduces a participant’s carbon output for an event, but also enables those unable to travel (for whatever reason) to participate in these events.

We fund the following:

* Low carbon travel to in-person events;
* Air travel to in-person events only when no low carbon or remote attendance options are available;
* Accommodation and subsistence costs;
* Remote attendance registration fee.

Three awards are available:

1. Intra-continental attendance   
   For those attending an event within the continent/region they are based, an award of up to £300 is available.
2. Inter-continental events

For those attending an event outside the continent/region they are based, an award of up to £800 is available.

1. Remote attendance  
   For those attending an event remotely, an award of up to £250 is available.

**4. Timing of applications**

The applicable congresses and conferences are usually held in July, August or September.

We will hold one round of applications per annum for events being held in any year.

The deadline for applications is **18 February 2024**.

**5. Submitting your application**

Use the application form provided and submit this as a Word document (not PDF). Complete the fields requested, save as

‘BOU member conference attendance grant application - <insert your surname/family name here>’ (e.g. BOU member conference attendance grant application – Smith) and send by email to [grants@bou.org.uk](mailto:grants@bou.org.uk).

Your application must be accompanied by one reference (see below).

Applications are only accepted via email. The BOU will acknowledge (by email) receipt of your application. All correspondence will be undertaken by email.

**6. Reference**

You need a reference for your application. A good referee is someone who knows you or, for students, their project supervisor, and this person will be expected to submit a reference at the same time as your application.

This must be submitted by email to the BOU Office ([grants@bou.org.uk](mailto:grants@bou.org.uk)) by 18 February 2024.

On the application form you are asked to provide the name, address, telephone number and email address of your referee which we will match against the incoming reference for your application. Note, we will not chase referees – that is the applicants responsibility to ensure their referee submits a supporting reference in time for your application to be considered.

**7. BOU Mission Statement**

Applicants should note the BOU’s aims and mission statement:

The British Ornithologists’ Union will promote understanding and conservation of the world’s birds, advance ornithology within the scientific community and promote scientific ornithology to the wider birdwatching public.

The BOU’s mission will be achieved by the following:

1. To maintain the publication of the IBISas a leading international journal of ornithological science.
2. To organise and/or hold a programme of meetings and conferences.
3. To make available grants for ornithological research.
4. To facilitate liaison between those engaged in ornithological research.
5. To provide, as a representative of the scientific community, ornithological information and advice to government and other policy makers.
6. To maintain and publish the official list of British birds (The British List).

**8. BOU Ethical Policy**

The British Ornithologists’ Union is committed to upholding the highest scientific standards, and it requires that all who engage with it in its activities, who publish papers in IBIS or who benefit from its financial support also uphold such standards.

In particular:

1 Scientific integrity   
Results should be reported honestly and openly, and data which does not support a hypothesis should not be suppressed or ignored.

2 Due acknowledgement   
All who contribute and all sources or references should be adequately acknowledged. It is recognised that material derived from citizen science surveys, long term institutional studies or similar may make individual acknowledgement impractical, but the organisation or group responsible should be acknowledged. Permission should be obtained to use data gathered by others where it has not already been made available for public access by the authors or compilers, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

3 Mitigating any adverse impact   
The BOU expects authors and applicants to have proper regard for conservation considerations and best practice in work with wild or captive animals. Attention is drawn to the ‘Guidelines for the Use of Animals in Research’ published regularly in the journal Animal Behaviour (*Animal Behaviour* 2006, 21:245-253) and the specific guidance provided by ASAB/ABS for submissions to Animal Behaviour. In particular authors should consider the potential impacts of disturbance, trapping, and manipulations such as marking or tagging on their study animals and provide details in the paper or grant application of how these aspects have been or will be dealt with. Papers will not be accepted, nor grants and bursaries awarded if they are based on or relate to work involving cruelty to animals or if the work may or may have put at risk endangered populations, species or habitats.

The BOU is not opposed in principle to the ‘taking’ of specimens from the wild for scientific purposes but would expect that only in exceptional circumstances is such an approach adopted. Authors and applicants are referred to the guidelines on collecting of specimens from the wild proposed by Collar ([*Bird Conservation International* 2000, 10: 1-15](http://people.ds.cam.ac.uk/cns26/NJC/Papers/Collecting&conservation.pdf)).

All collection activity should be carried out with discretion, and after consultation with any relevant local authority, landowner or other groups or individuals whose legitimate interests may be affected, even if no formal licence or permission is required to comply with principle 4 below.

Authors and applicants should adhere to the guidance published by the Economic and Social Research Council, [*ESRC Framework for Research Ethics*](https://esrc.ukri.org/files/funding/guidance-for-applicants/esrc-framework-for-research-ethics-2015/)where any research involves the participation of individuals outside the relevant research team or institution, data relating to such individuals, or may have an impact on such individuals, and where appropriate undertake an ethical review of their project in accordance with such guidance, providing a copy or summary of such review to the BOU if requested.

4 Legal compliance   
The BOU expects all authors of papers submitted to IBIS and applicants for awards, grants and bursaries to act within the standards and procedures laid down by UK legislation or equivalent legislation in the country where the work is conducted. They must ensure they have the necessary licences and permits for the activities described in the paper or grant application. Where work is carried out in places lacking legislation or where this is not adequately administered, the work should conform to the ethical standards expected in the UK.

5 Conflicts of interest   
Any interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, that might be perceived as influencing an author’s or applicant’s objectivity is considered a potential source of conflict of interest. These must be disclosed when directly relevant or indirectly related to the work that the authors describe in their manuscript or which is the subject matter of an application for funding. Potential sources of conflict of interest include but are not limited to patent or stock ownership, membership of a company board of directors, membership of an advisory board or committee for a company, institute or organisation and consultancy for or receipt of fees or sponsorship from a company, institute or organisation. The existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily preclude publication in IBIS, or the awarding of a grant.

It is the responsibility of the corresponding author submitting a paper to IBIS to review this policy with all authors and to collectively list in the covering letter to the Editor, in the manuscript (under the Acknowledgment section), and in the online submission system ALL pertinent commercial and other relationships. As part of the submission process, corresponding authors will be asked to confirm whether or not a conflict of interest exists.

The BOU reserves the right not to publish any comment or response to any submitted or published paper if it considers that the comment or response may be motivated by personal animosity rather than genuine scientific disagreement.

6 Safety   
While the BOU does not accept any duty of care for those involved in BOU-funded activities, it expects those involved to take adequate steps to minimise risk to those participating in any research or expedition.

The BOU is a member of and subscribes to the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). IBIS is published on behalf of BOU by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing and we support Wiley-Blackwell in their policy on ethical issues in relation to scientific publications (see [authorservices.wiley.com](http://authorservices.wiley.com/)). Authors should make themselves familiar with this policy.

All awards, grants and bursaries funded by BOU are awarded on condition that the recipients comply with these guidelines, and applicants should confirm that they have read and understood them.

Please make clear whether your work includes the collection of specimens (for which copies of any appropriate licenses are required).

**9. Consideration of your application**

Applications are circulated to members of the BOU’s member conference attendance grant panel who then make their recommendations to BOU Council.

Applicants are contacted in May to inform them of the outcome of their application.

**10. Being offered an award**

Awards are offered subject to a presentation being accepted.

**11. Taking up, and payment of, an award**

On being offered an award you will be asked to confirm acceptance of the award under the terms of these guidelines and any other conditions contained in the offer email.

Awards are paid from June onwards on receipt of a claim. Claims can be made in advance of attendance or up to three months after the event.

Before payment is made, we require:

* a copy of your abstract acceptance email from the event organisers;
* a copy of your conference registration;
* proof of purchase of your travel.

An award will be paid direct to the awardee’s bank account or by bankers’ draft payable to the awardee. No other account or third-party recipient will be accommodated.

**12. Acknowledging the BOU’s support**

You must acknowledge the BOU’s support within any presentation at an event.

**13. Reporting back to the BOU**

Acceptance of an award is acceptance of the condition to adequately report back to the BOU. As a charity, and in order to comply with charity regulations, the BOU needs to demonstrate where our funds have been spent, and that this spending complies with charity legislation.

We will require a blog post for publication about your attendance to be submitted to us within 30 days of the event (details will be provided to successful applicants).

Failure to adequately report back to the BOU will render yourself, and any other person from your institute, ineligible to apply for future funding from the BOU.

**14. Withdrawal of an award / return of an award**

If the BOU is not satisfied that the funds it has awarded have been spent as per the application for which funding was sought, or a suitable report (for publication as a blog post) is not submitted to us, then the BOU reserves the right to request the award, in part or in full, be returned.

An award cannot be transferred to a third party. If the original recipient is unable to use the award as intended, then the award must be returned in full.

**15. Unsuccessful application**

If your application has been unsuccessful, then you will receive notification of this by email. Due to the number of applications, we are unable to provide feedback as to why any application is unsuccessful.

No correspondence will be entered into with regard to an unsuccessful application.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

APPPLICATION FORM BELOW

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## MEMBER CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT

APPLICATION FORM

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

You must be a BOU member to apply for a travel award.

Please read the associated guidelines carefully and complete all fields:

* About you, including an outline (shortened) CV
* About the work you wish to present
* Referee
* Declaration

**Closing date for applications and references: 31 March.**

**About you**

*BOU members only – see note 2 of the guidelines*

**Name**: xxx (overtype the xxx in each section throughout)

**Your pronouns**: xxx (e.g. she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/theirs)

Leave blank if you wish; this is for internal use only as we collect pronouns simply to avoid mis-gendering any individual.

**Nationality / Citizenship**: xxx

**Email** (one only): xxx

Only one email address will be used for all communications in relation to this application

**Occupation** (current position) **/ career stage** (e.g. MSc Student): xxx

**Institute and address**: xxx

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Presentation title |  |
| Event |  |
| Date(s) of event |  |
| Total attendance costs |  |
| Amount requested from BOU |  |

**Home address (for non-institute applicants)**: xxx

**Outline CV** (please provide a shortened summary (max. one page) detailing education, employment and publication items (without annotation).

**About your presentation**

**Event** (e.g. EOU Fledglings 2024) *see note 1 of the guidelines for list of qualifying events*:

xxx

**Host city/location and country**: xxx

**Dates** (of event): xxx

**To attend**: In-person / remotely \* (circle/highlight one)

**Low carbon travel option**: Yes / No \* (circle/highlight one)

**Presentation type:**

Oral / Workshop / Poster / Other\* (circle/highlight one)

\* Detail ‘other’: xxx

**Presentation Title**:

xxx

**Abstract** (max. 500 words):

xxx

**Event submission deadline**:

xxx

**Status of your abstract application with the event**:

Submitted / To be submitted / Accepted (circle one)

**Have you applied to the BOU for any funding before, and if so what was the outcome?**

xxx

**Titles, dates and amounts of any previous awards received from BOU, and dates that reports were submitted** *– see note 1 of the guidelines*:

xxx

**Anticipated application of the study’s finding and publication of results** (max 100 words):

xxx

**Personal statement** (300 – 500 words) specify details of how you/your work will benefit from this opportunity and any expected outcomes of your conference attendance:

xxx

**Acknowledging the BOU** (max. 250 words) detail how you will acknowledge the BOU’s support of your attendance and/or other ways you can promote the BOU before, during and after the event:

xxx

**Low carbon travel** (max. 250 words) detail here what low carbon travel you will use or state why you are not using low carbon travel options and require a flight:

xxx

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attendance Budget** | **Amount** | **To be covered by \*** |
| Registration – in-person event | £ xxx |  |
| Registration – remote attendance | £ xxx |  |
| Accommodation | £ xxx |  |
| Subsistence | £ xxx |  |
| Travel – low carbon | £ xxx |  |
| Travel – flights (only when low carbon alternatives and remote attendance are not available) | £ xxx |  |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **£ xxx** |  |

\* Include the funder (confirmed or applied for) for each item, including which element you’re requesting funds from the BOU for – detail these below ‘Other funding sources’

**Amount requested from BOU**

*up to £300 for intra-continental travel; up to £800 for inter-continental travel – see note 3 of the guidelines*

£xxx

**Other funding sources** (please provide body/fund/institute, amount and status):

E.g.

IOC travel fund, £500, applied for

Home institute, £1000, awarded

xxx

**Personal contribution** (there is no expectation for applicants to be self-funding; this is for those with no institutional support or other funding who would otherwise self-fund their attendance):

xxx

**referee** *see guidelines*

**Referee**

Name: xxx

Email address: xxx

Address: xxx

Relationship to applicant: xxx

IMPORTANT NOTE:

your referee must send their reference to us by email at [grants@bou.org.uk](mailto:grants@bou.org.uk) by the 18 February 2024.

**Declaration**

I have read, understood and agree to abide by the BOU’s ethical policy (*see guidelines*):

I have read, understood and accept the reporting conditions of accepting an award from the BOU (*see guidelines*).

Name: xxx Yes / No

Send your completed application, as a Word document (not PDF) by email only to [grants@bou.org.uk](mailto:grants@bou.org.uk).

Do not post or fax.

All correspondence will be undertaken by email.

**Checklist**

Is the conference/congress one of the eligible events?

Are you a BOU member?

Have you completed all sections of the application form?

Have you asked your referee to email their support?

**What happens next?**

* Your application will be acknowledged by email.
* If you do not receive acknowledgement of your email (a personal email from a BOU staff member, not an out of office notice) then contact leilawalker@bou.org.uk.
* If your application is incomplete this will be highlighted in the acknowledgement email.
* After the closing date, those applications that are incomplete or fail to satisfy our submission criteria will be notified and their application will not be considered.
* Applications satisfying our submission criteria will be forwarded to the Member Conference Attendance Grants Panel for consideration.