

Frequently Asked Questions for Grant Applicants

Q. Am I eligible to apply?

We welcome applications from everyone working within the field of British numismatics, including independent scholars and collectors, students and academics, archaeologists and museum professionals among others. You do not have to be a member of the BNS to apply. If you don't currently belong to the BNS, see our Membership page for more details about our membership benefits. See under 'Is my project eligible?' for more details of the BNS's remit.

Q. Is my project eligible?

A. The BNS is a charity and its grant giving activity is guided by the BNS's charitable objectives. The society's bylaws outline these as follows:

The Society is established for the benefit of the public through the encouragement and promotion of numismatic science, and particularly through the study of the coins, medals and tokens of the peoples of the British Isles and Commonwealth and the United States of America, and all territories as may at any time be or have been subject to their jurisdiction.

The BNS's grants therefore support the study of topics connected with the British Isles and the other territories and jurisdictions included within our remit. We cover all coinages from ancient to modern. For example, projects on Iron Age and Roman coins of Britain, British colonial and Commonwealth coinages and the coinages of the Republic of Ireland are all within our remit. Projects focusing on other territories and jurisdictions (e.g. Roman coins from elsewhere within the Roman empire) are out of our scope, unless a clear connection or benefit to British numismatics can be demonstrated.

We do not make grants to support coin purchases.

Q. Will you make a grant if I have made other applications for funding?

A. If you have access to other sources of funding, please explain which other funding bodies you have approached, and with what results (if known).

Q. What do you mean by "benefit to British numismatics" and how can I demonstrate that my project offers this?

A. We would like to understand how your project will make a difference to British numismatics. How will your project, event, resource or publication add to the body of knowledge about British numismatics or develop public understanding of our field? What will change, develop or improve as a result of the BNS's support of your project?

For example, if you are undertaking research, where and how do you plan to publish your results? Will you be making your research available via an article or book, a BNS blog entry, a database, an exhibition, or a web resource?

If you are applying for a segment of work within a larger project, how will the overall research project, and the specific element you are applying for, add to the knowledge or understanding of British numismatics?

If you are applying for support for an online exhibition or museum display, how will your project promote and encourage understanding of numismatics? Will it open up previously inaccessible objects to new audiences, for example through improving the interpretation or display of numismatic materials?

If you are applying for a conference or event, how will the event encourage and promote numismatics? How will it help enhance understanding and research in your particular field of numismatics?

Q. Can I apply for travel expenses for my research?

A. Yes, we will cover reasonable travel expenses for research travel. We will normally refund only second-class rail travel, and cap the cost of accommodation at a maximum of £140 per night (London) and £120 (out of London).

We will give preference to properly costed proposals. We may ask you for more details about your planned expenditure if this isn't clear from your application.

Q. Can I claim for my research time?

A. Please contact us for further advice.

Q. Can I apply for image reproduction costs?

Yes, we will consider applications for the costs of reproducing images. Please include full details of A. the image(s), the cost of reproduction and the publication in which the image will appear.

Q. Can I apply for support for book production costs?

A. Yes, we will consider applications for support towards publication costs (for example, printing, design, photography, image sourcing). However, we do **not** support Open Access fees. Please include as much detail as possible on the costs of your book, and how you would plan to use our grant. For example, would the grant be used to provide free copies to libraries, to cover reproduction costs, or to reduce the cover price of the volume? Please also explain what the benefit to British numismatics will be.

If your application is successful, we will ask you to deposit a copy of the published work in the Joint Library of British Numismatic Society and Royal Numismatic Society.

Q. Can I apply for conference costs?

A. The BNS sets annual goals for itself to help develop equality, diversity and inclusion in numismatics, and we encourage conference organisers to consider diversity, equality and inclusion in arranging their event. We particularly encourage organisers to consider issues such as gender balance and how they might help make their event more accessible to independent scholars and students.

We will consider applications for reasonable travel expenses for speakers and for bursaries towards the expenses of individuals who might not otherwise be able to attend the event.

We recognise the importance of mealtimes, coffee breaks and receptions in providing opportunities for event participants to socialise and network, and therefore will contribute towards carefully costed conference meals, breaks and events.

We do expect organisers to apply for other funding streams that may be open to them, and to consider asking waged delegates to contribute towards the expenses of the event by charging an appropriate conference fee.

Please include detailed costings in support of your application. We may ask you for more details about your planned expenditure if this isn't clear from your application. Please also explain what the benefit to British numismatics will be.

Q. I have special needs; can I include costs linked to my special needs in my application?

A. Yes, absolutely; please include these costs in your application for your project. For example, please include the travel costs of an accompanying support person in an application for research travel.