

The Raleigh Graduate Bursary Award for Volunteering Overseas

Expand your horizons, invest in your future

Frequently asked questions

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply for the award?

The bursary award is only available to recent graduates (2008 or 2009) or those about to graduate who will be aged 24 or under at the time of the expedition departure and who are able to prove that an overseas expedition would be beyond their financial means without assistance.

Priority will be given to those who received a full Higher Education Maintenance Grant, a full Higher Education Grant (HEG) or a full Higher Education Tuition Fee Grant in their final year at university funded by an English local authority or Student Finance England.

If you were first in family to graduate from university but did not receive one of the above full or partial Higher Education Grants then you are also eligible to apply.

In addition to proving your financial eligibility, you will also need to demonstrate past experience of volunteering and an understanding of the Raleigh expedition and commitment to the aims and vision of Raleigh.

What does 'first in family' to graduate from university mean?

This term refers to anyone who is in the first generation of their family to graduate from university, so applies to anyone whose parents did not graduate from university.

Can I apply if I received financial support from Student Finance Wales, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Finance Northern Ireland?

No. The bursary award is only available for recent graduates who received financial support from an English local authority or Student Finance England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each have their own student financial support schemes.

Can I apply if I am undertaking post-graduate studies or am about to receive a post-graduate qualification?

If you graduated in 2008, 2009 or are about to graduate with either an undergraduate degree or a post-graduate degree and if you will be 24 years old or under at the time of expedition and can demonstrate financial eligibility, then you are eligible to apply.

I am not eligible – can I still join an expedition?

If you do not meet the above criteria, you can still join a Raleigh expedition, however you will need to fundraise the full amount. Please see our website for more information about our expeditions in Borneo, Costa Rica & Nicaragua and India and costs.

Why is Raleigh working with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to offer the bursary award?



Through this partnership with the Department for Business, Innovation and skills, Raleigh will be able to widen participation on its expeditions and offer graduates who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to fundraise the full amount of an expedition the opportunity to boost their employability, explore new cultures, learn new skills and become global citizens.

Why is it only available to graduates who have received a Higher Education Maintenance Grant or first in the family to go to university?

The funding that Raleigh has received from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is aimed at graduates who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to join a Raleigh expedition because of their lower financial means. Receiving a Higher Education Maintenance Grant, a Higher Education Grant (HEG) or a Higher Education Fee Grant, or being first in family to graduate from university are the main indicators of the family income of a graduate.

THE EXPEDITION

How long is the expedition?

An expedition lasts 10 weeks and includes a three week community project, a three week environmental project and a three week adventure phase.

Do I have to go for 10 weeks?

You must be able to commit to the full 10 weeks and you will not be able to arrive late/ leave early or stay on once the expedition finishes. If you are travelling independently before or after the expedition it is your responsibility to make your own travel arrangements.

How do I stay in touch whilst on expedition?

Each project phase lasts 3 weeks and you will be in remote destinations, the only form of communication being through high frequency radio between your project team and field base. There are only limited opportunities to check emails or make phone calls between projects phases. What we suggest if you are in the middle of job hunting is to create an 'out of office' message that explains you are on a Raleigh expedition, what you'll be doing and that you will have limited opportunity to be in touch.

In which countries do Raleigh expeditions take place ?

Raleigh has three permanent field bases: in Borneo, Costa Rica and India. On the Costa Rica expedition some of our community projects take place in Nicaragua so you could get to visit both countries.

Can I choose which country I go to?

No. However, you are welcome to express a preference for a particular country in your application and at your interview. Your preferences will be taken into account when placing you, but we can not guarantee that you will be placed in your country or project of choice.

When can I go?

Applications are currently open for expeditions departing on 10th October 2009, in February and March 2010 and July 2010.

What will I be doing on expedition?

You will be working on much needed environmental and community projects plus undertaking a challenging trek. Please visit our website to find out more about the countries and the projects you could be working on.



Will I get any training?

You will be invited to a training day where you'll be able to meet other graduates joining your expedition. You'll learn more about your projects, kit and medical requirements and discuss fundraising ideas. When you arrive in country you will have a 5-day induction. This includes safety briefings, risk assessment, casualty evacuation, training in the correct and safe use of tools, camping equipment, and safety equipment including radios.

What level of fitness do I need for the adventure phase?

A basic level of fitness is necessary. Participants achieve this trek through a combination of team support and sheer determination.

What kit will I need?

Kit includes walking boots, a rucksack, sleeping bag, head torch and other camping/hiking gear. Once you have been accepted you will receive a full kit list in your welcome CD.

Do I need any special skills?

You don't need any specific hard skills although you will need to demonstrate on your application form an interest in volunteering, skills you have developed during extracurricular activities and an understanding of Raleigh's aims and vision.

Can I travel before or after my expedition?

Yes. If you travel afterwards there will probably be other people on your expedition that you can travel with. Please check the vaccine and malaria recommendations for the areas. You are covered for medical insurance whilst on a Raleigh expedition so will need your own medical insurance before the expedition starts and after the expedition finishes. Our insurers can provide this cover; please see the insurance pack for details.

What happens when I get back?

You will be invited to attend a day's employability skills workshop attended by Raleigh corporate partners.

THE COST

What do I have to pay for?

The bursary award is partly funded by the Department of Business and Skills and Raleigh. You are required to contribute £1000 towards the cost of your expedition.

In addition to this, you will need to pay for your flights, vaccinations and kit which will total to approximately £800.

Do I have to fundraise to join an expedition?

You can raise the funds to join the expedition in any way you like. This may include traditional fundraising activities such as sponsored events, or writing to companies, asking friends and family for donations or using money you have saved through working. We prefer you to do some traditional fundraising as it's a great way to raise awareness of our charitable activities, help you develop more skills and get in the spirit of Raleigh!

When do I have to pay?

If you are offered a bursary award you will need to pay a £200 non refundable deposit within 2 weeks of us informing you. The deposit forms part of your £1000 fundraising target. The



remaining balance will need to be paid to Raleigh by 30th September for expeditions departing 10th October 2009.

Where does my money go?

72% goes towards running the expedition in terms of planning and delivery of projects, staff costs in country, running field base, food and accommodation, in-country travel, specialist equipment, training in the UK and in-country etc. 14% goes towards recruitment, marketing and PR, 13% towards head office overheads and 1% goes towards the governance of running a charity.

Will I have to arrange my own flight?

Yes. Raleigh do recommend flights which will be listed in your welcome CD. The cost of your flight will vary depending on your expedition country, departure airport and how far in advance you book your tickets. However, departure prices from the UK usually range between £400 and £600.

Are there any other expenses?

Once you are on expedition, there will be very few other expenses, as all food and accommodation is covered. You may want to take a small amount of pocket money for souvenirs and snacks.

How do I apply?

To apply for the bursary award, you must complete an online application form. Individual deadlines apply for the different expeditions. The expeditions departing on October 10th 2009 have an application deadline of 14th August 2009. Successful applicants will be interviewed by telephone.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

I'm worried about Swine Flu, is it safe to travel?

At the present time we are monitoring the situation both in the media and also through Foreign and Commonwealth Office, World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Travel Health Network and Centre and National Health Service.

Although WHO has declared it a pandemic based on the numbers of infected people globally and not the severity of the cases, they have not changed the travel restrictions to or via any country. Today, global travel is commonplace and large numbers of people move around the world for business and leisure. Limiting travel and imposing travel restrictions would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global community.

Do I need any vaccines for the expedition?

All expedition countries will require some vaccines to ensure you are protected against some common diseases. The list of essential and optional vaccines can be found in your welcome pack. The essential vaccines are required for travel with us and the completed vaccine form must be returned to the medical coordinator at least four weeks before departure. You will not be accepted on expedition unless you have had all of the essential vaccines.



Do you provide my medical insurance?

Once the medical form has been completed and received by the medical coordinator your insurance is provided. All current and previous medical conditions must be on the form and all medications listed. If you suffer with a condition that you haven't put on your form this will void your insurance.

Why do I need rabies vaccines for all destinations?

All of the countries we work in have a risk of rabies. Part of the appeal of Raleigh is that we work in remote environments, which are often a drive from the nearest suitable medical facilities. Without the vaccine, treatment of immunoglobulin is required within 24 hours, however there is a worldwide shortage of this treatment. We cannot guarantee we can get you to a centre that stocks the treatment within 24 hours of being bitten, licked or scratched by a potentially rabid animal. Current guidelines issued by the WHO, CDC and the NHS recommend that a rabies vaccine is required for travel to our expedition countries for a stay of more than four weeks.

Are there any medical restrictions for expedition?

We try to be as inclusive as possible but obviously need to ensure the safety of every individual on expedition. If you suffer with a long standing medical condition please ensure that you discuss this with the medical coordinator at head office as soon as possible.

What happens if I get diagnosed with a condition before I go?

Please inform the medical coordinator as soon as possible. As long as the condition will not have an impact on your experience or the rest of the expedition we can usually work around it and ensure the insurance covers you.

What happens if I injure myself before I go?

Please inform the medical coordinator to discuss the options.

Will I need to take malaria tablets?

Borneo and Costa Rica & Nicaragua are malarial areas and will require you to take malaria tablets. Please see your practice nurse, GP or travel clinic at least 6 weeks prior to departure date to discuss your options. You must also ensure that you have enough tablets with you on expedition to cover the whole duration.

Which malaria tablets do I need to take?

There are a variety of different tablets available for malaria prevention. Your practice nurse, GP or travel clinic will be able to help you decide which one is most suitable for the area you are travelling to. There is a medical coordinator available at head office to answer these questions and run through the choices if needs be. If you travel on after your expedition the areas you visit may have different malaria tablet requirements.

When do I take them?

All of the malaria tablets are different so please check if the ones you are taking are daily or weekly. If you're on weekly tablets please make sure you take them on a Sunday for the duration of the expedition. All malaria tablets need to be taken before, during and after expedition for varying lengths of time, please make sure you're aware of these timescales.

What happens if I become ill during the expedition?

We have a team of medics on every expedition and each site has an extensive medical kit available. We have good relationships with the local doctors and hospitals too and will



ensure you get any medical care you need. Your insurance covers your medical expenses as long as all conditions have been put on your medical form. The insurance also covers repatriation to the UK should this become necessary.

