

IWRS Student Research Award Grants: Applicant Handbook

For all awards submitted: August 1, 2023 - October 30, 2023

Introduction

This handbook is intended to help you apply for an Insect Welfare Research Society Graduate Student Research Award Grant, and to understand the terms and conditions of this funding. These terms and conditions are non-negotiable; you may choose whether or not to accept our grant funding given the terms offered in our final grant agreement.

Please read the entire document before submitting your application.

1. What do Student Research Awards support?

One of the IWRS aims is to support the global insect welfare research community and encourage the incorporation of evidence-based information on insect welfare into policy and practice by relevant stakeholders. There are two grants available annually. One shall be awarded to a graduate student working on insect welfare and the other to a graduate student working on insect sentience. Research on insect welfare or insect sentience can be experimentally based (lab, field or industrial); however, reviews and theoretical advances from a variety of fields are also fundable.

2. What taxa are considered fundable by this grant program?

Alongside insects, we will also support events focused on 1) terrestrial arthropods that are not insects (e.g., spiders and other arachnids, isopods, etc.) and 2) aquatic invertebrates (e.g., shrimp/prawns, aquatic isopods, etc.), whenever the IWRS considers the welfare of those groups to be seriously understudied. Any non-insects are funded at the IWRS's sole discretion each year. Applicants unsure if their taxa of interest is considered 'understudied' by the IWRS should email grants@insectwelfare.com.

3. What can grant funds be used for?

Grants may be used to help finance costs such as: living costs, laboratory consumables, computational hours, travel for fieldwork, tech support, research supplies and open access publication costs. If you are unsure if your requirements are covered by the

Student Research Award, please contact grants@insectwelfare.com.

We will not fund:

- Travel for a single individual to attend an event
- Courses or tuition fees
- Conference registration fees
- Political or advocacy-related costs
- Overhead/indirect costs
- Expenses falling outside the scope of: 1) the specific research project proposed by the researcher; or 2) the living expenses associated with the researcher completing that project.
- Retrospective costs.

The IWRS awards committee may use its sole discretion in every case when deciding what it will fund in each proposal.

4. What kind of financial support is provided?

The Welfare and the Sentience grant provide \$2000 USD each, paid out in a single amount.

5. Who can apply for funding?

- The applicant must be actively working on the research topic themselves.
- The applicant can be from any discipline.
- The applicant should be a graduate student, working towards either a PhD, MSc, MA or equivalent and should not already be in receipt of a PhD (unless in an unrelated field) or be working as a postdoctoral researcher or hold a faculty position.
- Applications from professional fundraisers and conference agencies are not considered.
- Although there is no restriction on the nationality of individuals that may apply, we will not pay awards to recipients located in (or for events that will be located in) jurisdictions, countries, or regions of the world subject to trade restrictions, embargoes, or sanctions put in place by the United Nations or the United States of America.

6. How are applications assessed?

- Applications are assessed by the Director, three members of the Board of Advisors (one ethicist, one entomologist, and one welfare scientist), two external

taxon-specific reviewers, and an IWRS contractor.

- If the award is selected for funding, additional review of the application for *legal compliance only* will be conducted by the fiscal sponsor of the IWRS.
- If a member of the awards committee is recused from reviewing the proposal due to a COI, the Director will appoint a member of the Board of Advisors to review the application instead.
- Applications are assessed based on:
 - Meeting the grant criteria (project scope, funding requested, taxonomic focus).
 - Quality and/or importance of research/scholarship to the fields of insect sentience and insect welfare.
 - Ethical conduct of the use of live animals (if applicable).

7. When will I hear back about my grant application?

You should receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application within a week of the grant deadline (October 30, 2023). If you do not, please follow up with admin@insectwelfare.com to ensure there have been no technical issues.

The awards committee strives to make decisions on funding within 4-6 weeks of the submission deadline, therefore, decisions should be received by December 11, 2023. However, decisions may take as long as 90 days (January 24, 2024). Applicants can email grants@insectwelfare.com for an update on the status of their application.

Potential grantees should not discuss their funding publicly until after both parties have signed the official grant agreement. Any offers of funding prior to both parties signing the agreement should be considered tentative and unofficial.

8. If my application is rejected, may I appeal or resubmit?

A previously rejected application will not be reconsidered if resubmitted. There is no process of appeal.

We welcome applicants to submit new applications for different projects in the future. A previously rejected application will not affect the probability of future funding.

9. If funding is received, how should I acknowledge the IWRS?

We ask that you acknowledge the IWRS' support in any physical or digital publication or presentation, online or in person, based on results obtained fully or partially through

IWRS funding. Your acknowledgment should include our name in full (Insect Welfare Research Society) and logo (we will provide high-resolution versions for your use). If you are acknowledging us on Twitter, please use our handle (@InsectWRS).

In all communications, please do not acknowledge our support as an “endorsement”, “sponsorship”, or “collaboration”; instead, refer to the grant as “support” or “funding”.

10. If funding is received, what kind of reporting is required?

Invoices and receipts are not required.

A condition of the grant is that the recipient must provide a report on the results of their research within two years of receiving the grant. It is preferred that the recipient give a talk on their research at an IWRS meeting or in the seminar series; however, at the Director’s discretion, they may instead provide a one-page written report of their results that can be shared with the IWRS community.

We may use any material provided from this report on our website, in promotional or other materials, and for our social media, at our sole discretion. Report information will be discussed with recipients when they are notified of their application’s success. Report materials should be submitted to grants@insectwelfare.com using the subject line “Insect Welfare Report – YOUR LAST NAME, YEAR” for the welfare award and “Insect Sentience Report - YOUR LAST NAME, YEAR” for the sentience award.

If you have any concerns about the use of your materials (for instance, a moratorium on sharing in-prep data), please notify us prior to signing our grant agreement to see if we can work out a solution acceptable to all parties.

Your report will be retained by the IWRS in perpetuity, and may be inspected by funders, fiscal sponsors, or other individuals at the sole discretion of the IWRS Director.

11. After submitting my application, can I switch a) my project or b) what I will use the grant for?

You may withdraw your application at any time by emailing grants@insectwelfare.com with the subject line “Application Withdrawal – YOUR LAST NAME”. You may then resubmit a new application prior to the deadline.

Otherwise:

- You may not switch the project that is the focus of an active application either during the review process or after funding is received.

- You may not switch what the grant will be used for after signing the grant agreement and receiving the funding. Any funds that you do not expect to use in line with your application should be returned to the IWRS.

12. When is the application deadline?

Applications will open August 2023 with a deadline for submission 11.59PM your local time on October 30th 2023.

13. Terms and Conditions

- To accept the grant funds, you will be required to sign our grant agreement. The terms of this agreement are not negotiable. If you are unable to accept the terms offered therein, we will consider your request for funding withdrawn.
- As described in Section 10, the IWRS will retain a copy of your grant report materials in perpetuity; the IWRS may share this report or use any materials from within your report for any purpose at its sole discretion.
- The IWRS must be acknowledged, as described in Section 9.
- Awarded funds must be returned in full if the project does not commence for, for any reason.
- Grant funds can only be used to fund the project and costs, listed in the original application. Any changes to the event or costs should be approved by the IWRS award committee. If they are not approved, funds must be returned.
- We require you to acknowledge the receipt of grant funds within two business days of initiating the transfer.

14. My question was not covered here – what should I do?

Please email grants@insectwelfare.com with your question. We will reply promptly.