

PESGB – AGM March 2022

Report on the Small Grants Scheme

1. 2022 funds stood at £28,744.36 on 1 Jan 2022. This is almost double the usual fund, as we've included a roll-over of unallocated funds from 2021.
2. The Small Grants Scheme (SGS) was relaunched at the virtual conference (September 2021), with revised and updated guidelines, reflecting discussions held at Finance and General Purposes meetings (usually held Feb, June and Oct each year). These included:
 - reverting to allowing annual applications for funds for now. (We may reintroduce the one application per 24-months restriction in 2023 if required.)
 - retaining the existing use of Small Grants Scheme funds, after discussing the pros and cons of potentially adjusting the parameters of the scheme to accommodate different requests.
 - clarifying the guidelines and updating the application form.
 - retaining the maximum grant amount of £750.00, in order to be able to award funds to as many members as possible.
3. As anticipated, we have had a surge of applications as conferences resume. There are lots of reports of individual and university hardship and a lack of funds for the kinds of activities that the SGS can support.
4. Currently, the running total of monies allocated in 2022 is £6,559.72 with £22,184.64 remaining for the rest of 2022. All nine grants awarded this year have been for conference attendance and there are several others in the pipeline (I am awaiting further details).
5. No applications have been declined. Several queries have been redirected potentially as Branch Activity, Development Grants or Large Grants (seminar / doctoral funds).
6. As before, the uptake of Small Grants and value of the scheme will be regularly monitored and reviewed at F&GP and Executive Council meetings, and adjustments made as required.
7. Members of at least one year's standing are encouraged to apply for grants. More information is available on the website and via the newsletter.

Carrie Winstanley
Small Grants Scheme
March 2021