

The Meteoritical Society Research Grant

Objectives:

The Meteoritical Society Research Grant aims to promote collaborative research in the fields of Meteoritics and Planetary Science. This includes:

- Promoting interactions of researchers across borders.
- Aiding novel and interdisciplinary research ideas not yet funded elsewhere.
- Broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in scientific research and helping to develop the grant recipient's independent research career.

The Meteoritical Society Research Grant is open to students and early-career researchers.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a member of The Meteoritical Society.
- Eligible student researchers must be working towards a Master or Doctoral degree for the duration of the proposed grant period.
- Eligible early-career researchers must be within 10 years of completion of their PhD, or, if a PhD has not been embarked on, 10 years after completion of their masters degree. This period is exclusive of career breaks taken due to family-related leave, care commitments, illness or other external circumstances. Resuming research after employment in non-research sectors is also considered.
- Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the applicant's supervisor which must include (i) a statement that the applicant's term at the institution continues through the award period and (ii) an outline of the availability of funds for the proposed research.
- Applicants may only submit one proposal per application period. Unsuccessful applicants can reapply in a later call.
- Research collaboration external to the applicant's home institution is strongly encouraged. Evidence of support and any in-kind contributions from external research collaborators must be provided in a supporting letter.

Costs eligible to be covered by research grants:

- Costs related to mobility (transportation/visa/accommodation/subsistence) for eligible researchers to conduct research with external research groups (nationally or internationally).
- Costs related to field work.
- Costs related to the use of scientific equipment and facilities.
- Costs for obtaining consumables and small instruments for a specific research purpose.

Costs not eligible to be covered by research grants:

- Costs related to conferences or workshops, either as organizer or participant.
- Costs related to purely educational and outreach activities.
- Costs related to publishing.
- Costs for general search activities for meteorites, for example in dense collecting areas. Field work related to specific cases of meteorite recovery may be eligible if justified as a research project.
- Costs related to supporting commercial activities.

Grants:

- The amount of money available in any given application period will be determined by the Endowment Committee.
- More than one grant may be awarded in any given application period.
- The Meteoritical Society reserves the right to make no awards in any given application period.
- The typical amount of money awarded per grant will be approximately \$1,000 to \$3,000. In exceptional cases, up to \$5,000 may be awarded. The expected timeframe for a grant is one year.
- Applications can be submitted to the Meteoritical Society Secretary at any time, but will be considered twice a year, starting on January 15 and June 15. Decisions will be finalized at the Council meeting in March and at the Annual Meeting in the summer.
- Applicants of successful and unsuccessful proposals will be notified within one month after the Council meeting.
- Grants are non-transferable.
- The Meteoritical Society should be acknowledged by name in any written materials coming from such projects or in any presentations.
- Publication in a journal supported by the Meteoritical Society (Meteoritics & Planetary Science, Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta) is encouraged.
- A one-page summary of the activity should be sent to the Meteoritical Society Secretary and the Chair of the Endowment Committee within one year of completion of the project.
- The grant payment will normally be made directly to the applicant's institution.

Process:

- The Meteoritical Society and the Endowment Committee abides by the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. Applications will be dealt with professionally, confidentially and respectfully.
- Fairness will be applied when assessing proposals, with consideration of different career stages and research environments.
- Applications must be made using the template provided in Appendix 1 and comply with the page limits set.
- Submitted applications will be assessed by the Endowment Committee and eligible proposals will be ranked based on the evaluation criteria listed in Appendix 2, including novelty, scientific quality, impact and feasibility.
- The top-ranked proposals will be funded based on the money available for the given application period. The final decision on grants awarded will be made by the Council.
- Proposed activities posing risks for health, safety and the environment or deemed unethical may be rejected.

Appendix 1: Application Form

The Meteoritical Society Research Grant

Application Form

Please complete the form and submit to the Meteoritical Society Secretary (metsocsec@gmail.com) by January 15 or June 15 to be considered in the application period ending on these dates.

Cover page, applicant details

Name of applicant:
Applicant's email address:
Place of work/study , including department address:
Current position (e.g., Masters student, PhD Student, Postdoctoral Researcher, Research Assistant):
Please indicate what stage you are at within your student or research career (e.g., dates of degrees, start date of current position, anticipated completion date, contract end date)
Please indicate any relevant career breaks you wish to mention (e.g., family-related leave, care commitments, illness or other external circumstances)
Have you previously applied for a Meteoritical Society Research Grant? If yes, please provide details.
How did you learn about the Meteoritical Society Research Grants?

Applicant's supervisory support

Name of applicant's supervisor , including department information if different from applicant, and a contact email address

Part 1. Technical Proposal (up to four pages using Arial 11 pt)

Title. (Up to 20 words)

Scientific goals of the proposal. Provide the background to your project (what is known or unknown), identify the objectives (what do you want to know, hypotheses to test) and how you plan to achieve these aims. Describe potential scientific risks that might prevent achieving your aims and how you will mitigate them. Please reference papers relevant to the research (references are not included in the page limit but should not exceed 20).

Resources required. Clearly state and justify the total amount of grant money requested. Detail any expenses, providing quotes as attachments where appropriate (costs can be stated in local currency, please convert the total to \$US and state the exchange rate with a date).

Timetable. Provide an outline as to when the research will be carried out.

What are the aims in terms of outputs arising from the project and timescale of these? (e.g., theses, publications, conference presentations)

Collaboration with external partners. Who are the external partners / collaborators outside the current supervision team? If relevant, please explain how their expertise and interests relate to the project.

Other/additional funding for this activity. Please provide details of any financial or other in-kind contribution (e.g., equipment, samples and data) from your home institution and external partners (provide letters of support from collaborators).

References. Use MaPS reference style and provide DOIs if available (references do not count towards the page limit).

Part 2. Short narrative CV and impact description (up to one page using Arial 11 pt)

Describe your educational and professional background and how the research proposed will support your development as a researcher. (You might include a description of how the project broadens the participation of underrepresented groups and addresses principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.)

Checklist of required items to be attached:

- Application form (Cover Page; Part 1, Technical Proposal; Part 2, Short narrative CV.)
- Statement from supervisor or line manager confirming details on cover page, and (i) a statement that the applicant's term at the institution continues through the award period; (ii) an outline of the availability of funds for the proposed research.

Checklist of additional items to be attached if applicable:

- Quotes for major expenses (if greater than \$800 USD)
- Letters of support from collaborators detailing any in-kind contribution

Please provide supervisor and support statements on official letterhead and combine all documents into a single pdf file.

Appendix 2: Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria	Comments	Score 1= low, 5 = high
Novelty of the project		
Relevance to meteoritics and planetary science		
Scientific quality, including well-defined hypotheses or research questions		
Clear definition of goals and appropriate methodological approach to achieve objectives		
Scientific risks identified and plan B defined for critical aspects of the project		
Budget appropriate for tasks proposed		
Appropriate environment to support the project (e.g., research infrastructure)		
Positive impact on personal and research community development		
Broadening the participation of underrepresented groups		
Enhancing external or international collaboration		
Appropriate dissemination plan		