About Grants at National Geographic

Through the combined power of science, exploration, education, and storytelling, the National Geographic Society pushes the boundaries of our understanding of the planet and empowers the global community to generate solutions for a more healthy and sustainable future.

One of the principal ways we do this is by investing in bold people and transformative ideas. Our goal is to identify, cultivate, and develop the world-changers of today and tomorrow. Our grantees are—and have always been—the heart and soul of what we do.

When we award a grant, we're not just funding a project. We're also inviting a scientist, conservationist, educator, or storyteller to join a passionate community of like-minded, global leaders. These leaders are National Geographic Explorers.

The National Geographic Society awards grants for research, conservation, education, and storytelling through its Committee for Research and Exploration. All proposed projects must have a geographical focus, be somehow novel and exploratory, and be of broad scientific interest.

Funding is not restricted to United States citizens. Applicants planning work in foreign countries should include at least one local collaborator as part of their research teams. The committee will not usually consider applications seeking support solely for laboratory work or archival research. While grants are awarded on the basis of merit and exist independent of the Society's other divisions, grant recipients are expected to align with broader Society goals and priorities. National Geographic grant-funded projects should be bold, innovative, and transformative.

This grant program does not pay educational tuition, nor does it offer scholarships or fellowships of any kind.

LENS DEFINITIONS

All grant applications must be submitted through—and have a primary perspective within—one of three main “lenses” or topic areas:

Human Story

The Human Story lens supports projects that explore and document the human experience through time in order to preserve and celebrate our shared heritage. The Human Story funds projects involved primarily with the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, paleoanthropology, psychology, human health, and human geography. We are particularly interested in the themes of ***human migration*** (i.e., the causes and effects of human population movement), ***human adaptation*** (i.e., how societies adjust to and mitigate environmental changes), and ***human diversity*** (i.e., the cultural, linguistic, and genetic diversity of our species). We are also interested in supporting innovations in technology, education, mapping, and storytelling related to these themes, particularly data visualization, high-tech approaches, cultural heritage preservation, educational outreach, and curricula development. Please note, however, that we do not provide financial support for the reconstruction of archaeological sites or architectural conservation.

Critical Species and Places

The Critical Species and Places lens supports projects that explore and document the Earth’s biodiversity in order to better understand and conserve species, habitats, processes, and ecosystems (marine and terrestrial). Critical Species and Places funds projects involved primarily with the disciplines of biology, ecology, and conservation. We are particularly interested in the themes of ***biodiversity in human-altered***

environments (i.e., human-wildlife conflict and mitigation, urban ecology, zoonotic diseases), the *effects of climate change on biodiversity* (including science- and policy-oriented solutions), the *exploitation of natural resources* (including bushmeat, legal but unsustainable harvesting, wildlife crime), *landscape connectivity and habitat corridors* (including animal migrations), and the *science of restoration* (i.e., ecosystem restoration at all scales). We are also interested in supporting innovations in technology, education, mapping, and storytelling related to these themes, particularly data visualization, high-tech approaches, educational outreach, and curricula development.

Changing Planet

Our Changing Planet supports projects that explore and document earth and ocean systems in the present, past, and future in order to better understand and protect the evolving environment. Our Changing Planet funds projects involved primarily with the disciplines of geology, geochemistry, physical geography, oceanography, paleontology, and astronomy. We are particularly interested in the themes of *ocean exploration, research, and conservation* (including reef processes, marine ecology, and sea-level change), *environmental change* (including records of past climates, documentation of glacial retreat, pollution), *natural disasters* (including volcanoes, earthquakes, and landslides), and *human responses* to the various challenges facing the Earth. We are also interested in supporting innovations in technology, education, mapping, and storytelling related to these themes, particularly data visualization, high-tech approaches, educational outreach, and curricula development.

GRANT TYPE DEFINITIONS:

Early Career Grant

An Early Career Grant application is a request for funding that offers individuals their first opportunity to lead a project. The applicant is not required to have advanced degrees. However, a record of prior experience in his or her field is expected. An Early Career Grant can only be awarded once. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and the selection committee endeavors to make funding decisions within eight weeks of application submission.
Suggested amount: US$5,000

Standard Grant

A Standard Grant application is a request for funding that does not have the urgent time constraints of an Expedited Grant application. The applicant and his or her team members are expected to have a clear record of successful completion of similar projects with measurable and/or tangible results. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but should be submitted at least 6 months before the project start date.
Suggested amount: US$30,000

Expedited Grant

An Expedited Grant application is a request for funding that requires a rapid response. The applicant will be asked to describe the need for urgency in the application. Project start dates are usually less than 60 days from the time of proposal submission. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and the selection committee endeavors to make funding decisions prior to the project start date.
Suggested amount: US$15,000

PROJECT FOCUS DEFINITIONS:

Research "Pursuit of knowledge by answering specific research questions"
Research grants support high-quality scientific projects that aim to answer clear questions with measurable outcomes that help advance the field. Research grants primarily support fieldwork expenses; however, laboratory and technology costs will also be considered. Research grants are awarded on the basis of scientific merit and on the qualifications of the applicant and his or her team.

Conservation "Achievement of quantifiable conservation outcomes as a result of scientifically-informed actions"
Conservation grants support projects that aim to achieve quantifiable outcomes as a result of scientifically informed actions. Applicants must propose projects that result in tangible solutions that contribute to the preservation of natural or cultural resources. Examples of such projects include:

- Determine the status of endangered cultures, species, or ecosystems
- Develop conservation or preservation action plans
- Implement innovative solutions to conservation or preservation issues
- Use new technologies to investigate or mitigate conservation or preservation threats
- Engage local communities in education activities that will result in changes of behavior towards natural or cultural preservation

Education "Innovative teaching practices and community education"
Education grants support projects that aim to teach people about the world and how it works, empowering them to make it a better place. We want to identify effective strategies in teaching and learning—what works in education?—in our three focus lenses. Projects can be new or existing initiatives that have potential for replication or adaptation to other areas and audiences.

We also support projects that demonstrate how to teach better—new ideas for instructional strategies at any level, with any audience, and in any location. We aim to support educators in traditional and nontraditional settings, in community education and outreach, and in other venues.

Finally, we support projects that measure what works in teaching and learning—educators who want to research, evaluate, and measure how learning takes place. This dovetails with National Geographic's Learning Framework: the set of attitudes, skills, and knowledge that embody the explorer mindset.

Storytelling "Documentation through photography, journalism, mapping, and/or filmmaking"
Storytelling grants support individuals and teams that aim to document our changing planet, the human story, and critical species/wildlife. We support storytelling projects by photographers, filmmakers, journalists, cartographers, and data visualizers. Projects may be new endeavors or pieces of larger bodies of work. Awarded funds support field expenses, equipment, and may include stipends to applicants. We are also interested in how applicants are planning to disseminate their funded work.

Technology "Development of new technology for science, conservation, education, or storytelling"
Technology grants support projects in which the primary focus is the development of innovative tools and methods that positively impact our ability to explore, protect, and tell the story of our world and its inhabitants. Specifically, we support technology development which can be applied to scientific research, conservation, education, and storytelling. Awarded funds support materials, fabrication, and other development costs associated with the creation of new technologies. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include proof-of-concept field trials in their proposal.

National Geographic Education Grant Application Instructions

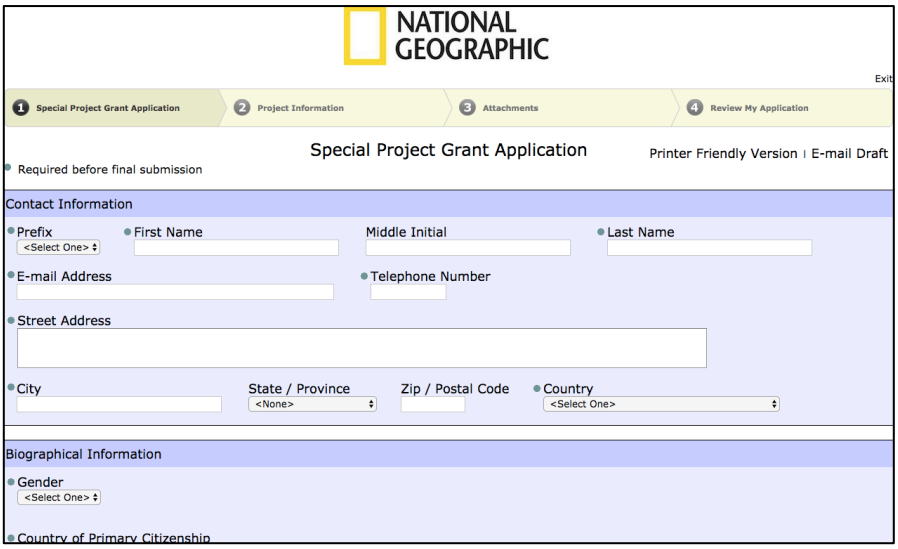
Please read the instructions below for completing your application for a National Geographic Education Grant. Contact Elaine at elarson@ngs.org if you have any questions.

NOTE: The link provided for this initial grant cycle is a temporary link. Use this link only for applications submitted in January 2017. A new link for the online application will be available in February 2017.

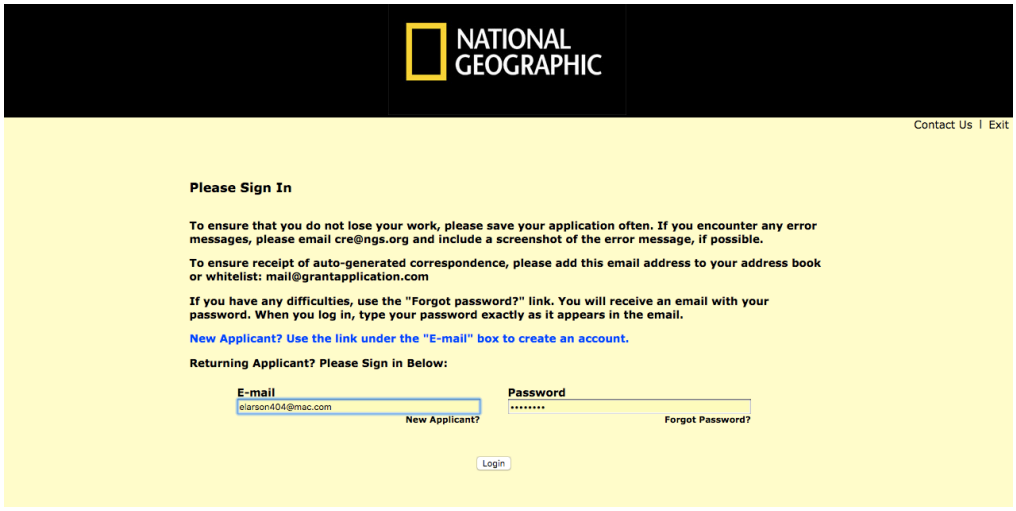
Temporary Education Grant Link

Use this link to access the grant application.
https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_69?SA=SNA&FID=35139

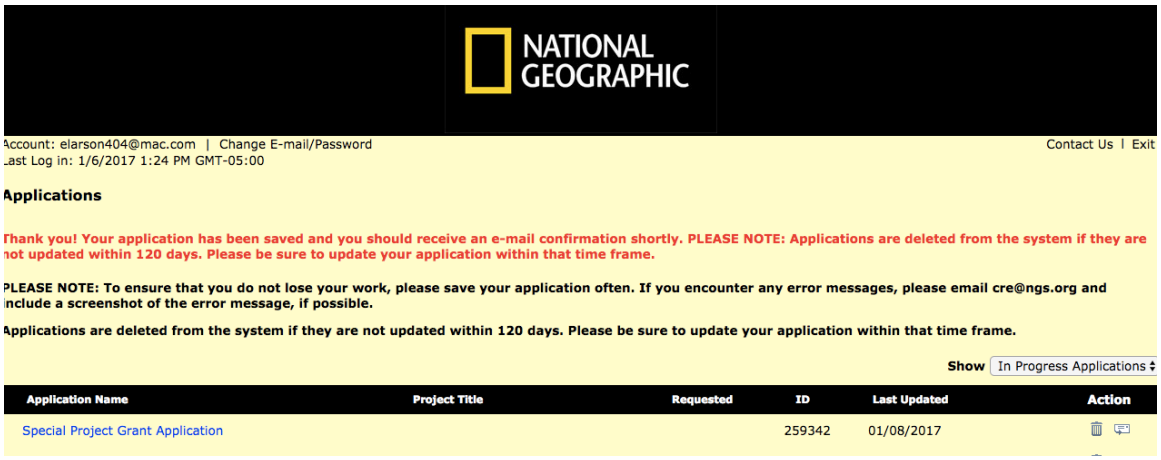
The link takes you to this application. Click “Next” at the bottom to move to the next sections.



If you click “Save and Finish Later” or when you get to the end of the application, you will be taken to a page that prompts you to sign in your account — or if you don’t have an account, click on the link to create an account (“New Applicant” under the email box.)



After you log in, you'll be taken to the Application page below. Your new application will appear in the Application Name list. Click on the link to return to your application.



Complete all information on Tab 1 and click "Next".

Tab 2: Project Information

This section asks for start and end dates of your field work. You may not be conducting field work, per se, as part of your project, so enter the start and end dates of your project. Other references to "field" in the application also refer to the project in general.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please describe clearly, and with minimal specialized terminology, your proposed project in suitable detail in the space provided. Be sure to address **EACH of the following sections** in your project description. *(Description not to exceed 2,000 words total.* If you need more than the 2,000-word limit on the online application form, please respond to the "Works Cited" section or another section on a separate document as an attachment.)

Description:

1. Summary (Abstract)
   Please keep your summary under 250 words. Avoid jargon; clearly define specialized terminology.

2. Background and Relevance: Introduce your project, including the issue or topic that you want to address (e.g., research question, conservation need, education or storytelling focus). Tell us why it is **important** and how it is **unique**. Cite relevant literature, media coverage, or previous work where applicable (include citations in the "Works Cited" section below).

3. Explain why National Geographic is uniquely positioned to facilitate this work.

4. Goals and Objectives: What do you plan to accomplish with this project?

5. Methodology: Detail the methods you will use to complete your project, noting any special or unusual tools or techniques you plan to employ. Explain your selected methods over possible alternatives. Make sure to indicate which populations, communities, and/or locations you will target with this project. If appropriate, specify the anticipated number of participants/subjects.

6. Results: What are the expected results of your project? If applicable, how do you plan to measure them? How do you plan to disseminate your results, and to whom?

7. Capacity Building: If applicable, please describe how your project contributes to the social or professional development of institutions, communities, or individuals through training, mentoring, education, media outreach, or other methods. Specify who will benefit from your project.

8. Future Plans: If your project is a multi-year effort, please describe how this proposal fits within it *(optional)*.

9. Works Cited (*as appropriate*)

Tab 3: Attachments

Upload your project proposal, budget (in an Excel spreadsheet), and any additional project information, plus any additional description information.

Tab 4: Review and Submit