

RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development 2024 Information and guidance notes for applicants

Background

The RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development is an annual research funding scheme aimed at supporting theoretical investigations and/or practical developmental work in topics related to one or more of the [17 United Nations Global Compact Sustainable Development Goals](#). These are:

- Goal 01: No Poverty
- Goal 02: Zero Hunger
- Goal 03: Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 04: Quality Education
- Goal 05: Gender Equality
- Goal 06: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 07: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 09: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

The focus of the scheme is to develop the skills and competencies of the successful applicants and to generate practical solutions or considered recommendations that improve the physical environment and enhance the quality of life of citizens and communities.

In 2024, the scheme will make one award of £10,000.

The scheme is administered by the Royal Institute of British Architects with funds donated by Scott Brownrigg.

Eligibility

The Award is open to individuals or teams of architecture students, graduates, academics and qualified architects who have obtained a professional qualification in architecture in higher education institutions that offer [courses validated by the RIBA in the UK](#) or [abroad](#).

To be eligible to apply for the award, the sole or lead applicant must:

- Have successfully completed a RIBA-validated Part 1 course or with candidate course status in the UK or abroad,
and
- Be enrolled, or have been granted a place of study, in a RIBA-validated Part 2 or 3 course or with candidate course status in the UK or abroad by the beginning of the period covered by the award,
or
- Have graduated from a RIBA-validated Part 2 or 3 course or with candidate course status in the UK or abroad.

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Group submissions that, in addition to the lead applicant, include individuals with academic and professional backgrounds that are not necessarily architecture-related, are welcome and so is the use of interdisciplinary research methodologies. However, in the case of group submissions, the lead team member for the award must satisfy the eligibility criteria outlined above.

Employees of the RIBA, Scott Brownrigg, RIBA Board and Council members, and members of the RIBA Research Development Group are not eligible to apply for the award.

Assessment and Selection

Applications will be assessed by a panel chaired by the Chair of the RIBA Research Development Group, which also include:

- The RIBA President or the RIBA Vice-President of Education and Learning;
- A guest assessor nominated by the RIBA President for their expertise in the field;
- A senior architect from Scott Brownrigg;
- A guest assessor nominated by Scott Brownrigg for their expertise in the field;
- A senior academic currently teaching at a RIBA validated Part 1 or Part 2 course in a UK or international school of architecture to be nominated for their expertise in the field by the Research Development Group in agreement with Scott Brownrigg;
- A member from the RIBA Research Development Group;

Applications will be assessed against evidence of the following criteria:

- Relevance and originality of the research topic;
- The maximum potential for the research output to advance the [United Nations Global Compact Sustainable Development Goals](#);
- The candidate'(s)' research ability, and their academic or professional competency in the field proposed;
- Thorough project planning, particularly regarding implementation of realistic time frames, and effective budget and resource management;
- Details of how the applicant(s) will benefit personally and professionally from the experience;
- Explanation of what the benefits of the research are to the architectural profession, as well as to the communities and individuals directly affected by the intended outputs of the research.

In the case of two equally good applications, preference will be given to applicants who are RIBA members.

Application form guidance

Sections 1 & 2: Research proposal and details

- All subsections must be completed.
- The maximum word count for each subsection is 300 words.

Section 3: Financial information

- All sections must be completed; if a section is not relevant, please note 'n/a' in the corresponding box.
- With regards the hourly rate for applicant's and assistant's time (if applicable), the RIBA requires the hourly rate for both to be at least the Living Wage, as defined by the [Living Wage Foundation](#) for the UK: £13.15 in London and £12 outside London. This would apply to anyone aged 18 or over.

Section 4: Personal details

- Individual and lead applicants should complete subsection 4A.
- If applying as a group, the 'lead' applicant will be the main contact for communication and payment purposes.
- Section 4B: an appropriate referee should be selected, and their details provided in the application form. The referee should be able to comment on the lead applicant's research ability, and their academic or professional competency in the field proposed.
- The remaining group members should complete their details in section 4C.

Terms of the award

Successful projects should take place during a period of time of no less than 3 months and not exceeding 12 months.

The research project should be completed within one year of 1 September 2024.

Applicants may apply to, or be in receipt of, additional funding from other sources. In such cases, applicants are expected to reveal the sources of funding, their involvement in the research proposed, and if the planned research methodology, time frames, and outputs are expected to change as a consequence.

Payment of the award will be made to the successful applicant(s) in two instalments:

1. First instalment of 80% to be made when the award is announced subject to the recipient meeting the eligibility criteria;
2. Second instalment of 20% to be awarded after a rigorous and critically reflective written output has been produced and judged satisfactory by the award's assessment panel. This should incorporate evidence of all outputs listed in section 2 of the application form.

The award winner and lead/sole researcher is accountable for the conduct of the project including the conduct of the research, the use of funds and the proper financial management of the award, whether the project is carried out by him/her, project team members, or any other third party.

The award winner and lead/sole researcher must ensure that the funds are spent in a way that is consistent with the purpose set out in the application form, and carry out appropriate due diligence on any team member or any third parties used to deliver any part of the project.

The award winner and lead/sole researcher is responsible for ensuring that ethical issues relating to the project are identified and brought to the attention of the RIBA. These include:

- declaring any potential conflicts of interest in research identified at the point of application;
- undertaking a safety risk assessment in individual cases where health and safety may be an issue, and monitoring and auditing the actual arrangements made;
- ensuring that equality, diversity and inclusion are considered and supported at all stages throughout the research;
- being expected to have clear policies and processes in place consistent with good practice to prevent situations of bullying and harassment.

The successful applicant(s) will be required to submit a progress report halfway through the research (the RIBA officers will provide the necessary guidance and template documents to this end). The report must include, in addition to progress to date, the approximate date of completion. If, for any reason, it becomes clear that the research will take more than one year to complete, the award winner should inform the RIBA immediately indicating a revised completion date.

A final report must be produced upon completion of the project and deemed satisfactory for the research to be concluded. This final document must provide detailed evidence of how the original objectives and aims were achieved, the impact of the deliverables generated as a result, and a self-reflection on the impact of the research methodology and outputs on the personal and professional development of the award winner(s), and how they benefit the architectural community.

The final report should be presented to the RIBA in a written digital format (such as Word or PDF), ready for online publication and dissemination. Where the final output is mainly of an audio-visual nature (such as drawings, photographs, films, aural recordings, etc), the report may be submitted in suitable formats (such as PDF, MP3, or MP4) as long as written supportive literature is attached (in Word or PDF). Two hard copies should also be submitted to the RIBA.

The final report, and any subsequent publications based on the research work supported by the award must acknowledge the receipt of the RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development and the year of the award.¹

To retain access to the final instalment of the award, the research must be completed within two years of the announcement of the winners in September. Should the research project not be completed and only the initial payment claimed, any unspent monies will revert to the restricted fund created by the RIBA for this award and used to fund subsequent application cycles. In such circumstances, the institution/employer affiliated to the recipient will be barred from submitting applications to this scheme for a period of two years.

The award winner and lead/sole researcher is accountable for funds dispersed and is responsible for the timely and accurate submission of a final expenditure statement within 2 weeks of the end of the award period. Once an expenditure statement has been received and the expenditure incurred has been reconciled against payments made, it will be considered as final. Award winners must keep receipts of payments to justify the approved expenditure. Any unspent funds must be returned to the RIBA to be reinvested into a subsequent application cycle for the award.

Where possible, the RIBA will facilitate introductions between applicants and organisations, networks and potential mentors that align with the interests of the applicant and the projects they have proposed.

Upon award recipient(s) are expected to make a presentation at Scott Brownrigg to introduce their research. Successful applicants will be offered the option to network with specialists from Scott Brownrigg's Design Research Unit during their research; however, they will not be discriminated against should they decline the offer on the grounds of wishing to avoid potential research funding bias.

Once the research is deemed successfully complete, the award winners will be offered the option to share their research findings at a suitable event at one of Scott Brownrigg's offices and/or at the RIBA. These events could range from small seminars to public lectures, and potentially contribute to the launch and/or promotion of a subsequent annual cycle of applications.

¹ Examples of acknowledgment are 'Part of the research conducted to write this presentation was made possible with funding from the 2024 RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development' or 'The author(s) wish(es) to acknowledge that this article was made possible with funding from the RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development, which they won in 2024'.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

The RIBA does not hold any claim to the intellectual property rights and publication rights of the project developed by the winner(s) of the RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development save for RIBA's pre-existing intellectual property rights. The award winner(s) shall retain all rights, title and interest in their project including related intellectual property rights.

By submitting a final report with research findings made possible through the funding provided by the award, the winner(s) agree(s) to grant the RIBA a perpetual irrevocable licence to display and publish said report across all media including without limitation in print and digital platforms for public use as part of its Collections and for all purposes in relation to the RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development and associated non-commercial purposes.

By submitting a final report for the RIBA Scott Brownrigg Award for Sustainable Development, the winner(s) confirm(s) that the report and all information submitted and/or distributed in support of it will not infringe the intellectual property or any other rights anywhere in the world of any third party and the winner(s) shall indemnify the RIBA for any losses, damages, costs and expenses incurred or awarded directly resulting arising out of any third party claim. The winner(s) recognise(s) that it is their sole responsibility to ensure that text or images submitted as part of their final report do not breach the intellectual property rights of any third party. The award winner(s) must have the permission of the copyright owner for text or images included in the report prior to submitting it. Where the award winner(s) is/are not the copyright owner(s) of text or images forming part of their final report, the winner(s) must also ensure that they give due accreditation in the captions, endnotes or footnotes of the report.

Submitting your application

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted via the [Good Grants platform](#). The deadline for receipt of applications is **3pm Friday 16 August 2024**.

If you require help with completing your application, please email research.funding@riba.org.

The application process will follow the timetable below:

Deadline for receipt of applications:	3pm Friday 16 August 2024
Processing of applications	Throughout August 2024
Recipient notified:	September 2024