



Grant Awards 2026

Application Guidance

The Strathmartine Trust

The Strathmartine Trust was established by the late Dr Ronald Cant to encourage and support the study of all periods of Scottish history, continuing the work to which he devoted most of his life. The Trustees are all volunteers and manage the business of the Trust, which includes operating the Strathmartine Centre, overseeing the Strathmartine Press and administering the annual grant award schemes.

The Awards

The Strathmartine Award: Applications are invited for the award of a grant up to £5,000 to assist with the completion of a new project or publication, or an existing project or publication that is nearing completion.

The Sandeman Award: Applications are invited for the award of a grant up to £2,000 in support of research in the field of early medieval Scottish history. This can either be on documentary sources that relate to the history of Scotland before 1100 AD, or in cognate fields of historical research such as place-names, art or archaeology of the peoples of early Scotland (including the Scots, Britons, Picts and Vikings).

The Marinell Ash Award: Applications are invited for a single award of £500 (or the US or Canadian Dollar equivalent) from The Marinell Ash Fund, which offers travel and study grants to a person studying any aspect of Scottish or North American History either as a postgraduate student at any University or College, in Scotland or elsewhere, or as an independent scholar.

Eligibility

Applications may be made by individuals or bodies. Applicants in a prior round of awards (whether successful or not) may make an application in any subsequent round of awards.

The Application Form

Applications must be made using the application form that can be found on the Trust's website; this is a digital form and we recommend that you prepare your answers in advance of completing it online. In support of this, you can find the application form sections and the information they require in Appendix 1.

Deadlines

The application window opens at 9.00am on Monday 1st December, 2025; and it will close at 9.00am on Monday 1st May 2026. Please note applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Supplementary Documentation

Unlike in previous years, you are not required to send a CV; this information is built into the application form itself. If you have, however, supplementary documentation that is critical to your application, we are happy to accept up to five PDF pages, which can be sent directly to office@strathmartinetrust.org within the application window.

Referees

This year, we do not require written letters of support from two referees; instead, we ask that you share the contact details of two individuals from different institutions that are happy to write a professional reference for you and your project; it is expected that the referees will have seen details of the project and are able to express their view on its merits. The Trust will send a reference form directly to your referees and we would be grateful if you could let them know to expect this.

Announcements

Applicants will be notified by email of the result of their application no later than 31st July 2026; please do not enquire on the status of your application prior to this.

Receiving an Award

Before any award is released, the successful applicant will be required to provide a signed obligation to:

1. Acknowledge the Strathmartine Trust in any publication
2. Display the Strathmartine Trust logo in any publication
3. Lodge a copy of the book, monograph or article (where applicable) with The Strathmartine Library in St Andrews
4. Provide a brief report on the progress of the project within 9 months of receipt of the grant
5. Confirm that the grant has been expended as requested in the application for the furtherance of the project
6. Agree that any grant offered must be drawn down within one year of the date on the award letter

Considerations

When preparing your application, please consider the following:

- Applications which do not follow the application guidelines and procedures in all respects will not be considered
- Applications without detailed costings of the project will not normally be considered
- Projects must relate to local or national history, or broader topics relating to Scottish History
- Generally, the Trustees will not fund subvention payments required by publishers
- The Trustees are not able to support living costs / maintenance but will consider supporting modest travel and subsistence costs
- Normally, the Trustees are not able to support the salaries of research assistants to carry out research, but may do so where specific technical expertise is required
- The Trustees may not assist applicants if they consider there to be more appropriate sources of financial assistance
- The Trustees will not normally assist with research for a higher degree but are prepared to consider applications to support publication of the research topic to a broader audience beyond the institution awarding the degree
- The Trustees will not assist with the purchase or lease of buildings, equipment or similar items

Appendices

Appendix 1: Application Form Sections

As mentioned above, the online form must be completed in one sitting and we recommend you prepare your application separately before entering the information. To support you in being able to do this, we hope providing the following information will enable you to prepare your application in advance.

1. Awards
 - a. Strathmartine Award
 - b. Sandeman Award
 - c. Marinell Ash Award
2. Personal Information
 - a. Name
 - b. Address
 - c. Email
 - d. Telephone

3. Curriculum Vitae
 - a. Education and qualifications
 - b. Current employment
 - c. Previous employment, if applicable
 - d. Relevant publications, if applicable
 - e. Professional memberships, if applicable
 - f. Funding and awards received, if applicable
4. Project Proposal
 - a. Title of project
 - b. Description of project (1000 characters)
 - c. Reason for undertaking project (1000 characters)
 - d. Project outcomes (1000 characters)
 - e. Project impact (1000 characters)
 - f. Qualifications for undertaking this project (1000 characters)
5. Funding
 - a. How much is requested
 - b. Detailed breakdown of expenditure
 - c. Sources of other funding, if applicable
6. Referees
 - a. Contact details for two referees

Sam Robertson
November 2025