SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION
NATIONAL STUDENT AWARD 2023

Application Form

The Scottish Land Commission is shaping a coherent programme of land reform spanning both urban and rural land, to improve the productivity, diversity, and accountability of the way Scotland's land is owned, used, and managed. We provide the leadership that will bring parties together in fresh thinking and change so that the way we own and use land realises Scotland's potential.

Underpinning this work is a programme of research so that all our decisions and recommendations are thoroughly evidence-based.

We rely on the academic community to provide research on key land reform issues. To help inspire the next generation of researchers, we provide a single annual award to a student studying at a Scottish academic institution who undertakes a land reform-related piece of research.

The Commission is working on a number of exciting projects in our Strategic Plan covering everything from reviewing land valuation to exploring the interaction of human and property rights. We are exploring issues, gathering evidence, and sparking debate to develop new approaches to make the most of Scotland's land.

The core values of the Commission are innovation, challenge, accountability, and empowerment, and as such we are seeking a student to provide input and contribute innovative ideas to approaching the workstreams identified in our Programme of Work.

The Scottish Land Commission National Student Award, an annual single award of £1,000, is to encourage students to get involved with land reform and contribute to the Commission's work.

To apply for the award you are required to explain how you propose to undertake your project, how it will connect with one of the workstreams of the Scottish Land Commission, and how it will benefit you and enhance your student experience.

The successful student will be required to write 2,000 words on their subject, contribute a blog for the Commission's website, and potentially attend a Commissioners' Meeting to present their findings.

Any questions regarding the award can be sent to info@landcommission.gov.scot.

Your Project

We are keen to support any relevant land reform-related projects across the full range of our work, and applicants are free to explore ideas and issues that are of your particular interest.

However, if you need a bit of inspiration, some of the areas in which we are particularly keen to develop case studies this year are:

- **Climate Change and Land Reform: Opportunities and Risks**

The Climate Emergency means that significant land use change is coming – either because we take action to tackle climate change, or we live with the consequences of failing to do so. In any event, maintaining the status quo is not an option.

Over the past couple of years a number of high-profile land purchases have been made by corporations and investors seeking to enhance natural capital – usually by means of afforestation or peatland restoration to sequester carbon, or to improve biodiversity through rewilding.

Such activities, while they may be necessary, are often controversial in the way they happen. Some local communities and business may be excluded from opportunities by incoming investors, while others may share in the decision-making and benefits. Understanding these relationships will be key to achieving a genuine just transition.

- **Land Reform in Lockdown**

The Covid-19 pandemic sharpened focus on recreational land access, particularly during the strict phases of lockdown. While many had access to gardens and good parks, many others did not, and the evidence that access to high quality greenspace is vital for health and wellbeing has been growing in the post-pandemic period.

Understanding access, control, and ownership of greenspace is not always clear, and research in this area is thin. Research in this area could range from understanding the ownership and control of urban spaces to focussing on case studies of community action to develop greenspace.

- **Community-led Regeneration of Vacant and Derelict Land**

The legacy of Scotland's industrial past means that almost a third of the Scottish population lives within 500 meters of a derelict site. In deprived communities that figure increases to 55%.

Bringing abandoned and unloved urban places back into productive use could help us tackle climate change, improve health and wellbeing, create more resilient communities, and rebuild our economy in a way that helps everyone achieve their full potential. Read more here and some of our case studies here.

- **Landlord-Tenant Mediation in the Agricultural Holdings Sector**

Tenant farmers and landlords involved in a dispute know that it can be overwhelming and difficult to find an acceptable outcome. This can lead to or exacerbate problems in maintaining strong and constructive relationships, important to the tenant farming sector.

Following a hugely successful pilot project, the Scottish Land Commission launched a new scheme for agricultural landlords and tenants in January 2021 to improve access to mediation to help them resolve disputes (or potential disputes) as an alternative to seeking resolution through litigation. See more here.

Case studies in this area could focus on the particular issue to be resolved, the workings of the mediation, or how the participants felt about the process.

- **Public Sector-led Rural Housing Developments**

We are working with partners to establish a more collaborative approach to place-making in which the public and private sectors share risks and reward to deliver places people want to live at affordable prices.

Developing rural housing in particular can be challenging, and often requires the support of local authorities or public agencies. But rather than just playing a supporting role, we believe public sector leadership will be key to unlocking many new sites.

Our work on land assembly and rural housing highlights some good examples of collaborative working.

Your Details

First Name		Surname	
Phone number			
Email address			
Student Number			
Course Title		Level	
Academic Institution			
Course End Date		FT/PT	
Course/Programme Leader		Email	
Personal Academic Tutor		Email	

Process and Applicant Requirements (Terms and Conditions)

1.1 The Scottish Land Commission National Student Award 2023 aims to support a project related to the interests of the Scottish Land Commission, being undertaken by a student at a Scottish academic institution.

1.2 Applications must be received by the deadline, with no exceptions. The deadline is:

- Friday 9th June 2023

1.3 Applications must be received by 12:00 (noon) on the deadline date. Late applications will be ineligible.

1.4 You can only submit one application per deadline and only one proposal per application.

1.5 Applications should not assume that an activity/area previously supported will be supported again. The award is always evolving to best meet the needs and aims of the Scottish Land Commission.

1.6 The award is competitive. Only one award will be made each application round.

1.7 Please be aware that the quality of your application is important, as well as the content. Complete your application electronically and check for spelling and grammatical mistakes.

1.8 Other factors which will be taken into account are:

- How the activity contributes to the work and aims of the Scottish Land Commission
- Your ability to demonstrate how the activity relates to your studies
- How the activity contributes to your personal development
- Good financial planning.

1.9 A recommendation letter from your personal academic tutor or programme leader is required with your application. This recommendation must:

- Be written by your personal academic tutor or course/programme leader, having read the terms and conditions

- Be signed and dated, and include contact details
- Outline the reasons why they support your application.

1.10 Retrospective funding will not be awarded.

1.11 All applications will be assessed individually. The award will be made entirely at the discretion of the awarding panel and their decision is final. There is no appeal process.

1.12 If competition is particularly strong the panel may request that you attend an interview.

1.13 You will be notified by email within one month of the deadline date if you have been successful or not. If successful, you will receive payment within four weeks by BACS transfer.

1.14 Additional conditions may be applied to the award if the panel feels this to be necessary, prior to your acceptance of the award. Acceptance of the award binds you to any such conditions.

1.15 If in your final year, your proposed activity must be completed before your graduation.

1.16 The award is fixed at £1,000.

1.17 If successful, you will be required to provide a written submission (case studies or report) which should include photographs where possible. The submission should be a minimum of 2,000 words. The submission may be used by the Commission to promote the award. You will be required to write a blog for the Commission's website, and may also be requested to attend relevant events.

1.18 If successful, you agree to participate in media promotion around the award and your project, including on the Commission's social media channels, and agree to provide a suitable profile photo for those purposes.

1.19 The expected timeline for completion of the written submission and blog will be agreed prior to your acceptance of the award. Acceptance of the award binds you to the agreed timeline.

1.20 If for any reason your activity or project does not go ahead, you will be required to return the award.

1.21 The fund is completely independent from any other form of financial support available to students, such as from SAAS.

1.22 The Scottish Land Commission accepts no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred as a result of any activity which is undertaken in pursuit of fulfilling the aims of the Scottish Land Commission National Student Award. Please make sure that you have fully evaluated any risks and that, where appropriate, have arranged any necessary insurance.

Eligibility

2.1 The award is open to all registered Further and Higher Education students studying at a Scottish academic institution, at any level.

2.2 The award is aimed at students who, without some support, would not be able to take part in their desired activity. You should explain how the award would enable you to undertake activity that you would otherwise be unable to participate in as part of your application.

2.3 You are not eligible to apply if:

- You have previously received the Scottish Land Commission National Student Award
- You or a member or your immediate family have been employed by, or undertaken work for, the Scottish Land Commission in the past 12 months.

Limitations

3.1 The award cannot be used, in part or full, to pay for:

- Activities which are part of the course curriculum. This includes modules (compulsory or optional) which are credited or studying a year abroad
- Equipment or materials – unless clearly and solely needed for the project being undertaken

- Organised class trips

- Anything commercial in nature

- Group applications

- Everyday expenses such as commuting costs, materials/books required for your course.

3.2   The award can be used to support original research that contributes towards a thesis or dissertation.

3.3   The Scottish Land Commission National Student Award is not a hardship fund. If you are in financial difficulty, please contact your local student support officer to discuss the range of financial support options available.

Project Title and Description

Provide a title and a short description of your proposed project/case studies. (200 words max.)

How does your project connect with Scottish Land Commission workstreams?

Provide detail as to why this is important to you; how it relates to your studies; how it contributes to your own personal development; and how the project would support the Scottish Land Commission's work.
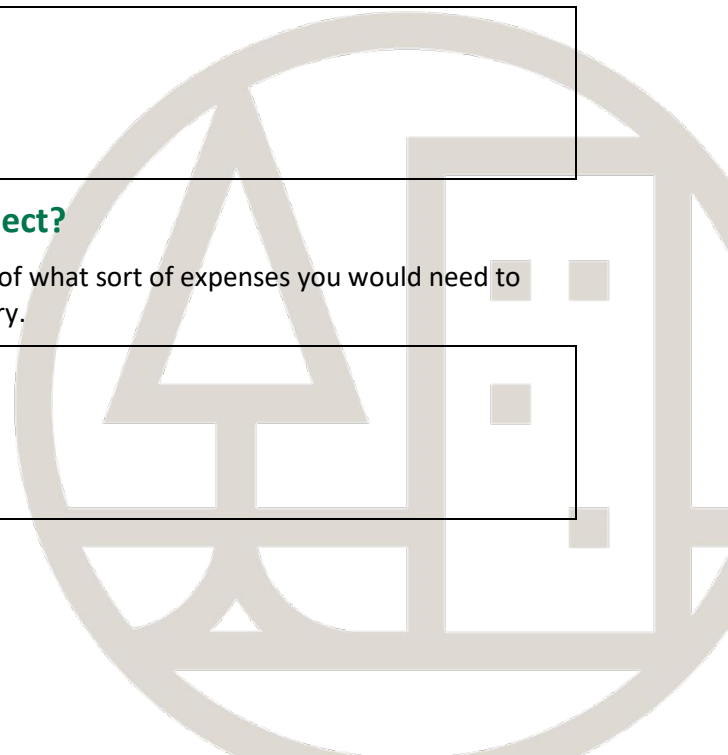
This is your chance to stand out from the crowd. Really sell your idea – why should we support you? (500 words max.)

What is the expected timeline?

When do you aim to start and finish your project, are there any potential obstacles to completion in time?

How would £1,000 help you achieve your project?

We are not looking for a detailed budget, but an indication of what sort of expenses you would need to cover to complete your project, and why these are necessary.

Supporting Documents Checklist

☐	**REQUIRED** – I have attached a signed recommendation from either my personal academic tutor or programme leader (.pdf or other electronic copy is acceptable.)
☐	I have attached any relevant and supporting correspondence or documentation relating to my proposed activity/project (photocopies acceptable.)

Data Protection

Our Privacy Policy is available on our website.

Why we collect your data

We will collect and process the personal data you provide to us during the application and screening process for the purposes of processing the award.

What we do with your data

We will use this information to contact you in relation to the award. Your personal information will be shared with members of a panel who are responsible for assessing your suitability for an award, and you agree to supply us with accurate information.

How long we keep your data for

We will retain data for as long as it is required to process awards. After a maximum of 18 months your contact information will be removed from our systems.

What data we collect about you

We collect the following information about you: full name, date of birth, contact information, and education information.

How to request your data

You have the right to know what data is held about you and access, amend, restrict processing of or request removal of that data. If you would like to make a request to obtain/amend/restrict processing of or request removal of your data, you can do so by emailing info@landcommission.gov.scot.

Acceptance of conditions

Please ensure you have read the terms and conditions and other sections above carefully before completing this application form. Completed applications should be sent to: info@landcomission.gov.scot.

Please read the statements and below and check the boxes if true. If you cannot check all the boxes, your application is ineligible.

☐	I have read, understood, and agree to all of the terms and conditions
☐	I am a registered student at an eligible Scottish academic institution (university or college)
☐	I am applying for funding for myself only, not on behalf of a group
☐	Without financial support I will not be able to take part in my proposed activity
☐	My application is beneficial to my studies will support original research (which may or may not contribute towards a thesis or dissertation), and does not break any other limitation outlined at 3.1 above
☐	I am not requesting retrospective funding; my activity takes place at least one month after the deadline
☐	I and none of my immediate family have been employed by, or undertaken work for, the Scottish Land Commission in the last 12 months
☐	I am aware the fund is competitive, and I accept that the decision is at the discretion of the awarding panel, and that this decision is final
☐	I will provide feedback on my experience and am happy to take part in any publicity
☐	I will provide a written submission for the Scottish Land Commission (minimum 2,000 words), and a blog for the Commission's website on completion of my project.

Declaration

I declare that I have read and understood the application requirements, the statements in the application and all supporting materials submitted are true to the best of my knowledge, and, if successful I will abide by the terms and conditions.

Signature:

Date:

Completed applications should emailed to: info@landcommission.gov.scot.

It is intended that the winner will be announced by 30 June 2023.