CBRL
Council for British Research in the Levant

CBRL PROJECT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES 2027 - 2028

GUIDANCE NOTES

CBRL offers Project Grant opportunities for research in and on the Levant in the humanities, social sciences and related fields. We particularly encourage applications addressing topics relating to one or more of our five current major research themes [see here and below], and those which address regions and research not traditionally associated with CBRL's activities.

Current Research Themes:

1. Heritage – understanding the past and its present impacts
2. States, societies and cultures of the Levant
3. Cities and urbanisation
4. Refugees, migration, displacement, and diasporas
5. Challenges of sustainability and resilience

Disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are equally welcome, as are collaborative research projects which include in-country partnerships and/or co-investigators.

Eligibility Criteria

We are happy to receive collaborative applications, including where PhD students are involved in an application. However, to be eligible to apply, the person submitting the application (the Lead Applicant or PI) must have completed a PhD, and one of the following scenarios must apply:

- The lead Applicant is a registered employee of a UK university or recognised heritage institution, at the time of applying and for the duration of the grant activity;

Or

- The lead Applicant is an Independent Researcher but has a Co-Investigator who is an academic based at a UK university. The Co-Investigator's UK University has agreed to administer the grant, including receiving and managing the funding and assessing and approving the risk assessment, ethical approval and data management plan in advance of the research via the university's central processes. The Co-I's HoD is required to sign the application form to confirm this agreement is in place.

Or

- The lead Applicant is a CBRL Honorary Research Fellows (HRF) or Honorary Senior Research Fellows (HSRF) applying using CBRL as the host institution (the institution that will administer the grant funding) if the HRF / HSRF has agreement in writing from a relevant HoD that a UK university department will perform a risk assessment, ethical

approval and data management plan via that departments central processes. The HoD is required to sign the application form to confirm this agreement is in place.

Please note:

- **CBRL encourages those who receive grants to become Friends of CBRL in advance of accepting their awards. To join as a CBRL Friend, go to:** Join CBRL - CBRL
- **CBRL grants are paid to a host institution and not to an individual. Only registered employees of a UK university or recognised heritage institution, at the time of applying and for the duration of the grant activity, can apply for CBRL Project Grants, unless the two circumstances noted above apply.**
- **CBRL will only consider applications that involve international travel, where the international travel has been approved by a UK University's Risk Assessment process. Applicants must check in advance whether the proposed international travel will be approved by the relevant institution, before making an application to CBRL.**
- **Due to the broader socio-political context of the region, applications must demonstrate feasibility.**
- **Grant payment is made *only* on receipt of institutionally approved risk assessments, ethical approvals and data management plans. These must be issued before any research activity takes place. Under no circumstances will CBRL release a grant without these documents, or if the documents have been issued retrospectively.**
- **CBRL is not responsible for arranging or securing visas or research permits. Applicants must ensure they will obtain all necessary documentation and approvals in order to complete the research on time.**
- **Those directly associated with CBRL (either as Trustee or staff member), cannot apply for CBRL grants as PI, but can apply as Co-I. Trustees or staff members who have applied for a particular grant will not sit on the relevant assessment panel.**
- **Applicants should be mindful of CBRL's Publications Ethics Statement, the terms of which also apply to the research we support: https://www.cbrl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CBRL-Publications-Ethics-Statement.pdf.**

FURTHER DETAILS

CBRL invites applications for **Project Grants of up to £7,000**, for early career and established researchers. Applications can include pilot work to establish the feasibility of a larger project, ongoing research costs, or funding to bring an established project to completion. Co-Is can include PhD students.

Eligible costs include: travel and maintenance costs away from home; consumables; fees (e.g., to interpreters, government fieldwork representatives); specialist project staff; direct costs of scientific analyses; illustration costs; transcription and translation.

Ineligible costs include: computer hardware, equipment, institutional overheads, payment in lieu of salary, publication, replacement teaching.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Applications open:

Friday 13th November 2026.

Deadline for Applications, including the submission of the reference: **Friday 12th February 2027.**
Results will be announced **in early April 2027.**
Applications on the CBRL Application Form should be submitted to the UK Executive Officer at info@cbrl.ac.uk

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION
Please use the official application form and submit this to info@cbrl.ac.uk by
Midnight GMT Friday 12th February 2027.

REFEREE
One Reference is required.

Please note, references must be provided by an academic outside the applicant's own university.

Applicants must ensure that their referee sends their completed Referee Form to the UK Executive Officer (info@cbrl.ac.uk) with the header **Grant Application Reference for [Your Name] by Midnight GMT Friday 12th February 2027.**

GRANT CONDITIONS

Project execution, budget expenditure, equipment
The grant is to support the research project described in the application. Successful applicants must seek prior approval from CBRL by contacting the UK Executive Officer if it is proposed to vary the project or programme, or use of budget, in any significant way. A valid reason for the proposed change must be provided. CBRL's *Principles on granting extensions* policy will be followed when considering all requests to ensure transparency and fairness.

Grantees must comply with CBRL's policy on travel and subsistence (See CBRL Research Manual Section 7 – Travel, Subsistence and Expenses)

Ethical and professional standards
CBRL requires the research it funds to be conducted in an ethical and legal manner, and within a framework of best practice, as defined by the host Institution. As such, we require an institutionally approved ethics review, risk assessment and data management plan covering the research, and approved before any work is conducted, before CBRL can release funds to the host institution.

Payment of grant
The grant will be paid to the host institution; the grant is made on the understanding that **the institution pays the grant to the grantee in full.** Once CBRL has received all relevant documentation, we will release funds. Please allow at least two weeks to process payments. Payments will only be made to UK-registered bank accounts.

Grants must be claimed by **31 December 2027** (latest) unless prior written approval has been granted for an extension to this date. All grants must be expended by the **end of January 2028**. Grant monies paid but remaining unspent must be returned to CBRL.

Publication

Except by prior agreement, the opportunity of publication (whether as an article in CBRL's journals, *Levant* or *Contemporary Levant*, or as a CBRL monograph) shall be offered in the first instance to CBRL for relevant research. If publication elsewhere is anticipated, this should be indicated in the application. Please note, the provision of a CBRL Project Grant does not guarantee your work will be accepted for publication in one of CBRL's journals. If your paper is rejected by a CBRL journal you may submit it elsewhere and include the relevant acknowledgements (see below).

Grantees shall acknowledge the support of CBRL when making any public announcement or in any publication arising from a successful grant. In the case of publication this is the recommended form of words *This research was supported by a Research Project Grant (Grant Number ...) awarded by the Council for the British Research in the Levant (CBRL)*.

Grantees should provide the CBRL's Executive Officer with information on all publications relating to their project. A copy of any other publications must be provided for the CBRL library.

Reporting Requirements

The **Grant Report Form** sent to successful applicants must be submitted to the UK Executive Officer (info@cbrl.ac.uk) within one month after the end date of the research covered by the application (or the end date approved by CBRL in the case of change), and no later than one month after the **end of February 2028**. The Report Form asks for a statement of what was achieved with the grant and details of its expenditure. Reporting to the British Academy is also a requirement. Further details are provided to successful applicants.

As part of the award, we ask that you submit text, relevant links and an image about your project for the CBRL research project webpages. We may also contact successful applicants for a story in our monthly newsletter. This is a mandatory part of the conditions of the grant.

Digital data, together with documentation, should be offered for deposit, such as at the Arts and Humanities Data Service or ESRC Data Archive, within a reasonable time after the completion of the project.

All grant recipients will be required to sign CBRL's grant Terms and Conditions, Code of Conduct, and comply with the CBRL Research Manual prior to the release of funding.

Further engagement with CBRL

When submitting applications elsewhere for follow-on funding that draw on CBRL-funded research, please consider including CBRL in your application: how CBRL may support your research and you support the ongoing mission work of CBRL and its institutes in the region, e.g. seminars, workshops, partnership working. Where a CBRL award has facilitated subsequent successful funding, please report this to the CBRL for our records. We want to hear about your successes!

Data protection

CBRL adheres to the Data Protection Act 2018. Please see the CBRL Research Manual for guidance on data management.

Guidelines reviewed November 2026