



RESEARCH FUNDING & AWARDS

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) offers a wide range of grants and awards designed to support researchers at every stage of their career. From project funding to recognition for excellence, RSA opportunities help members share their work globally, build networks, and advance their careers.

Not yet a member? You can apply for a grant and join the RSA at the same time.

Early Career Research Grant Scheme

This award is open to researchers within five years of completing their PhD and provides funding for a focused project in regional studies and/or regional science, lasting up to 18 months. It offers the chance to secure dedicated support, build your academic profile, share findings with a global audience, and strengthen your career and professional networks. Reporting requirements apply.

Value: up to £10,000

Application deadline (Expression of Interest): 3 March 2026

Membership Research Grant Scheme (MeRSA)

This grant supports a self-contained project in regional studies and/or regional science and is designed primarily for mid-career scholars who are already published in the field and are individual members of the RSA. The award funds projects of up to 18 months, with reporting requirements applying. The grant provides an opportunity to secure dedicated research support and strengthen academic visibility

Value: up to £5,000

Application deadline (Expression of Interest): 3 March 2026

Fellowship Research Grant Scheme (FeRSA)

This award is exclusively available to RSA Fellows. Fellows are members who have held continuous membership for at least five years and are recognised as active contributors to the life of the Association—through service on the Board or committees, presenting at conferences, applying for funding, and other forms of engagement. It offers Fellows the chance to secure dedicated research support, and continue shaping the future of regional studies and regional science.

Value: up to £7,500

Application deadline (Expression of Interest): 3 March 2026

Start-Up Research Grant Scheme

To mark its 60th anniversary, the RSA launched the Start-Up Grant Scheme to strengthen research capacity in emerging economies and the Global South. Open to regional and urban researchers in RSA membership Bands C and D, these grants provide vital support to advance new projects and build visibility in a global research community.

Value: up to £1000

Application Deadline: 3 March and 15 September 2026



Travel Grants

The RSA provides members with up to £500 to support travel to RSA or other relevant (non-RSA) events. This grant helps members present their research, attend conferences, and expand their professional networks. Applicants must be RSA members at the time of application, travel, and claim.

Value: up to £500

Application deadlines: 1 April and 15 September 2026



Robyn Eversole
Bucknell University,
USA

"I am grateful to the Regional Studies Association for supporting this international research project, which provides an opportunity to shed light on the often-invisible economic contributions of rural women. As an anthropologist who studies regional development, I value the interdisciplinarity of the RSA community and the opportunities for scholarly exchange that this provides"



Thi (Alice) Ngo
University of
Sheffield, UK

Research Network Grant Scheme

RSA Research Networks bring together members who wish to explore topics aligned with the Association's goals and of interest to both members and non-members. While the focus is not strictly on policy, discussions and research often generate insights that inform policy and practice, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange within the regional studies community.

Value: up to £10,000

Application deadline: 12 October 2026

I am truly honoured to receive the RSA Early Career Research Grant. This funding will support fieldwork data collection and help me build meaningful connections with practitioners and entrepreneurs in Vietnam, an emerging market. It will enable the research to explore the strategic network formation of women entrepreneurs. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of these dynamics, ultimately helping to foster a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem and promote local and regional economic development."

Call for Award Nominations

The RSA is seeking members for the following awards in regional studies and related fields:

- **Nathaniel Lichfield Recent Master's Award**, celebrating outstanding achievement by graduates within the past year, helping launch a promising research career.
- **Paul Benneworth PhD Student Award** recognising exceptional work by current PhD students, providing visibility and support as they complete their studies.
- **RSA Routledge Early Career Award** honouring early career researchers within five years of completing their PhD, enhancing professional recognition and networking opportunities.

Value: £500 and a certificate

Application deadline: 3 March 2026



Miguel Alejandro
Flores Segovia
Tecnológico de
Monterrey, Mexico

"I'm honoured to have received the MeRSA grant from the Regional Studies Association. This grant will play a key role in advancing my research, and I'm truly grateful for the support and encouragement it brings."