

EIG Annual Research Bursary

Butterfly Conservation's European Interests Group (EIG) would like to promote the study of European butterflies and therefore propose to offer annual EIG research bursaries (normally of €600) to assist with travel and other expenses.

Applicants would need to submit a short project proposal and an estimate of overall cost in a maximum of 1000 words and send it by email to info@bc-eig.org.uk together with the email addresses of two referees.

The bursaries will be open to citizens of any country in the Council of Europe. Although there is no upper age limit for applicants, the scheme has been drawn up with younger candidates in mind. We are hoping to help beneficiaries start or enhance their career in conservation.

Payments would normally be made against a standard BC travel claim form with receipts. In some circumstances part payment would be made in advance. Successful applicants would need to agree in advance to produce a report of their findings.

This is particularly suited to surveys of rare and threatened species i.e. those with a Red List classification of NT, EN or VU and a restricted range. There is a list of these on the <http://www.bc-eig.org.uk> website under species and download EuropeanButterflies.xls

Collaborative projects with partners in Europe would be welcome. Only projects within Europe as defined by the Council of Europe (rather than EU) would be eligible. The EIG committee would review the applications and select one or successful applicants. We would expect a short report including copies of records of all butterflies recorded. We would also expect acknowledgement of the bursary in any publications: including specific mention of both EIG and Butterfly Conservation. The report would also be circulated to relevant partners within Butterfly Conservation Europe.

An example might be 'I want to go and help the local recorder survey some wetland habitats in X for False Ringlet *Coenonympha oedippus* one of Europe's most threatened butterflies. I will drive to X and camp for a week in July. The sites were surveyed in 1995 but most have not been surveyed since. I will record the location all of these butterflies seen using a GPS and will submit a short report. Petrol, ferries and camp site fees will be about €800. I am looking for a job in conservation and have studied ecology at University. I also do voluntary work for my local wildlife organisation. I am 23.'

Applications for 2018 projects must be received by 17 April 2018.