

**THE RULES OF THE SLS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FUND  
ADMINISTERED BY THE  
RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**The SLS Research Activities Fund**

1. (1) The SLS Research Activities Fund, hereinafter called 'the Fund', shall comprise a sum of money identified by Council at its meeting in September as the amount available for distribution in the following academic year as research awards. That amount must include any sums donated to the Society specifically for such purposes.

(2) Nothing in these Rules shall be taken to authorise the use of the Fund or any part thereof for purposes not in conformity with the charitable objects of the Society.

2. For the purposes of distributing such sums as may be held by the Fund there shall be a standing committee of the Society to be known as the 'SLS Research Awards Committee', hereinafter called 'the Committee'. The Committee shall consist of the President of the Society for the time being (*ex officio*) and six members, who must be Ordinary Members of the Society.

3. (1) Every year Council shall appoint to the Committee two members, each to serve for three years from the first day of January next following their appointment.

(2) On the occasion of any appointment to the Committee (other than an appointment to fill a casual vacancy) Council shall appoint or reappoint one of the members of the Committee other than the President of the Society to act as its Chairman.

4. It shall be the duty of the Committee to administer in accordance with these rules the SLS Research Awards Fund.

5. (1) Ordinary members of the Society in good standing prior to the 1st of October preceding the date of the application shall be entitled to make application to the Committee for an award out of the Fund for the purpose of assisting them in their research including speaking at a conference, congress or colloquium (hereinafter called 'a conference') provided that the subject matter of the research activity falls within the field of legal studies, which term includes all doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, comparative or other studies of law and legal phenomena including criminology and legal education.

(2) Any question as to whether an application is admissible under Rule 5(1) is to be determined by the Committee, whose decision is final.

6. (1) Applications for awards from the Fund shall be made in writing using the standard form as published from time to time and shall reach the Administrative Secretary of the Society, along with such confidential references as required by Rule 8(3), not later than the first day of March in each year. Seven copies of each application shall be submitted. Applications received by the Administrative Secretary after the said date in any year shall be ineligible for consideration until the year next following the date of their receipt.

(2) Each application shall include a brief statement of the following matters:

- (a) the nature and importance of the research activity to which the application relates;
- (b) the expenses in respect of which the award is sought;

(c) particulars of any other awards or grants obtained or applied for in connection with the research or other scholarly activity to which the application relates;

(d) any other matter which may assist the Committee in deciding upon the Application, such as, in particular, those of the matters mentioned in Rule 8 as may be relevant to the application.

(3) Each applicant shall arrange for two referees to write confidential references for the assistance of the Committee. Such references shall not be sought from Committee Members and need not be from a Head of Department. Such referees shall be required to see the application and will be required to confirm this in their reference. References must be received by the deadline for applications, in both electronic and hard copy form (seven copies).

7. The Committee shall consider applications and, having considered all the applications received, shall determine in the exercise of its discretion what awards should be made providing that in considering an application the Committee shall always have regard to such assistance, financial or otherwise, as the applicant may have obtained or may be able to obtain from other sources.

8. Without prejudice to the exercise of its general discretion, in coming to its decisions the Committee shall take the following matters into account:

(1) Where the application relates to individual research:

- (i) the originality of the proposed research so that, for example, preference should be given to research into subjects on which there is little if any literature in the English language over research intended for the preparation or editing of student or other textbooks;
- (ii) whether the publication intended to result from the research is likely to be remunerated;
- (iii) the availability of appropriate research materials in the applicant's own University or in libraries to which he or she has easy access;
- (iv) the necessity for the proposed research of travel for the purpose, for example, of enabling the applicant to engage in field work, to observe the working of a foreign jurisdiction or to undertake a period of study in a foreign country.

(2) Where the application relates to a conference:

- (i) the relevance of the subject of the conference to the applicant's principal actual or intended field of study;
- (ii) whether the applicant is giving a paper at the conference whether a publication is likely to result from attendance at the conference
- (iii) whether the applicant is an officer or member of the association, if any, responsible for the organisation of the conference;
- (iv) if the conference is to take place outside the United Kingdom, the number of persons from the United Kingdom likely to attend.

9. Subject to its duty to respect the priorities affecting any special fund entrusted to it, and subject to rule 10, in determining the priorities of competing claims, the Committee shall have regard to the following guidelines:

(1) research shall normally take priority over attending conferences;

(2) among applications for assistance with research, priority shall be determined by the degree to which the proposed research is innovative and the degree to which it is likely to be hindered if the requested assistance is not forthcoming;

(3) younger members of the Society shall normally take priority over those whose research careers are well established;

(4) members who have received no assistance from the Society in recent years shall normally take priority over those who have received such assistance;

(5) requests for awards which clearly state the nature of the project and the amount of assistance which is sought, and which disclose the facts relevant to the application of these guidelines, shall take priority over those which do not;

(6) as between applicants who apply for funding to attend a conference, priority shall normally be given to those who are giving a paper at the conference.

10. In considering any application from a member who is currently a postgraduate research student, the Committee shall have regard to the general principle that the Fund is not designed either to meet or contribute towards the normal costs associated with undertaking postgraduate research, which should ordinarily be resolved by the individual and the institution concerned and in conjunction with the relevant funding body where appropriate.

11. (1) It shall be the duty of the Administrative Secretary to inform the Honorary Treasurer of the Society in writing of the awards made in accordance with Rule 7, and the Honorary Treasurer shall thereupon arrange for their payment.

(2) Provided that the total amount of the awards does not exceed the amount standing to the credit of the Fund, the written notification from the Secretary of the Committee shall constitute authority to the Honorary Treasurer to make the payments set out therein.

12. Each successful applicant shall make a brief report to the Committee, not more than eighteen months after the receipt of the award to be published in the *SLS Reporter*.

13. The Committee shall render an annual report to Council to be received by Council at its meeting held on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Society, such report to include a brief account of the purposes for which each award was made and the number of applicants received but not the names of unsuccessful applicants.