



The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

Rhino Electives

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries is delighted to invite applications from UK medical students for sponsorship to support electives undertaken abroad or in the UK.

Origins of the scheme

In December 2017 the Society celebrated the 400th Anniversary of the granting of its Charter by King James I. To mark this occasion, the Society launched the Rhino Electives, offering support grants to medical students who will undertake their electives in countries with a native rhinoceros population. Why the rhinoceros link? Early in its history the Society adopted the rhinoceros as its crest and emblem. This may have been due to the alleged medicinal properties of rhino horn (now known to be incorrect), or simply because they thought that it would make a fine heraldic animal.

These grants are called “Rhino Electives” to reflect the Society’s close association with the rhinoceros, in particular its use as the crest in our coat of arms. There is no longer any requirement for an elective supported by the Society to be undertaken in a country where there are or were rhino populations. Candidates who propose electives in other countries will not be disadvantaged. However, recipients who have seen or had contact with local rhino populations during their electives may wish to refer to this when writing their post-elective reports.

In line with the 400th theme, the awards will be worth £400 each. Each year, the Committee will determine how many awards will be made.

To be eligible, candidates must be:

- within the three final years of their medical student training.
- undertaking their electives between February 2024 and February 2025.

How to apply

Candidates may apply for the Rhino elective awards online by completing an online survey which will be available when the Electives are launched in Sept 2023.

The survey asks candidates to:

- Answer 5 multiple choice questions about the Society of Apothecaries. (All answers to these questions may be found by reading the Society’s website www.apothecaries.org)
- Answer questions about their proposed elective to demonstrate the strength of their application in relation to the criteria (see below).



Selection Criteria

All applications will be considered by the 400 Committee of the Society of Apothecaries in September 2023. Grants will be awarded to those submitting the best applications. Note: we expect there to be arrangements for supervising elective students.

The committee will judge applications against 3 main criteria:

1. Ability of the elective to help the candidate's progress in the practice of medicine
2. Ability of the candidate to contribute to the local population through their elective
3. Quality of the written application

The Committee encourages imaginative and original Elective placements.

Post-Elective Report

All successful applicants will be required to complete a report of 800-1,000 words about their elective, including photographs where appropriate. This report should be submitted to the Society within three months of the elective finishing. The author of the best report will receive a Prize Medal & a certificate to be awarded at a Society event.

Timetable

September 2023	Applications open
3 rd Jan 2024 at 23:59 GMT	Applications close
End of January 2024	Candidates notified
February 2024	Grants given
Within 6 weeks of the elective finishing	Submission of report
February 2025	Report prize awarded

If you have any questions, please contact:

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