



The Society of Apothecaries

Rhino Electives

The Society of Apothecaries is delighted to invite applications from UK-domiciled medical students for sponsorship to support electives undertaken outside the UK between March 2027 and February 2028.

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. 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. 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.

In modern times, the Society’s Centre for Health Studies (CfHS) provides a range of educational opportunities, including post-graduate examinations, lectures & courses. Within the CfHS, there are two Faculties. The Faculty of Conflict & Catastrophe Medicine offers courses and exams to support medical practitioners working in disaster situations. The Faculty of History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy offers courses & examinations to suit a wide range of interest levels and specialisms. Both Faculties contribute to the elective award scheme.

**In line with the 400th theme, all awards made 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 March 2027 and February 2028
- UK-domiciled students. (i.e. those with family normally living in the UK, and (for undergraduates) paying Home Fees.

Those paying international fees (or graduate students with family normally domiciled outside of the UK) will not be eligible.

How to apply

Candidates may apply for the Rhino elective awards online by completing our online survey:

<https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/3XyVYe>

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).

Last year, the success rate was 7.8%. (17 awards were made from 217 complete and eligible applications received).



Selection Criteria

All applications will be considered by the 400 Committee of the Society of Apothecaries in January 2027 and will be judged 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 interact with and/or contribute to the local population through their elective.
3. Quality of writing in the application (high quality, personal, specific).

Grants will be awarded to those submitting the best applications. The Committee encourages imaginative and original elective placements. (Note: it is expected that each placement will include an arrangement for supervision of the elective student and the application should confirm this.)

Statement on the use of Third Party Sources, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in writing Rhino Elective Award Applications

You should not use third-party sources, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, as the **sole** or **major source** for developing /writing your elective support application. If you do use such tools to develop your submission, then you should describe the extent of the usage in the relevant question in the online application. Should you use AI and not include such a statement of transparency then we cannot process your application. If we subsequently find that you have deliberately not stated use of AI, then we reserve the right to withdraw the offer of support.

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 6 weeks of the elective finishing. The author of the best report will receive a Prize Medal & a certificate to be awarded at a Society event. Award winners may also be invited to give a short lecture about their Elective at a Society lecture evening.

Timetable

September 2026	Applications open
Sun 3rd Jan 2027 at 23:59 GMT	Applications close
End of January 2027	Candidates notified
February 2027	Grants awarded
Within 4 weeks of the elective finishing	Submission of report
December 2027	Post-elective Report prize awarded

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Longhurst, Deputy Clerk

E: deputyclerk@apothecaries.org

T: 0207 236 1189