



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.

The Society appreciates that, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it may currently be difficult for students to plan electives abroad. Therefore for the present round of applications the Society will waive the requirement that an elective should be carried out in a country where there is or has been an indigenous rhino population. It will be acceptable for the proposed elective to take place in the UK or any other country. The Society will welcome creative ideas that still address the principal purposes of an elective, including travelling to a new institution for an experience that benefits the student and the local population.

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 March 2021 and April 2022.

How to apply

Candidates may apply for the Rhino elective awards online by completing this survey which can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KGLF9ZB>

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 January or February 2021. Grants will be awarded to those submitting the best applications. The committee will judge applications against 3 main criteria:

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

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

1st October 2020	Applications open
31st December 2020, 11:59pm	Applications close
February / March 2021	Candidates notified
Early March 2021	Grants given
Within 3 months of the elective finishing	Submission of report
February 2022	Report prize awarded

If you have any questions, please contact:

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