Criteria

The LEAF Caroline Drummond Scholarship for Innovation in Sustainability

The LEAF Caroline Drummond Scholarship for Innovation in Sustainability reflects who Caroline was, and what she achieved. As an inspirational thinker, innovator, collaborator and communicator, Caroline was the catalyst of great change in the sustainability of farming through Integrated Farm Management (IFM) and the development of LEAF Marque as a globally recognised environmental assurance system.

The recipient of the scholarship will need to clearly demonstrate how they will use the funds to build on Caroline’s and LEAF’s vision for more sustainable global farming and food production, and drive to climate-positive change.

Submissions should clearly show how the funding will be used, what outcomes it will help deliver and the anticipated long-term legacy of the project. Scholars will be required to send regular updates on the progress of their work and deliver a report at the end of the year. There is no requirement for the project to be completed within a year of receiving the funding, but scholars will need to demonstrate significant progress within that time and provide an outline of next steps to ensure completion of the project.

- The Scholarship is open to researchers or developers from: universities, institutes, commercial companies, farmers and individuals from relevant non-profit organisations and charities.
- Funding can be used for scientific, technical, engineering or business development projects.
- Collaboration with other partners will be accepted and, if appropriate, encouraged.

Applicants need to demonstrate that the funding will be used for projects that will improve the sustainability of food production while protecting and enhancing the environment. This year, we are particularly interested to receive submissions for projects that have the potential to scale the adoption and implementation of nature-based-solutions within farming systems, aligned to the principles of regenerative agriculture and Integrated Farm Management.
Information required

- Title of the project
- Details of the applicant - contacts, credentials, organisation/institution/company (if applicable)
- A synopsis of the project – why the funding has been applied for, what the funding will be used for, and the ultimate aim, impact and legacy of the project
- A project plan – a more detailed outline of the synopsis including a timeline
- Details of any research and development that the applicant has already carried out, especially those that are relevant to the project
- Nomination and/or support for the submission by three internal or external parties
- An explanation of how LEAF and the Scholarship Award Patrons, Members and Supporters will be kept informed of the project’s progress
- Details of partners, collaborators, and other funders of the project
- A communication plan – how will the Scholar(s) promote the project before, during and on completion.
- An explanation of the real-world benefits of the project
- Details of how the funding can be deposited and the staging of funding requirements for the project

The scrutiny and awarding process

Submissions will be considered by a panel consisting of Trustees and experts in the field of sustainability who may require extra information or clarification on project submissions. The panel will shortlist submissions and invite those selected to make a presentation of their proposed projects.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submission within one month of the shortlisted interviews. Funding will be transferred to the successful applicant according to the staged structure of the project.

The successful applicant will be required to sign an undertaking to the scholarship rules and agree to refund or part refund the financial support awarded in the event that the project is not completed for whatever reason.

Updating and reporting

The person/team involved in the successful submission will be required to post regular updates via social media as to the progress of the project and send similar information to LEAF so that it can also send updates. At least four (quarterly updates) will be required.

The report, submitted a year after the funding has been awarded, should be at least 3,000 words long and include:

- Details of how the funding was used
- How it builds on Caroline’s and LEAF’s vision of more sustainable global farming and food systems
- What results have been achieved?
- What has been learnt and how will those lessons be used in future R&D?
- What are the key impacts of the project and its long-term legacy?
What is the next stage of the project?

The report will be distributed to all patrons and members of the scholarship programme. There may also be a requirement to make an in-person presentation at a LEAF event. The report may also be shared with the press to demonstrate the impact of the project and the funding from the scholarship.