

SECED Fund

The Society for Earthquake and Civil Engineering Dynamics (SECED) was founded in 1969 with the aim of promoting the study and practice of earthquake engineering and structural dynamics, including blast, impact, and other vibration problems. SECED is also concerned with the study of societal and economic ramifications of major earthquakes.

SECED runs an award scheme to offer financial support to individuals or teams whose academic studies, research, career, or volunteer work aligns with the aims of the Society. The scheme is intended to cover cases for which obtaining funding through other sources/bodies is challenging for applicants. Applications for an award of up to £1,000 will be considered. SECED anticipates selecting one or two applications per annum. The overall funding available in any one year is limited to £1,000.

What can it be used for?

The purpose of the SECED Fund is to provide financial assistance to individuals or teams who are seeking to further their studies, research, or career in the field of engineering dynamics, and/or are undertaking a project that will promote or lead to advances in this field.

Funding requests should be for activities that align with the remit of the Society and that are not already covered by employers or universities. For example, the fund could be used to support:

- Taking part in a site visit, lab visit or field trip that would add value to research or daily work.
- Taking part in a post-disaster mission.
- Attending a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) event, workshop, or conference.
- Organising an event relevant to engineering dynamics (e.g. CPD event, workshop, networking event, or STEM activity).
- Laboratory or field experiments (please note that cost of equipment will not be covered).
- Development of new engineering tools or open-source software.

The list provided above is only indicative. Applicants are encouraged to think beyond the provided list.

Am I eligible?

The SECED Fund scheme is open to applicants of all nationalities. There are no restrictions on academic or employment position, and no age limits.

Individuals and teams are able to apply to the scheme if they have a valid SECED membership (e.g. corporate, individual, or student) for the duration of the project. If you are applying for a team project, SECED requires that at least one team member has a valid SECED membership.

SECED recognises the importance of diversity in advancing the field of engineering dynamics and wishes to encourage applications from individuals and teams from all different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. Applications from Young Members are encouraged.

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact the SECED Fund Subcommittee at: seced.ymsc@gmail.com

How and when do I apply?

Candidates can apply by filling the application form available on the SECED website and should provide the following information:

- Personal details (title, first name, surname, type of SECED membership and membership no., full address, email, telephone).
- Curriculum Vitae
- Qualifications (institution, course title, course type, area of study, course duration, year of study, grade).
- Current employer/institution (if applicable).
- Affiliations (e.g. professional bodies or other organisations, if applicable).
- Other awarded or pending funds.
- Reason for requesting the fund (amount required, project timeline, justification of why it is required, how it will be used and why it cannot be covered by other resources, e.g. employer or university).
- Anticipated benefits to the field of engineering dynamics and the wider community.
- A reference, max 200 words, from current employer, course/thesis supervisor or any other relevant referee.

Candidate information received in this way will be treated with strictest confidence according to the UK GDPR and will be used solely for the purposes of administering the SECED Fund.

Applications will be assessed shortly after the deadline of 31 August 2024.

Please note that SECED will only accept one application per applicant per round.

What is the assessment process?

All applications are reviewed by the SECED Fund Subcommittee, which comprises two members of the SECED Committee, along with the Chair and the Vice Chair of the SECED Young Members' Subcommittee. During the assessment process the SECED Fund Subcommittee will consider the following:

- The relevance to the field of engineering dynamics.
- How much the experience will benefit the applicant.
- The benefit to relevant professions and the wider community.
- The goals of the project or activity, and how much these will benefit from the Fund.
- The efforts of the applicant to secure funding from other resources, if applicable.
- The timeline of the project. Note that the expectation is to have tangible results within one year of the award date.
- The reference statement.

Please keep in mind these criteria when populating the Application Form, particularly Section 7 – Use of Fund. The committee's decision is final, and feedback cannot be given. SECED reserves the right to make no award.

Are there any other requirements?

The successful applicant is required to:

- Use the total amount of the grant according to the submitted project timeline.
- Prepare a short summary (~300 words) outlining how the fund was used and how the fund recipient and the wider community benefited from it, if applicable. This summary must be submitted no later than 3 months from the completion of the project and may be published in the SECED newsletter and/or the SECED website.
- Deliver a short presentation at an event organised by the SECED Young Members' Subcommittee on how the fund was used, and how the fund recipient and the wider community benefited from it, if applicable. Please note that the presentation can be given either in-person or remotely via teleconferencing, depending on circumstances.
- Acknowledge SECED support in any publication arising from the fund, wholly or in part. This also includes online publications.

By submitting an application for the SECED Fund, the applicant consents that their application information is reviewed by the SECED Fund Subcommittee.

Please note that SECED accepts no liability for work conducted as a result of, or in connection to, any awards made.

How and when will successful applicant(s) be informed?

Successful applicant(s) will be informed through the email address they provide in the application form. Applicant(s) will be informed no later than two months after the appointed application deadlines (see the 'How and when do I apply?' section).