

The British Herpetological Society's Student Grant Scheme

The BHS Student Grant Scheme was set up by our Research Committee Chair Dr Chris Gleed-Owen in 2004, to help early-career herpetologists. It is open to applications twice a year, in June and December. For more information, see here: <https://www.thebhs.org/funding/bhs-student-grant-scheme>

Chris explains: "Twice a year, students from around the world can apply for project funding. We prioritise projects in developing countries, and particularly ones working with endangered species. We've funded projects in Nepal, India, Thailand, Uganda, South Africa, Madagascar, as well as the UK, Portugal, Malta, and other European countries. We have a limited budget and are able to help about five students a year, so unfortunately we have to turn a lot of worthy applicants away."

He adds: "There was a particularly good intake of applications in 2021, so we accepted some corporate sponsorship to make up the shortfall in funding, and help more students."

The 2021 recipients, each of whom received £300, were:

- **Aabha Pokharel** who is studying frog assemblages in Madi Valley, Nepal.
- **Ellie Dobbs** who is studying the conservation status of Maltese snakes.
- **Pawan Pareek** who is studying nesting habitat of the red-crowned roofed turtle in the Chambal Sanctuary, India.
- **Srijana Timilsina** who is studying gharial habitats and human conflict in Chitwan National Park, Nepal.

Pawan Pareek said of the funding: "I am truly grateful to the British Herpetological Society for this support. The grant helped me fund my PhD research work to document information about nest site selection of critically-endangered red-crowned roofed turtles (*Batagur kachuga*)."

In order for the scheme to help more students, The British Herpetological Society is looking for new corporate sponsors. If you can offer any help with funding, or have any useful suggestions, please contact Research Committee Chair Chris Gleed-Owen by email: chris@cgoecology.com.