

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF READING**GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

The Friends welcome applications from across the University and associated organisations that support projects which promote the welfare of the University, develop public interest in its work and aid its outreach activities. Grants will not normally be made for expenditure which would generally be funded from University academic resources. Grants are awarded on the condition that they are publicly acknowledged and that the funds are spent by 24 March the following next year. Further information on the grants process and previous grants awarded can be found on <http://thefriends.org.uk>

Name of Project: **Preventing a Norman invasion: elephant tusk replication**

Names of Applicants: **Dr Amanda Callaghan/Meg Cathcart-James** Email address: **a.callaghan@reading.ac.uk**

School/Dept/Organisation: **Cole Museum of Zoology, School of Biological Sciences**

Telephone number: **0118 378 4428**

What is the grant to fund?

The grant is to fund the replication of the tusks of our iconic elephant skeleton (called Norman). The Cole Museum of Zoology is of considerable historical and zoological significance and is used to support undergraduate teaching in zoology, student recruitment and outreach activities. An increasing number of School groups are using the museum to support their curriculum and we have hosted conferences and even a film crew. The museum has recently featured on two TV news items and in several University promotional videos and usually the ex-circus elephant called Norman is centre-stage. Since placing a listing on Trip Advisor, we are increasingly visited by the public, particularly during half term (we have between 12 and 16k visitors/year). Whilst positive for the museum, it raises concern that the increased public footfall and media coverage may result in the elephant tusks being noticed by people who target museums to sell ivory and rhino horn. High profile thefts have occurred in museums with better security than ours, causing considerable damage. We have been advised by one the country's most prominent zoology conservators (Dr Nigel Larkin) to have replicas made and remove the risk of theft and damage to the skull of our most important specimen. Cambridge University Zoology Museum has recently undertaken this work for all their elephant and rhino specimens following thefts from the adjacent Fitzwilliam Museum.

This work would involve employing a specialist to carefully remove the tusks from the skull, make replicas from Jesmonite acrylic resin painted to look like the original, and replace them in the skull. This is a skilled job and therefore we need to ensure that any work is done by a specialist, which means it is costly. The actual ivory tusks will be stored securely but will be available for research to view by appointment.

Who will benefit from the Project?

Having replica tusks will mean that all students, staff, school children and external visitors will be able to learn about and enjoy visiting one of the main attractions of the Cole Museum without security concerns. Educational material will be provided to highlight the issues of ivory trafficking, thereby providing an extra educational outcome for visits. By allowing the elephant tusks to be securely stored, the integrity of an important historical animal specimen in the nationally unique Cole Collection will be protected for future generations and for any future research.

Overall project cost (inc VAT) **£2160**

Amount requested from The Friends **£2160**

If the grant requested is not the same as the overall project cost, please indicate how the remainder will be funded: **N/A**

Are there any running costs or other ongoing costs associated with this application, if so how will these be funded?

Other costs associated with day to day running of the museum, including cleaning, are paid for by the School of Biological Sciences. The replacement of the tusks will not create any additional costs to look after this specimen.

How will the contribution from The Friends be publicly acknowledged (e.g. by a plaque, website etc)?

Removal of the tusks will be documented and published as a University news item, and information will be displayed in the museum explaining the reasons for the work and highlighting animal conservation issues. The Friends would be mentioned in all news items. We would also be very pleased to install a plaque by the elephant skeleton to acknowledge The Friends' generous donation.

Please ensure that this application has the approval of your Head of School / Service/Organisation.

Name of Head: **Robert Jackson**

Email address: **r.w.jackson@reading.ac.uk**

Please return your application to thefriends@reading.ac.uk by **17 April 2018 with subject heading Grant application.**

If you have not received an acknowledgment within 5 days of submitting your application, please contact us.