

Galway Atlantaquaria Grants for Small Conservation Projects 2025

Background

Galway Atlantaquaria is Ireland's largest native species aquarium. Accredited by EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and a member of BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums), the Aquarium celebrates education, awareness and conservation of our ocean and life under water.

Situated on the promenade in Salthill, the aquarium has close connections with the local shore on Grattan Beach and Salthill, and a network of conservation and environmental groups in Ireland.

The primary aim of these grants is to support and encourage the next generation, or individuals already involved in native species / habitat conservation, with a special focus on marine or freshwater. Grants are aimed at volunteer, unpaid graduates, or groups, societies and associations who have limited/no access to financial support for their work. Galway Atlantaquaria will fund between 3-5 projects between July 2025 and June 2026.

The maximum value of an individual grant is €2500. The number of grants awarded will be determined by the total budget and the quality of the applications. Galway Atlantaquaria reserves the right to award as many grants as are deemed suitable. In general, a project is expected to be completed within 12 months, however projects that extend past June 2026 are eligible. Grant recipients may apply for an extension should there be an unforeseen delay to any project. Any such change must be agreed as early as possible with Galway Atlantaquaria.

Types of projects

Grants will be awarded for work that includes the following criteria:

- Focus on nature conservation and education.
- Benefit endangered or threatened species or habitats in Ireland.
- Involve a local community or community group

The types of costs that can be covered under the grant scheme are:

- Fieldwork expenses (travel and subsistence) within Ireland.
- Purchase of specialist fieldwork equipment, books, and keys up to the value of 100 euro.
- Costs of running workshops and training courses.
- Costs of visits to museums to do research in collections.
- Publication of atlases, field guides or keys.
- Production of art or music pieces to engage the public.
- Time to collect data and summarise finding and feedback.

Grants will not cover.

- Assets such as computer hardware, or items over 100 euro in cost.
- Conservation management work.
- Any aspect of professional employment.
- Work that is covered by other grants *i.e.* any duplicate funding
- Fieldwork expenses outside Ireland will not be covered.

Application Process

1. Applications should be submitted by 5pm on 29th June 2025 using the form below.
2. Applicants are restricted to a maximum of 1 application in any one year.
3. These will ONLY be accepted by email submission to info@nationalaquarium.ie
4. **Galway Atlantaquaria Grants for small conservation projects 2025** should be noted in the email subject field.
5. The declaration agreeing to all the terms and conditions MUST be signed (scanned signature is acceptable).
6. Supporting information that is relevant to the application may be included but should be no more than two pages of A4.

Evaluation process and awards

The applications will be assessed by the team at Galway Atlantaquaria and an external evaluator and evaluated against general award criteria which will include:

- Benefit to native species or habitats
- Quality of the proposal
- Feasibility and timescales
- Impact on local communities
- Creativity and innovation

Grants will be awarded, subject to funding, on a prioritised basis in accordance with score.

It is anticipated that the final decisions on applications will be notified to applicants by mid-July 2025.

Deliverables

The final set of deliverables will be agreed on acceptance of grant with the successful applicant. These may include:

- A project Report (4-10 A4 pages) describing how the project was carried out, the outcomes and evaluation and how the project may be continued or adapted in the future.
- Participation at a public talk or event organised by Galway Atlantaquaria
- Collaboration on publications or media content to share the progress or outcomes of the project.
- A summary of how the budget was used.

Payment

Grant payments will be made based on 50% on acceptance of the grant offer and deliverables, and 50% on completion. This payment structure is open to discussion, if costs are a barrier to the successful individual or group.

Final payment will be subject to submission of a final invoice and supporting documents. Payment will be made by electronic bank transfer.

Terms and conditions

Grantees will be required to agree to the Galway Atlantaquaria Grant Funding Criteria below.

Correspondence

All correspondence relating to this grant scheme should be sent by email to noirin@nationalaquarium.ie

Galway Atlantaquaria (GA) Grant Funding Criteria

1. Grant Offer

In accepting a grant offer, the grantee accepts these conditions in full. A grant may only be used for the specific costs and time frame approved with GA as outlined in your grant offer and in a manner that maximises value for money.

2. Acknowledgement of Support

Grantees must acknowledge the support of GA and include the appropriate logo in any publications, websites or promotional material associated with the project. GA reserves the right to request copies of all such material.

3. Changes to Proposal

GA's agreement must be obtained in advance and in writing for any proposed alteration to the project. GA reserves the right to withdraw or revise its grant offer where changes to a project will result in an outcome that is at significant variance from that originally proposed.

4. Licences and permissions

Grantees are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary licences or other authorisations to carry out the project.

5. Report and data

Grantees must complete a review of the work funded by the grant and submit a *Project Report* and separate summary of how money was allocated by the deadline specified. GA reserves the right to withhold payment of a grant where no or inadequate reports are submitted. Any data gathered by the project will remain the intellectual property of the recorder(s). However the data must be shared with GA for its use. Publication of research / findings is encouraged, and GA will assist application in this process if needed.

It is GA's intention to make the *Project Reports* publicly available on www.nationalaquarium.ie. GA also encourages applicants to publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals, if appropriate. In such cases, *Project Reports* will not be made available until after formal publication.

6. Media Coverage

Where funding has been provided for a public event, grantees are required to email links of any press coverage or promotion and any relevant photographs, video or audio material in relation to the event to GA.

7. Child Protection Policy

Irish-based grantees are obliged to inform GA if their project or event will involve any work or activity that will involve contact with children or relates to the provision of educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children. If the answer to the foregoing is yes, grantees are required to adhere to the GA Child Protection Policy, and apply for Garda Vetting through GA. All grantees should ensure that local child protection policies are in place where relevant.

8. Freedom of information

Information provided to GA may be disclosed in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Every effort will be made to protect grantees confidentiality in line with the terms of the Act.

9. Drawdown

Drawdown of the final 50% of a grant is dependent on the above conditions being fully and satisfactorily completed. Where circumstances apply, this condition may be adaptable.

NOTE ON USE OF DEPARTMENT LOGO

Further to Condition 2 above, GA requires that all recipients of grants must acknowledge the support of GA and use of the aquariums logo in all promotional material associated with the event, publication or project. Such recognition must match that given to corporate or other sponsors or donors for similar support. Compliance with this rule of acknowledgement will be monitored and non-compliance will be regarded as a breach of grant conditions. GA reserves the right to request copies of all such promotional material. Copies of the logo are available on request for this purpose.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

GA is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy and employs appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. GA will not process your personal data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected. GA will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which they were collected and subsequently processed.

Galway Atlantaquaria Grants for Small Conservation Projects 2025	
Project Title	
Project Affiliates (if any)	
Name of Applicant (Individual/ group/ society/ association)	
Contact Name (if different from above)	
Address 1	
Address 2	
Address 3	
Eircode/Post code	
Phone	
Email (this will be the primary means of contact)	
VAT No. if applicable	
TCC No. if applicable	
GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT (MAXIMUM €2,500)	
DECLARATION I/We declare we have read the GA Grant Funding Criteria and accept all the terms and conditions that apply to this grant; that all the information provided, is at the time of writing, true and correct; and, that I/we understand that the provision of false or misleading information will result in the application or offer of grant being immediately withdrawn.	
Signed	
Date	

Galway Atlantaquaria Grants for Small Conservation Projects 2025
Project title:
Project description.
Previous relevant experience.
Costs.