

## Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund Rural Start-Up Fund

Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund are dedicated to caring for nature and our environment. To achieve this, we need the support of passionate people who share our vision and are committed to sustainable farming and agriculture. To support this aim, we are launching a Rural Start-Up Fund, contributing up to £5,000 to a successful applicant or distributing £5000 between a number of successful applicants, to offer a helping hand to rural entrepreneurs and start-up businesses.

As part of the Rural Start-Up Fund, there is also the opportunity to receive several mentoring sessions with members of the Forest Holidays team to further assist and support the successful applicant(s). Related areas of expertise include but are not limited to agriculture, animal care, environmental conservation, equine, farriery, food production, forestry, landscaping, land-based engineering and Land Management.

### **To apply, you must be:**

- Aged 18 and over.
- A UK citizen and resident in the UK.
- Embarking on a new rural business/enterprise start-up venture.
- Able to demonstrate how your business will, in some manner, support rural communities, promote conservation of the countryside, or support rural sustainability.

### **Terms and Conditions**

1. The closing date for entries is 12pm (midday) on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
2. Applications will be judged by a panel of assessors from Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund. For those shortlisted, interviews will take place via Zoom on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February.
3. The successful applicant(s) will be expected to attend an online launch event in early March 2024. An in-person event with previous and current programme participants will take place in Summer 2024.
4. Successful beneficiaries will be asked to support the promotion of the Rural Start-Up Fund in following years by submitting media and written content as requested. Applicants may also be asked to attend open days with Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund.
5. One successful beneficiary will receive up to £5,000, or the sum will be divided between a number of successful applications. This will be at the discretion of Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund to ensure the best use of the funding.
6. Successful beneficiaries will receive mentoring support from the Forest Holidays team for 12 months.

7. Successful beneficiaries will be asked to submit a report to Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund at the 6-month mark and again at the end of the year, outlining what their funding has been spent on. If it is decided that spending is inappropriate, Forest Holiday holds the right to discontinue financial and mentorship support.
8. Forest Holidays and The Royal Countryside Fund do not accept any liability for any applications which are lost, delayed or corrupted as a result of any technical malfunction whether through a website failure, virus or other technical malfunction.
9. Personal data will be taken where necessary from all applications received but shall be limited to those details reasonably necessary for the administration of the bursary. This information may be shared with any other third party reasonably involved in the rural start up fund without liability to The Royal Countryside Fund or such third parties
10. The Royal Countryside Fund, a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered charity number 1136077) registered in England and Wales (company number 07240359) and Scotland (SC048055) at registered office 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, 33 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0PW.