

Fundraising at SAMS

Gift Aid FAQs:



Frequently Asked Questions: Fundraising

A healthier ocean, a stronger planet

By creating a healthier ocean, we can tackle some of the most urgent and complex issues facing humankind, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and providing sustainable resources for our growing population.

Our research informs and enables; providing a foundation of knowledge that facilitates collaborative solutions-focused action in tackling these challenges head-on.

Donations enable researchers and scientists at SAMS to do even more but critically, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

Why does SAMS need donations?

The truth is, we simply can't do this alone.

Collecting data from the ocean is costly, often dangerous, but with enormous potential to provide environmental stability for future generations, it's absolutely crucial. SAMS has been an independent organisation since the beginning, and as a Scottish Registered Charity (no. SC009206) we rely on funding and donations to deliver our vital research.

What is Gift Aid?

If you're a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid is a government scheme that increases the value of your charity donations by 25%. We can reclaim the basic rate of tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on your gift to SAMS at NO EXTRA COST to you. This means for every £1 you give, we will receive £1.25, making your donations go further!

How do I know if I'm eligible?

If you are a UK taxpayer, then you are eligible to check the box for GiftAid.

If you're not employed, you can still be eligible for Gift Aid providing you are paying tax on things like a personal pension, stocks and shares, savings accounts, rental income or investments.

What you **must** remember is that what you pay in income and capital gains tax **at least equals** the amount that we (and all the other charities you have checked GiftAid for) will claim against your donations in that tax year. If you haven't paid enough tax, it's your responsibility to pay any difference.

The HMRC website has a complete guide on [Gift Aid eligibility](#) if you are still unsure.

What is not eligible?

Certain donations are not deemed eligible for Gift Aid by HMRC. If your donation falls into any of the following categories, Gift Aid shouldn't be claimed:

- Donations made by anyone that is not a UK taxpayer
- Donations made on behalf of someone else or as a collection by a group of people – HMRC needs a Gift Aid declaration from each of the donors contributing
- Donations made in return for something (ie. in return for a raffle ticket)
- Donations made on behalf of a Ltd company

How can I sign up for Gift Aid?

The method you use to donate will change the way you sign up. Some platforms SAMS use actually deal with the Gift Aid collection for us, so you simply need to opt in for Gift Aid at the point of donation and fill in the prompts.

If you donate via the post you will need to complete our Gift Aid declaration form and send it to: SAMS Development Team, Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA **or** email it to us on fundraising@sams.ac.uk

A single Gift aid declaration not only covers your future donations but also any donations you have made for the past 4 years.

Can you claim Gift Aid on sponsorship donations?

If you're using an online fundraising page (like on JustGiving) then your sponsors can choose to Gift Aid when they make their donation. There's nothing more you have to do.

To claim Gift Aid on your offline fundraising, we must have the first name or initials, last name, full home address and postcode of each individual donor/sponsor. So please use our sponsorship form, as without these details we legally can't claim Gift Aid.

Does this mean I'm committing to giving again?

Committing to Gift Aid doesn't mean that you are committing to making future donations. Remember, Gift Aid comes at no extra cost to you if you're a UK taxpayer. If you do decide to donate to us again, we can use the same Gift Aid declaration.

I'm a high-rate taxpayer – what does this mean for me?

If you're a high-rate taxpayer, you can claim additional tax benefits for the donations you make to charity, which you can keep or pass onto a charitable organisation. It's always best to speak to your own independent financial advisor about what is best for your specific situation.

My circumstances have changed, should I let you know?

Please let us know if your circumstances change so that we can keep your records up to date. This includes your contact details (if you move house or change your name), or if your circumstances have changed so you no longer are a UK Taxpayer.

Can you cancel a Gift Aid declaration?

If you wish to cancel your Gift Aid declaration at any time, simply contact fundraising@sams.ac.uk and we will stop reclaiming tax on your donations immediately.

And don't forget, if you think the tax you have paid will not equal the amount that all the charities you have checked Gift Aid for will claim against your donations in that tax year, do cancel your declaration with each charity.

Where can I find out more?

The HMRC website has lots of information about Gift Aid. You can read their full Gift Aid guidelines [here](#).

If you have any other questions, just drop us a line

Telephone: 01631 559000

Email: fundraising@sams.ac.uk

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is a company registered in Scotland no. SC009292. Scottish Registered Charity no SC009206.