

Hardship funding for International students

This document provides information about some of the less well known sources of funding and financial assistance in the UK.

Please note that funding for international students in the UK is extremely hard to find once you are here. There are only limited funds available and the process of securing funding can be long and tiring, and not always successful.

If you do need to apply for hardship funding and need assistance, please book an appointment with the International Experience Team.

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Funding & financial assistance

Turn2Us

Turn2Us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship.

Visit their website at <http://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/> to see what grants are available.

Gilchrist Educational Trust

STUDY GRANTS: those who have made proper provision to fund a degree or higher education course but find themselves facing unexpected financial difficulties which may prevent completion of it. Applicants will normally be in the last year of the course. A short report is required from grant beneficiaries after the end of the academic year.

We do not give grants for foundation degrees until they have been converted to an honours degree.

TRAVEL GRANTS: Applications are invited from academically outstanding students who, as part of a degree course, are required to spend a short period studying in another country. Examples are the fieldwork necessary for a Doctoral thesis or Master's dissertation, or a medical student's elective period of study. Applications should be submitted not more than four months before the proposed study visit. A short report is required from grant beneficiaries of their overseas studies/experience.

Applicants should be full time students in a UK university.

To apply please request an application form by email to the address below, stating either STUDY GRANT or TRAVEL GRANT and giving a brief explanation of your need.

Contact

Mrs J F Collett-Flatt

Email gilchrist.et@blueyonder.co.uk

Tel: 01732 321139

www.gilchristgrants.org.uk/

Churches' International Student Network

Eligibility: Full-time international students with unexpected financial problems

The CISN Hardship Fund was set up in 1990 to assist full-time international students, irrespective of race, gender or religion, who are already in Britain or Ireland and are facing unexpected financial problems during the final stages of their course. It is administered ecumenically on the basis of agreed criteria (set out below).

Decisions on grants are made by the Hardship Fund Committee, three times a year: in February (for studies finishing April-July), June (for August-November), and October (for December-March).

To allow for correspondence and processing of applications in preparations for the meetings, application deadlines are set at 6 weeks before each meeting, and applicants are informed of the decision within 2 weeks. Successful applicants can expect a grant to be processed within a month thereafter.

All grants are made at the discretion of the Hardship Fund Committee. The level of funding is dependent on funds raised for this purpose. Grants are typically £500 and do not exceed £800; no applicant can be funded twice.

Criteria and application process

1. Awards are made to students already in Britain or Ireland from developing countries (especially low-income countries), who intend to return home after their current course and who can show that their qualification will benefit such countries.
2. Awards are made to applicants normally undertaking full-time first-degree or post-graduate studies lasting a minimum of one academic year.
3. Awards are made to students who are normally within 6 months of finishing and who can demonstrate that their financial problems are unexpected and that a small grant will enable them to complete their course.
4. Applicants normally excluded from consideration:
 - a. Permanent residents of Britain, Ireland or other high-income countries
 - b. Students who began their course without assured funding to meet the full costs involved (tuition, accommodation, living expenses, etc)
 - c. Candidates that have not begun their studies or those who have already finished
 - d. Those studying outside Britain/Ireland or those requiring help for a field trip abroad
 - e. Asylum seekers and refugees
 - f. Students undertaking courses in subjects related to arms manufacture or experimentation on live animals

Potential candidates should email Robert Anderson (Acting Grants Secretary) at: hardship@ctbi.org.uk.

Funds for women graduates

Emergency Grants, PG and PhD Grants

Eligibility: Overseas women graduates

FfWG awards grants specifically for living expenses to women during their postgraduate studies with the aim of positively impacting their future career and our society as a whole. An Emergency Grant is not a 'top up' award - all students are short of money. You must show in your application how you had made provision for your living expenses for the whole academic year. Emergency Grants are not available for a shortfall in fees.

The Emergency Grant scheme is intended to help those women graduate students who are faced with financial difficulties because of unforeseen and unexpected circumstances beyond their

control which might prevent the completion of their year's work. The Fund for Women Graduates also provides grants for postgraduate and postdoctoral study for women graduates.

To Apply

An application form for an Emergency Grant may be obtained by email only from the Grants Administrator at grants@ffwg.org.uk. You need to explain the nature of the emergency and the course you are studying.

For full details go to: www.ffwg.org.uk

All Saints Educational Trust

Grant awards

Awards to students from UK/EU and students who are citizens of other countries. Trustees will consider applications from those who wish to promote Religious Education and Home Economics/Food Technology and food nutrition and Public Health promotion, other than in the NHS. Several exclusions apply – see the ASET website for further details.

Contact

K.D.Mitchell – the Clerk
Knightrider House
2 Knightrider Court
London
EC4V 5AR

Tel: 0207 248 8380

Email: aset@aset.org.uk

Website: www.aset.org.uk

Donald Chesworth Educational Trust

The Trust offers a limited number of small financial grants (max. £500) and personal advice to help students complete their studies. Applicants must be enrolled on undergraduate (or equivalent) programmes, be resident in London (other than in term-time) and be able to provide evidence of financial need.

Contact

Dr. Cynthia L. White
Trustee and Grants Administrator
Small Grants Fund
223 Shakespeare Tower
Barbican London EC2Y 8DR
Email gerandcyn@aol.com

The Leche Trust

PhD Funding

The funding of PhD overseas students from outside of the EU is on a rolling programme and students can apply at any time. It should be noted that applications can only be made by students between the ages of 25-34 years, for maintenance only, in the final six months of a PhD course. Copies of the application form and guidance notes can be obtained from the Grants Director.

Contact

Grants Director
The Leche Trust
105 Greenway Avenue, London, E17 3QL
Tel: (0)20 3233 0023
Email: info@lechetrust.org
Web: www.lechetrust.org
Registered Charity 225659

Funding & Financial assistance for Asian students

Charles Wallace Trust

The four UK-registered Charles Wallace Trusts were established in 1981, with funds bequeathed by Charles Wallace, a British businessman and entrepreneur who flourished in India in the late 19th century and died in London in 1916, aged 60. After making provision for his family, he left his estate to be divided between the British Treasury and the Treasury of British India.

As a result, Trusts were set up in the United Kingdom for each of the four countries of former British India - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma/Myanmar - with the central purpose of assisting the nationals of those countries to obtain education and professional development in the United Kingdom.

Visit their website for full details - <http://www.wallace-trusts.org.uk/index.html>

Contact

Tim Butchard
Secretary
Charles Wallace Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma Trusts
4, Dorville Crescent
London
W6 0HJ
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 020 8741 0836
Email: timbutchard@wallace-trusts.org.uk
<http://www.wallace-trusts.org.uk/contact.html>

For information specifically about the Charles Wallace India Trust, please email the information section of the British Council in New Delhi: cwit@in.britishcouncil.org

Funding for European Union Students

The Schilizzi Foundation

Awards are normally made to Greek nationals pursuing undergraduate degree courses or vocational training in Great Britain where there is shown to be real need of financial assistance. Such help may be with books, tuition fees and living expenses. Priority is given to students in their final year of study, and in circumstances of unforeseen hardship.

Applications available from the Foundation Secretary and these must then be submitted through the student counsellor/adviser at the student's university/college.

Contact

The Secretary
The Schilizzi foundation
Rowan
Turweston
Brackley Northants
NN13 5JX
Email admin@schilizzifoundation.org.uk

Applying for additional funding

Writing the application letter

Trusts and charities will usually also expect you to have explored all other funding possibilities before writing to them. You should check first whether a charity or trust has its own application form and how you can obtain it.

You may need to write a letter to the charity or trust, outlining your situation. Some trusts specify that they wish the application or letter to be made directly by the individual, and others request that the application or letter is submitted via a third party, for example the International Experience Adviser.

When writing an application letter to a trust or a charity, we advise you to follow these guidelines:

- Be brief; write neatly and clearly.
- Provide sufficient detail and relevant information. Avoid jargon.
- Include your name, age, gender, nationality, institution, level and subject of study.
- Explain why your financial problem happened and how the circumstances you are in now could not have been foreseen (for example illness, family difficulties etc). A supporting letter from a doctor or family member - where appropriate - might be helpful.
- Include details of your income, spending and debts and the amount of money you are asking for. Ask for a suitable and realistic amount which the trust will be able to give.
- Include a list of applications you have made to other sources, including the university.
- Include an academic reference where appropriate, indicating your previous performance and your potential and your attendance.
- Sign and date your application letter.

Example letter

[your full name]
[house number & street name]
[city]
[postcode]

Date

Dear Sir/Madam, [if you know the name of the contact please use Ms or Mr and the surname]

I am writing to apply for financial assistance from the [name of trust/fund/charity]

My name is.....I am aged.....and my home country is I am studying for a degree inat Sheffield Hallam University and expect to complete my studies in

After finishing my studies, I will return home to work as a [profession]. The main sponsor for my studies was [sponsor] but due to unexpected circumstances they can no longer support me financially.

[Please give details of the unexpected circumstances]

Because of this I am not able to cover my [living costs; fees; living costs and fees].¹ [Give a brief list of what your expenses are. Say what amounts you require in total to complete your studies.]

I have applied to [organisations] for financial assistance. I have also found a part-time job of [number of] hours a week to fund some of my costs.

I ask for a contribution towards my total costs from [name of charity] in the region of [amount].

I am enclosing a supporting letter from my [tutor, family member, doctor].

If you require more information do not hesitate to contact me on [mobile phone number] or [email address].

Yours sincerely, [name & signature]

¹ What you put in this sentence will depend on what the trusts supports. Do your research carefully before you write the letter. If the charity says explicitly that they do not cover fees, do not mention fees in your application.