

# Charities - International and EU Students 17/18

This guide aims to provide information to International Students who may (or may not) find themselves facing financial hardship. This could be due to an emergency situation or 'unforeseen circumstances' which is beyond your control. Or you could be looking for 'top up' funding to assist you with your course fees and living costs.

Remember though it is a requirement of the 'student visa' regulations that as an International student you already have sufficient funds to complete your studies in the UK. This includes fees and living costs. Once you have started on your chosen programme of study and are experiencing difficulty in paying your fees, you are unlikely to get all your fees met due to the discretionary nature of charities and the length of time it takes to process applications. However, in these circumstances it may be advisable to return to your country of origin as you will be in breach of UK Visa regulations. Contact the Student Welfare Advice Team immediately, so we can advise you accordingly and explore other options (including applying for charities).

For EU students it would pay to research Charities in your own country (or contact your Local education department) Help may also be available if you're a migrant worker from an EEA (European Economic Area) country or Switzerland, or if you're the child of a Turkish worker in the UK. See Welfare Advice Guide, EEA Migrant Workers and Student Funding

## Finding funding

Securing extra funds for International Students studying in the UK can be very difficult as there are few places that can help with support and many will only provide a small amount of money. Before embarking on study in the UK you are encouraged to research available for various funding opportunities, i.e. scholarships or sponsorship, and maximising your income. Information on these can be found at the end of this booklet.

## Where to go

The most recognisable place for International Students to seek funding if experiencing a shortfall, or potential hardship would be a charity or trust. Some charities are able to assist you with course-related costs such as equipment and travel. Sometimes charities can offer help towards living costs such as bills and rent. Charities can vary in the way in which they provide help. Some can sponsor you throughout the course, or some will only make a 'one off' payment. It is important to note that bad budgeting, or

sponsors failing to meet their contribution, or starting a course with unrealistic expectations of the costs involved, will rarely be considered as grounds for support.

## What kind of qualifying criteria will charities expect?

The eligibility criteria of charities/trusts can be very diverse and restricting. However, the vast majority of trusts require applicants to meet the "qualifying" criteria which might be specific to one or more of the following: age, sex, religion, subject of study, country of birth, parents' occupation etc. It is a waste of both the applicant's and the Charity's time if inappropriate applications are submitted, so read carefully to see who they are trying to support. Also have you researched all other sources of funding available to you?

## Procedure for applying

Most charities request a letter or application form and they can also interview you over the phone to clarify your personal circumstances. If there is no clear guidance you should write or email the charity detailing; the type of funding required; your personal circumstances and academic background, including any supporting evidence. Some charities may prefer you to email them to request an application form you send your letter/ application form.

## When to apply

Most charities and trusts have specific opening periods with deadlines for receipt of the application form. It is important to follow the guidance information supplied. If there is no deadline it may mean you can apply at any time during the year. Try not to leave your applications for charitable funding to the last minute, as some charities can be slow in processing your details.

## What to consider when writing your letter

When writing your letter to a charity or trust you should include the following:

- Who you are – describe yourself, this could include your age, the country you are from, your religion if any and any other background information.
- What you are studying, which year you are in, where you are studying and why you chose to do the above.
- Details of any of unforeseen circumstances and why they have occurred (if applicable include evidence.)

- How much you require – try to use realistic amounts, check the trust criteria for stated maximum awards.
- Supply references i.e. from an academic member of staff, and a Welfare Adviser or Counsellor. If references are not available in time you can send off a letter and suggest you will send them later.

Note: Be honest and concise. Display correspondence neatly and try to make your letter relevant to a particular charity. However, it may be possible to use a similar letter for a variety of charities or trusts.

### What if you don't get a response?

These organisations deal with a large volume of applications and letters. If you do not receive a response from a trust it is most likely that you have not been successful. However, you can chase up your letter/application by telephoning, or sending a polite email.

### What if you are successful in your application?

In some cases the award granted might be specifically designated to help with University accommodation costs or tuition fees. You must request a letter saying they will sponsor you (include your student number) Our finance team will then issue an Invoice to the charity to pay into your Middlesex University account

### How do I find relevant Trusts and Charities?

**Turn2us** is a key search engine which can give advice on sources of funding and other types of help. These search engines are good starting points as they are clearing houses to identify charities for student's particular needs.

Turn2us has a database of around 3,000 charities who give grants to people who require help with the costs associated with education or training courses and have welfare and financial needs. Call 0808 802 2000 or visit [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

Other search engines:

[www.unigrants.co.uk](http://www.unigrants.co.uk)

[www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk)

[www.foreignstudents.com/universities/scholarships](http://www.foreignstudents.com/universities/scholarships)

[www.Internationalscholarships.com](http://www.Internationalscholarships.com)

### Some Examples of Charities supporting International Students

#### Advance-Africa

has a list of African scholarships and grants mainly for Post graduate students. Also, volunteer in Africa programs & jobs in Africa (even grants for non African students) You will need to subscribe to their Newsletter to receive an up to date list of

scholarships (not necessarily given annually.)

[www.advance-africa.com/Scholarships-and-Grants.html](http://www.advance-africa.com/Scholarships-and-Grants.html)

#### The Canon Collins Education Trust for Southern Africa

This Trust supports students from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Angola and Mozambique. The Trust provides scholarships to students who wish to undertake a post graduate course. Email: [info@canoncollins.org.uk](mailto:info@canoncollins.org.uk) or visit [www.canoncollins.org.uk](http://www.canoncollins.org.uk)

#### The Bestway Foundation

This organisation can help Higher Education students who are of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Sri Lankan origin. The Foundation gives one-off or recurrent grants according to need. Apply in writing and enclose a self-addressed envelope and your supporting statement. Also it would be in your interests to add letters of reference/endorsement to support your application, to: A. K. Bhattiat, Bestway Foundation, 2 Abbey Road Park Royal London NW10 7BW Website: [www.bestwaygroup.co.uk/responsibility/bestway-Foundation](http://www.bestwaygroup.co.uk/responsibility/bestway-Foundation)

#### The Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund

This fund helps postgraduate Canadian students with high academic ability. Preference is given to students whose courses are of 'relevance to Canada'. They provide one-off grants of £1000 - £5000. Deadline for applications and references is usually March prior to starting your course. Interviews and short listing are in May. Website: [www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk](http://www.canadianscholarshipfund.co.uk)

#### Sir Ernest Cassel Educational Trust

They manage a whole number of grants supporting students from developing countries in their education in the UK, as well supporting UK charities running educational projects in developing countries. The grants are usually £500 and are for living costs, or occasionally for thesis expenses. Please note the dead line for this trust is usually in May before the start of the academic year. Tel. 01937 834730 or visit: [www.casseltrust.co.uk](http://www.casseltrust.co.uk) e-mail: [casseltrust@btinternet.com](mailto:casseltrust@btinternet.com)

#### Churches International Student Network (CISN)

CISN helps full time students from developing countries taking a first degree or postgraduate studies lasting a minimum of one year, who are within six months of completing their course, but face financial problems. Students must confirm their intention to return to their home country immediately after their course. This fund will not consider students from industrialised countries,

asylum seekers, or refugees, or those whose studies relate to arms manufacture, or experimentation on live animals. Grants range from £500 - £800, one-off payment only.

Applicants can make initial enquiries in order for eligibility to be established. Applications are only sent to those who appear to meet the criteria. Requests should be made by mid-December, mid-April and mid-August and grants are decided three times a year February, June and October. It is best to contact this charity via email. Contact David Philpot, Grants Secretary, CISN, Email:

**hardship@ctbi.org.uk**

Website: **www.ctbi.org.uk/hardship-fund**

### **The Gilchrist Educational Trust**

This trust considers applications from undergraduate and postgraduate students who have made proper financial provision to fund a degree, but find themselves facing unexpected financial difficulties which may prevent completion of it. Applicants will normally be in the last year of their course. Applications are considered through an initial enquiry to The Grants Officer on **gilchrist.et@blueyonder.co.uk** or write to: 13 Brookfield Avenue, Larkfield, Aylesford ME20 6RU.

If a student is deemed to be eligible from an initial enquiry the Trust sends out the qualifying criteria before an application can be considered. This must be sent by post only (not email) Website: **www.gilchristgrants.org.uk**

### **The Gen foundation**

They Award grants between £500 and £5000 to students/ researchers in natural sciences, in particular food sciences/ technology. (Postgraduate students only) You apply between November and February each year. Awards are made the following August. **www.genfoundation.org.uk**

### **The Great Britain China Educational Trust**

Can help students from the Far East studying on a postgraduate programmes. They also have a list of other Chinese related trusts and charities. Check their website for further details : **www.gbcc.org.uk**

### **The British Council**

There are many different scholarships available from the British Government. They offer funding schemes and awards to help cover course fees and the cost of UK living. You can search and apply for scholarships in their search engine. Visit: **www.educationuk.org/global/articles/scholarships-financial-support**

### **The Hammond Trust**

This trust provides financial assistance for students from Asia aged between 18-45 with unexpected financial difficulties. Grants are for living expenses only. Note, they do not make any payments towards tuition fees. Grants will only be available for students in the final six months of study. Contact: The Hammond Trust, British Council, Bridgewater House, 58 Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 6BB.

For further information and an application form email:

**Hammond.Trust@britishcouncil.org**

### **The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.**

CSFP is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to their own citizens and in some case citizens of other Commonwealth countries. For further information, please contact the national agency in your home country. See **www.csfp-online.org**

### **The Anglo-Czech Educational Fund**

Grants and loans to students from the Czech Republic who wish to study primarily in the UK, USA, and European countries.

**Moon Bever Solicitors** 24-25 Bloomsbury Square London WC1A 2PL Email: **info@moonbeever.com**

### **The Schilizzi Foundation**

Can provide hardship grants for Greek nationals studying at UK Universities. (NOT for postgraduate students) email: **admin@schilizzifoundation.org.uk** The Secretary, The Foundation, Rowan Turweston, Brackley Northants NN135JX

### **The Charles Wallace India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Burma Trusts**

These four trusts were set up to help people of these nationalities, normally resident in these countries and intending to return at the end of their studies. Most awards are for postgraduate levels. For further information about the Charles Wallace Trusts, please contact: Tim Butchard, Secretary Charles Wallace India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Burma Trusts.

4, Dorville Crescent London W6 0HJ, Telephone: +44 (0)20 8741 0836 Email: **timbutchard@wallace-trusts.org.uk**; Website: **www.wallace-trusts.org.uk**

### **The Leche Trust**

For students under 35 from developing countries who are in the final 6 months of their PhD. While Applications are made

throughout the year the grants are only considered 3 times a year. Read the criteria for applying at [www.lechetrust.org](http://www.lechetrust.org)

## Publications

You may also find the following useful, however you should ask to borrow these books from your local library as the cost to buy them can be expensive. These are main publications/fundraising sources.

**Charities Digest**, published by Waterlow's Legal Publishing, Tel: 020 7490 0049 [www.wlrstore.com/charity](http://www.wlrstore.com/charity)

**Publications by the Directory of Social Change (DSC)**. Tel: 020 7209 5151 [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)

The Guide to Educational Grants

The Directory of Grant Making Trusts

A Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need

The Guide to New Trusts 2015/16

**Note** for MPhil's and PhD's you would need to start searching at least up to a year prior to the start of your course. You should check with, and identify potential 'Supervisors' for your future studies for advice about potential 'fee waivers' during your course.

**Alternative Guide to Funding:**  
[www.postgraduate-funding.com](http://www.postgraduate-funding.com)

This is an online publication with sample letters and tips on how to apply to charities. We have 2 copies of this 146 page booklet in the Sheppard Library in the reference section.

## University resources

Ideally, you should search the university website prior to starting any course of study:

<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/scholarships-and-bursaries>.

The Employability Centre (and Library) includes a number of the publications previously listed e.g. 'Prospects' Postgraduate Funding Guide available free for students. They are based in the Employability Centre Hendon Campus.

Email: [Employability@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:Employability@mdx.ac.uk) Tel: +44 (0)20 8411 4923

## Useful websites

[www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)

[www.scholarship-positions.com](http://www.scholarship-positions.com)

[www.educationuk.org](http://www.educationuk.org)

[www.postgrad.com](http://www.postgrad.com)

[www.findaphd.co.uk](http://www.findaphd.co.uk)

[www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk](http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk)

[www.acu.ac.uk](http://www.acu.ac.uk)

[www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

[www.universitiesuk.ac.uk](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk)

[www.stapleytrust.org](http://www.stapleytrust.org)

[www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

[www.vegetariancharity.org.uk](http://www.vegetariancharity.org.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/search\\_funding\\_bodies.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/search_funding_bodies.htm)

[www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org)

[www.marshallscholarship.org](http://www.marshallscholarship.org) (US students)

[www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/funding/collaboration](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/funding/collaboration)

## For any further information and guidance

See Kevin Ward from the Student Welfare Advice Team or email [k.ward@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:k.ward@mdx.ac.uk) or visit: <http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides>

Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.

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