

Charities for International and EU students

This guide aims to provide information to International and EU Students who may (or may not) find themselves facing financial hardship OR fund raising for their future course costs.

This could be due to an emergency situation or 'unforeseen circumstances' which are 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 (this includes new EU students who do not have UK pre-settled or settled status) that you already have sufficient funds to complete your studies in the UK.

If you have started your studies and are experience unexpected difficulty in paying your fees; unfortunately you are unlikely to get all your fees paid via charities. This is due to the discretionary nature of charities and the length of time it takes to process applications. In these circumstances it may be advisable to return to your country of origin as you will be in breach of UK Visa regulations. Ideally, for international and EU students it would pay to research Charities or Scholarships in your own country, or contact your Local Government Education department or apply for scholarships at your prospective university around 6 months before you start your course.

Look at the scholarships the University has to offer, ideally before the start of the course at: www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries

Where to go

International Students who are 'genuinely' experiencing a shortfall, of funding due to 'unforeseen' hardship can apply to a charity or a trust. Some charities are able to assist you with course-related costs e.g. fees, equipment travel expenses for field trips. Sometimes charities can offer help towards living costs such as bills and rent. Charities vary in the way in which they provide help.

Some charities can sponsor you throughout the course if you apply at least 6 months in advance this is normally through a scholarship but normally some will only make a 'one off' payment through 'unforeseen' circumstances. It is important to note that 'self-inflicted hardship', bad budgeting, or sponsors failing to meet their contribution, or starting a course with unrealistic expectations of the costs involved, will **not** be considered grounds for support.

What kind of qualifying criteria will charities expect?

The eligibility criteria can be very diverse. 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.

Procedure for applying

Most charities prefer you to either e-mail them to request an application form or, in some cases you can download the form from their website. Charities may also interview you over the phone to clarify your personal circumstances. More importantly, make sure you follow the application criteria of the relevant charity.

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. Some Education charities prefer you to apply before you enrol (in particular in your own country) while others may say you have to be an enrolled student and even then only help students in their final year of your course.

What to consider when writing your letter

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

- 1) Who you are; describe yourself, what you are studying and where. Include any background information which you think is relevant. Explain what you are trying to achieve with your qualification e.g. how your degree will assist you in your future career when you return to your country.
- 2) Details of any of 'unforeseen circumstances' which have affected your cash flow (if applicable include evidence).
- 3) How much you require; try to use 'realistic' amounts, check the charities criteria for maximum awards they give students.

For successful applications you must supply references i.e. from an academic member or staff, or Welfare Adviser or Counsellor. If references are not available in time you can send off a letter and advise you will send them later. Often charities require a previous year's transcript showing academic progression.

In the case of Nursing or Social work students include a letter of how your placement is progressing from a Tutor.

In your cover letter 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. So it could take up to 2 months to reach a decision. If you do not receive a response after this time it is most likely that you have been unsuccessful. You can chase up your application by telephoning or sending a polite e-mail. Remember one of the main reasons for unsuccessful applications is the failure to follow the eligibility criteria correctly.

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. If they are not going to pay you directly which is often the case now, you must request a letter from a charity on their headed note paper saying stating 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? Charity Search engines

Turn2us is a key website which can give advice on sources of funding and other types of help. Turn2us and other websites are good starting points as they can identify charities for student's particular needs.

Visit www.turn2us.org.uk or call **0808 802 2000** (Tick the 'occupations' box Student/Apprentice and any other relevant occupation you have had in the past).

Search and apply for International scholarships/charities and The British Council as part of organising your funding 6 months before you start your course:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

www.Internationalscholarships.com

www.charitychoice.co.uk/charities/community/education-and-training

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.)

It is often best to 'google' charities from their list as they have too many adware adverts on their site. See:

[https:// advance-africa.com/Scholarships-and-Grants.html](https://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.

e-mail: info@canoncollins.org.uk or visit www.canoncollins.org.uk or www.scholarshipsforafricans.com

The Bestway Foundation - This organisation can help students who are of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Sri Lankan origin. They can provide grants for fees where students have unforeseen circumstances or scholarships before you arrive to study in the UK. (they do **not** fund living costs or HR courses).

Apply in writing and with your supporting statement include evidence of circumstances, letter from a tutor, previous years transcript of qualifications, copy of your Passport and UK student visa, three months bank statements, proof of payment of university tuition fee and outstanding amount. Enclose a self-addressed envelope and send to:

A.K. Bhattiat, Bestway Foundation UK 2 Abbey Road Park Royal London NW10 7BW

For scholarships before you arrive apply in UK to:

Bestway Foundation Pakistan Bestway Building 19-A College Road Sector F-7 Markaz Islamabad 44000

www.bestwaygroup.co.uk/responsibility/bestway-Foundation

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 e-mail: casseltrust@btinternet.com

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 by e-mail to The Grants Officer 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 e-mail) Website: www.gilchristgrants.org.uk

The Sidney Perry Foundation - Their aims are to primarily at helping first-degree students with grants up to maximum £1000. Shortfalls of more than £3000 will not be considered

You are advised not to apply until you have a confirmed University place and a full understanding of the costs involved. Include a covering letter, proof of your offer, completed application form 2 referees (one of which should supply the academic reference) an original signed up to date academic reference (on official paper) a statement by an independent person recommending you for a grant (see application form) a self-addressed, stamped envelope. See: www.the-sidney-perry-foundation.co.uk

The Gen foundation - They Award grants between £500 and £5000 to Post graduate students/researchers only in natural sciences, in particular food sciences/technology. 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 - You can search and apply for scholarships in their search engine well in advance of coming to the UK. 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. They do not make any payments towards tuition fees. Grants will only be available for students in the final six months of study. For further information and an application form e-mail: 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 <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships-and-fellowships>

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 e-mail: info@moonbeever.com

The Schilizzi Foundation - Can provide hardship grants for Greek nationals studying at UK Universities. (NOT for postgraduate students) e-mail: 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. For further information about the Charles Wallace Trusts, please contact: Tim Butchard, Secretary Charles Wallace India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Burma Trusts. For information specifically about the Charles Wallace India Trust please e-mail the information section of the British Council in New Delhi: cwit@in.britishcouncil.org

4, Dorville Crescent London W6 0HJ,
Tel: +44 (0)20 8741 0836
e-mail: 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. Main areas are Performing Arts and Conservation students. 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/funding-guidelines.html

Doctorate students

MPhil's and PhD's should start searching for funding organisations 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 research funding that might be available or 'fee waivers' during your course. EU students can apply for a Postgraduate Doctorate loan from the UK Government subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria more information <https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/fees-payments-funding/welfare-advice-guides>

Publications

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

Publications by the Directory of Social Change (DSC).

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 2022/23

Alternative Guide to Funding: This is an online publication with sample letters and tips on how to apply to charities. Although this is a subscription service we have 2 copies of this 160 page booklet in the MDX Sheppard Library in the reference section:
www.postgraduate-funding.com

University Resources

Ideally, you should search the University website prior to starting any course of study for Scholarships and the agents for Regional awards where applicable:

www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/scholarships-and-bursaries

The 'MDX works' (**employability Centre CG07**) and Library includes a number of the publications previously listed e.g. 'Prospects' Postgraduate Funding Guide available free for students. +44 (0)20 8411 4923

Useful Websites

www.scholarship-search.org.uk
<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>
www.postgrad.com
www.findaphd.co.uk
www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk
www.charity-commission.gov.uk
www.ukcisa.org.uk
www.universitiesuk.ac.uk
www.stapleystrust.org
www.wellcome.ac.uk
www.vegetariancharity.org.uk
www.prospects.ac.uk/search
www.chevening.org
www.marshallscholarship.org (US students)
www.ukri.org (formally Research Council)

If you have any questions or need assistance with charity applications

Please note: This support is available for existing/prospective students at Middlesex University: Email Kevin Ward from the Student Welfare Advice Team: k.ward@mdx.ac.uk
Or submit an enquiry at:
<https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/unihelp>
(use the subject Welfare Service in the enquiry) or make an appointment.

You can access some of our other Welfare Advice Guide information leaflets at:
<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.

June 2023