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THE GUIDE TO

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

15th edition

Rachel Cain & Ian Pembridge



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Contents

Foreword by Alexander Tayler	iv
Introduction	iv
Grant-making charities – their processes and effectiveness	vii
About this guide	vii
How to use this guide	ix
How to identify sources of help – a quick reference flowchart	x
How to make an application	xi
Using the application form template for financial assistance	xii
Application form template	xiii
About the Directory of Social Change	xv
National and general sources of help	1
Livery companies, orders and membership organisations	123
Local charities	127
Statutory grants and student support	323
Types of schools in the UK and their funding	327
Alternative routes to employment: apprenticeships	331
Company sponsorships	333
Funding for gap years and overseas voluntary work	335
Contacts and sources of further information	339
Index	343

Foreword

Previous forewords of this book have reflected upon themes such as the changing nature of education policy and increased costs for students. Despite major progress, it is still these issues that affect education today. In 2018, we will see the creation of a new Office for Students (OfS) to replace the existing funding body. Furthermore, as Brexit negotiations progress, the implications for students will emerge more clearly. Despite an undergraduate tuition fee freeze in 2018, there is little certainty over the toxic fee debate, which continues to mask the bigger access issue – the ever-increasing cost of living.

Nationwide, the application cycle for 2018 has seen significant decline in the number of undergraduate university applicants, with mature students and carers being affected the most. The lack of appropriate funding and flexible courses are among the defining factors behind this change. Likewise, despite the introduction of a postgraduate loan to relieve the burden of fees, covering living costs remains challenging. As job prospects appear increasingly uncertain and loan repayment terms for tuition fees are set significantly above market rates, many now question the value of a degree.

As the job market changes, however, the importance of education has never been so great. Despite challenges, the past decade has seen a considerable increase in the number of students accessing higher education from disadvantaged backgrounds in particular. For students from all backgrounds, universities do offer enormous support with budgeting, study skills and wellbeing advice. More importantly, and as *The Guide to Educational Grants* shows, a significant amount of funding is readily available. Whether you are an adviser or prospective student, this accessible and comprehensive book is exactly what you need to guide you through the available support to ensure you can access the best possible funding. For their recognition of education as a public good across society, the generosity of the donors must be commended; as must the work of DSC for so effectively collating grant information for this book.

Alexander Tayler, General Secretary, University of Manchester Students' Union

Introduction

Note: All annual reports and accounts are available on the Charity Commission for England and Wales website.

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of *The Guide to Educational Grants*. The main objective of this guide is to provide information on grant-making charities which offer financial support for individuals who are in education or training. This edition contains over 1,100 grant-making charities with a total of £55.9 million available in grants to individuals for educational purposes, and over 100 grant-makers new to this edition. Many of the organisations included in this guide also give grants to individuals in need for welfare purposes. These are detailed further in the guide's sister publication *The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need*, also published in 2018 by the Directory of Social Change (DSC).

Further and vocational education

During 2017, government-allocated funding for further education remained relatively stable. The November budget announced that no further cuts would be made – colleges would receive extra funding in preparation for T-levels, and schools and colleges would enjoy £600 per student opting to study A-level maths (HM Treasury, 2017). However, students choosing to take an apprenticeship route are finding their education at risk, due to funding cuts in other sectors – including a cut of up to 89% for schemes supporting small businesses offering apprenticeships (Makoff, 2017). Complex restrictions, difficulty accessing funds and a lack of flexibility in spending, have led to employers being put off creating apprenticeship posts. This means that there has been a significant drop (59%) in young people taking up apprenticeships from April to July 2017 (Butler, 2017).

Furthermore, those choosing to take up an apprenticeship are continuing to face financial hardship during their studies, with two in five apprentices spending more money than they earn on the cost of completing their apprenticeship, on top of an 8% gap in apprentice wages between men and women (Bulman, 2017; Young Women's Trust, 2016). In addition to this, numbers of adult learners in further education have been decreasing by an average of 11% per year (Department for Education, 2017). A lack of incentive for employers to provide apprenticeships, potential learners being priced out of education and a decline in adult learners, are all having a huge impact on the country's skills market (City and Guilds, N.D.), something that could get worse after Brexit. Despite apprenticeships being a major government policy since the coalition government (2010 to 2015), there is a long way to go in terms of policy reform and funding allocation before apprenticeships can be marketed as a serious alternative to university, and something that could successfully fill the skills gap.

Higher education

In December 2017, UCAS revealed that 13.8% of disadvantaged 18-year-olds entered higher education, an increase of 0.2% from the previous year (UCAS, 2017).

However, entries from more advantaged groups also rose to 53.1%, leaving the ratio between the two groups largely unchanged. Similarly, they found that the rate of university entries for pupils who receive free school meals was 17% – compared to 34% admissions of students who do not (Adams, 2017). These statistics show a large and continuing gap in university entry rates between advantaged and disadvantaged groups in what should be an area of universal and equal opportunity. In October 2017, in a move to sway more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds into higher education, the government announced they would raise the repayment threshold for university fees to those earning a minimum of £25,000 (Belfield et al., 2017). However, this is little incentive to students from low-income backgrounds who, as of 2016, have had to accrue more debt because of the abolition of maintenance grants – which were replaced by more loans (BBC, 2016). There has also been an assault on health and medical courses such as physiotherapy and nursing, with the decision to axe NHS bursaries, meaning potential applicants must fund their study using the student loans system (Department of Health, 2017). This reform is putting many potential students off studying these vital courses – UCAS figures show that nursing applications declined by 23% compared to last year (UCAS, 2017). These figures will have a knock-on effect and will greatly harm the health profession, one that is likely to see a further fall in workers post-Brexit.

Refugees

While conducting our research for the guide we noted several charities commenting on the lack of education provision for refugees. According to research by Refugee Action (2017) government funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses has fallen from around £212 million in 2008/09 to £95 million in 2015. A recent poll by the same organisation which surveyed 71 ESOL providers showed that 45% of people are waiting at least six months or more to start English lessons. The Ruth Hayman Trust offers this synopsis of the situation in its 2015/16 annual report:

‘For only a relatively short time in England were ESOL classes provided under the same conditions as adult literacy and numeracy so that learners did not have to pay fees. The Trust has also had to take into account the very different policies towards ESOL provision across the four nations of the UK, with no fees being charged in Scotland and some learners in England being asked for up to £350 for a term’s course. As a result of the recent reduction in Treasury funding for ESOL the Trust is being asked to support learners in provision run by voluntary schemes – a reversion to what we did in earlier decades.

UK Governments have also at times made special arrangements for specific groups of learners. Currently there is a commitment to accepting 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020 and this is to be accompanied by a £10 million funding package to boost English tuition. Whilst this has been welcomed, the programme again underestimates the time needed to acquire the language.

More importantly, it ignores the many other groups who need support. Last year Syrians were by no means the largest group of refugees the Trust supported and our beneficiaries came from 44 countries.’

Ruth Hayman Trust, 2016

Brexit

After the vote to leave the EU in June 2016 there was a lot of uncertainty regarding the status of EU students studying in the UK as well as EU-funded programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020. However, a clearer picture is now developing of what will happen in the period before the UK leaves the EU in March 2019. In a statement in April 2017 Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation confirmed that EU students will continue to remain eligible for undergraduate, master’s, postgraduate and advanced learner financial support in the academic year 2018 to 2019. EU nationals will also remain eligible to apply for Research Council PhD studentships at UK institutions for 2018 to 2019 to help cover costs for the duration of their study.

Erasmus+ offers people from education, sports, training and youth organisations opportunities to study, work, volunteer, teach and train abroad. It started life as Erasmus in 1987 and in the 30 years it has been running, an estimated 600,000 people from the UK have taken part (Erasmus, 2018). The prime minister has stated that the UK will continue participation in the Erasmus+ programme up until the end of the current budget plan in 2020 (BBC, 2017).

The aim of the Horizon 2020 programme is to improve Europe’s competitiveness in research and innovation. Since the programme started in 2014, the UK has been the second most successful country in terms of funding received and the number of projects it has participated in (Mason, 2017). The UK government states on its website (2017):

‘UK government has committed to underwriting payment of Horizon 2020 awards while the UK remains a member of the EU. It will underwrite payment of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK’s departure from the EU. This includes awards where the application is submitted before the exit and is subsequently approved after exit.’

The fate of these funding programmes and EU students’ access to UK educational institutions after 2018/19 is less clear and will likely depend on the outcome of the UK’s wider negotiations with the EU.

These examples show the very complex and changing environment that grant-makers supporting individuals have to work in. Challenges such as government cuts and changes in policy remain, but new ones such as refugee education and Brexit have emerged. The way grant-makers have adapted to these challenges is one of the issues explored in further detail in the additional analysis available to download from the DSC website.

How to use this guide

Below is a typical charity entry, showing the format we have used to present the information on each of the charities.

On the following page is a flowchart. We recommend that you follow the order indicated in the flowchart to look at each section of the guide and find charities that are relevant to you. You can also use the information in the sections 'About this guide' and 'How to make an application' to help inform your applications.

The Fictitious Charity

£24,000 (120 grants)

Correspondent: Ms I M Helpful, Charity Administrator, 7 Pleasant Road, London SN0 0ZZ (020 7123 4567; email: admin@fictitious.org.uk; website: www.fictitious.org.uk).

CC Number: 112234

Eligibility
Children or young people up to 25 years of age who are in need. Preference is given to children of single-parent families and/or those who come from a disadvantaged family background.

Types of grants
Small one-off grants of up to £250 for a wide range of needs, including school uniforms, books, equipment and educational trips in the UK and abroad. Grants are also available for childcare costs.

Annual grant total
In 2014 the charity had an income of £25,000 and a total expenditure of £27,000. Grants awarded to 120 individuals totalled £24,000.

Exclusions
No grants are given for private school or university fees.

Applications
Applications can be made using a form available from the correspondent. They can be submitted directly by the individual, or by the parent or guardian for those under 18. Applications are considered in January, April, July and October.

Other information
The charity also gives relief-in-need grants to individuals.

Award and no. of grants

This shows the total (or estimated) amount given in grants during the financial year in question. Where further information was available, we have also included the total number of grants made.

Correspondent

This shows the name and contact details of the charity's correspondent. In many cases, this correspondent is the same contact listed on the Charity Commission's online register. However, in cases where we could find a more appropriate correspondent on a charity's website, their name has been included here instead.

Charity Commission number

This is the number given to a charity upon registration with the Charity Commission. A small number of the grant-makers detailed in this guide are not registered charities and so do not have a Charity Commission number.

Eligibility

This states who is eligible to apply for a grant. For example, criteria can be based on place of residence, age, subject studied or occupation.

Types of grants

Specifies whether the charity gives one-off or recurrent grants, the size of grants given and for which items or costs grants are actually given. This section will also indicate if the charity runs various schemes.

Annual grant total

This section shows the total amount of money given in grants to individuals in the last financial year for which there were figures available. Other financial information may be given, where relevant.

Exclusions

This field gives information, where available, on what the charity will not fund.

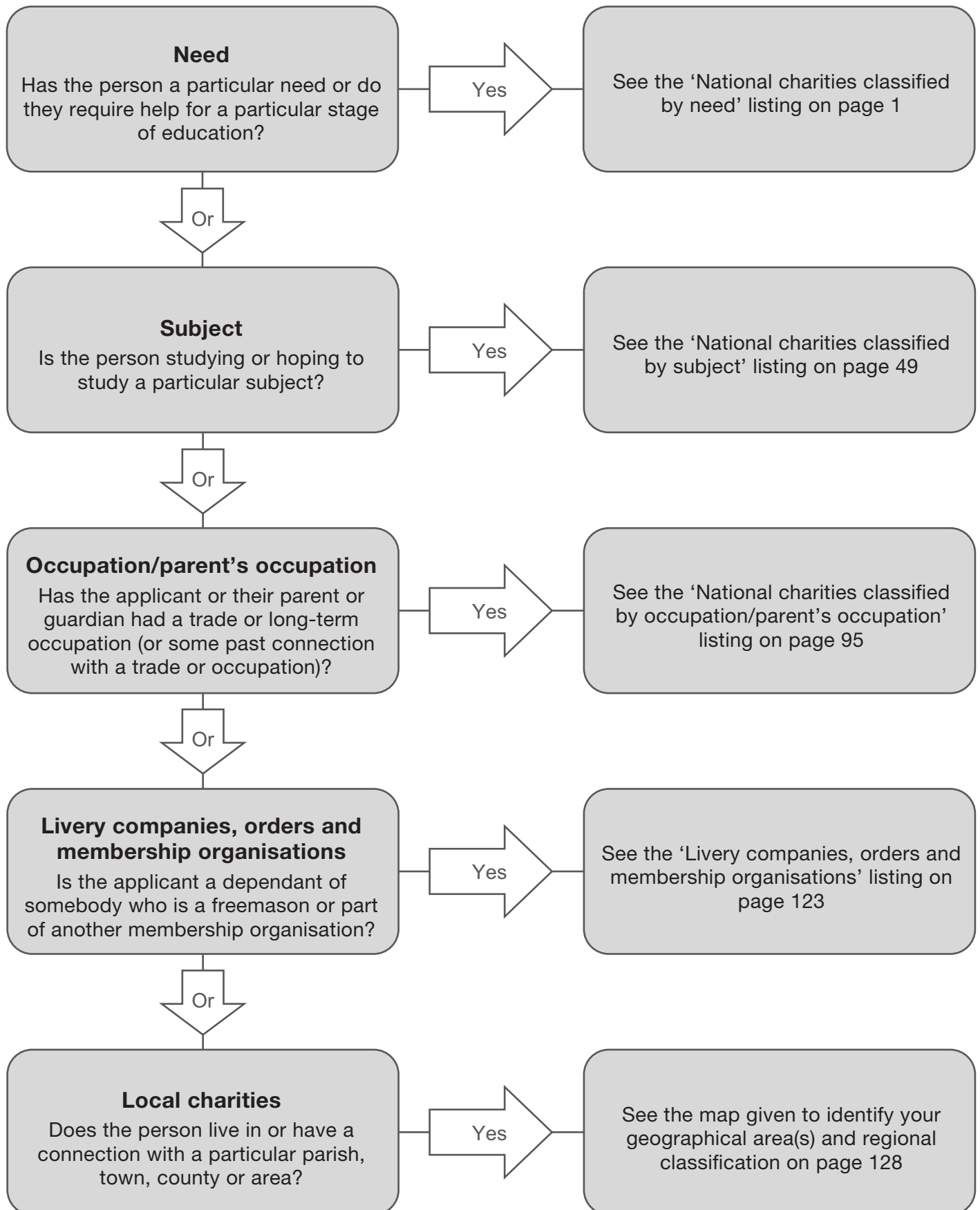
Applications

Information on how to apply, who should make the application (i.e. the individual or a third party) and when to submit your request.

Other information

This section contains other helpful or interesting information about the charity.

How to identify sources of help: a quick reference flowchart



National charities classified by need

General educational needs

Al-Mizan Charitable Trust

£19,500 (90 grants)

Correspondent: The Grants Officer,
PO Box 2488, Watford WD18 1YL
(email: admin@almizantrust.org.uk;
website: www.almizantrust.org.uk)

CC number: 1135752

Eligibility

The existing criteria for eligibility is: British citizens, those granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK and asylum seekers who are living in a condition of social or economic deprivation.

Preference is given to the following groups:

- Orphans (a child who has lost either both parents or one parent who was the main bread-winner in the family)
- Children and young people under the age of 19 (particularly those in care or who are carers themselves)
- Individuals who have disabilities, are incapacitated or terminally ill (particularly those who have severe mental health issues)
- Single parents (particularly divorcees and widows/widowers with children)
- Estranged or isolated senior citizens
- Individuals with severe medical conditions or their families
- People who have offended, reformed drug addicts or alcoholics
- Victims of domestic violence and/or physical or sexual abuse
- Victims of crime, anti-social behaviour and/or terrorism

Prisoner Training Fund: Serving prisoners, including foreign nationals, in custody of HMPS at any one of the following prisons in the North West: HMP Manchester; HMP Styal; HMP Forest Bank; HMP Wymott; HMP Kirkham; HMP Lancaster Farms; and HMP Hindley.

Applicants must have demonstrated good behaviour and/or have taken part in a regular programme of academic/vocational learning, work or skills development workshops, and must have successfully acquired match-funding and/or made a personal contribution towards their training costs.

The trust prioritises the following groups:

- Individuals who are unable to read or write to an adequate standard
- Foreign nationals
- Individuals with a physical, mental or learning disability

Types of grants

As stated, the trustees are reviewing their grant-making policy but previously they have awarded mainly one-off grants, which have ranged from £34 to a maximum £500, with an average grant being £232. Interest-free loans can also be given. Grants are awarded with the aims of: providing access to education and/or vocational skills; increasing employability; and encouraging excellence in education, sport and/or the arts. They are also made to help relieve and to break the cycle of poverty for individuals and families.

Prisoner Training Fund: the trust runs a specialist grants programme to help support the training and rehabilitation of prisoners in the UK. Grants for up to £200 are available for prisoners and detainees who are looking to access funding for vocational courses and/or books in prison that will assist their personal development and/or rehabilitation.

Annual grant total

In 2015/16 the trust had assets of £140,000 and an income of £102,000. Grants totalled £39,000 but we were unable to determine how much was given to social welfare and how much to education. We have estimated that £19,500 was awarded in educational grants.

Exclusions

Currently, the trust cannot help with: general appeals; applications from organisations or formal groups (except when assisting an individual or family); applicants who are not claiming all benefits for which they are eligible; applicants who have received funding from the trust in the last 12 months; applications for items or costs that have already been paid for; expenses relating to the practise or promotion of religion; debts, including rent and council tax arrears; fines or criminal penalties; university tuition fees; gap year projects; immigration costs; funeral expenses; gifts (including birthdays or festivals); holidays (however, the trust will consider funding trips for children and/or young people which 'enrich learning opportunities or very occasionally where a short vacation may serve a medical or social need'); international travel; applications for more than £500 (the trust will consider match-funding requests if the rest of the required amount is raised from other sources); products/services which conflict with the ethos and values of the trust.

Prisoner Training Fund:

- Individuals who have served less than six months
- Individuals who have been awarded a grant from the trust within the last 12 months
- Individuals who are on remand or serving a sentence for offences related to terrorism

Funding for gap years and overseas voluntary work

Gap years have traditionally been a popular choice with school leavers looking to travel, volunteer, work or broaden their horizons in some other way before embarking on university life. With increasingly high costs of education, many feel the need to be extra careful in choosing a career path. A short pause between leaving school and continuing education may be a smart rather than just an adventurous decision. A 'mini-gap', for example, during the summer holidays can equally add valuable experience and skills to a CV and is seen by many universities and potential employers as an advantage in what is a very competitive job market.

There are some opportunities to participate in voluntary work, expeditions and other activities which can be funded or partly funded through charities, bursaries and schemes. For further information on support available in this area see 'Study, work and voluntary work overseas' on page 41. The charities in this section include:

- 1 Charities that can provide funding towards study or work overseas
- 2 Grant-makers that can offer support towards volunteering opportunities

Generally, most grant-making charities have quite specific criteria which will not apply to all eligible applicants; it is important to keep

this in mind and not assume that you can apply just because you wish to travel to a particular area or place. Likewise, some grant-makers have a particular preference for a certain type of project, for example conservation or one that involves working for the benefit of the local community. They may also give within a specific catchment area, so it can be useful to look at local grant-makers first. Many of the local charities in this guide will give grants under terms such as 'travel overseas' or 'personal development activities'. This allows them to give broadly to a number of different activities which may fall into these categories, such as gap year projects and voluntary work overseas.

It cannot be over-emphasised enough that it is your responsibility to check your eligibility for funding from any charity to which you intend to apply. Please do not apply if you are in doubt of your eligibility. Where appropriate, contact the organisation for further clarification.

If you succeed in gaining financial support, remember that it is always good practice to keep charities informed of the progress of your project and what you have achieved with the funding. This might even be a requirement of accepting the funding. You may also be asked to act as an ambassador to the charity back in the UK by giving talks or

presentations on your experiences. This might be something to think about when making your application, particularly if the organisation is keen to involve past participants in promoting its scheme.

It may help your cause if you raise some of the funds yourself. By doing this, it might give you an edge over other applicants and prove how dedicated and determined you are to succeed. You may also find it useful to break down the total costs of your project and apply to several different grant-makers for smaller amounts of money, as this could increase your chances of securing the right amount of funding.

There are other alternatives to funding gap year projects and voluntary work overseas. Many large volunteer organisations provide funded or partly funded volunteering and exchange schemes that will allow you to take part in voluntary work at a minimum cost. Some can offer bursaries to cover specific costs, such as the project fee or flight fare, and others may ask you to fundraise a block amount of money but will pay for all your necessary costs in return.

Below are a few fully or partly funded voluntary schemes available to young people living in the UK.

Contacts and sources of further information

Many people in education and training need financial advice and help from time to time. It is usually best to contact somebody at one of the following organisations as a starting point:

- ▶ The educational institution you are studying at
- ▶ Your local education authority
- ▶ Your local Citizens Advice or other welfare agencies

These organisations will be in the best position to point you in the right direction for further or more specialist advice if necessary. For resources that offer information and advice in specific areas, readers should also see the details listed in the preceding sections:

- ▶ Statutory grants and student support (page 323)
- ▶ Types of schools in the UK and their funding (page 327)
- ▶ Alternative routes to employment: apprenticeships (page 331)
- ▶ Company sponsorships (page 333)
- ▶ Funding for gap years and overseas voluntary work (page 335)

We have put together the following list of organisations that provide information and guidance on a broad range of issues.

General

Citizens Advice

Provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. Find your local bureau or get advice online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

England: 03444 111 444

Wales: 03444 77 20 20

Scotland: 0808 800 9060

Northern Ireland: contact your local bureau (find your local bureau online at www.citizensadvice.co.uk/get-advice)

Department for Education

Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD (tel: 03700 002288; website: www.gov.uk/dfe).

Department of Education for Northern Ireland

Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Rathgill, Bangor, County Down BT19 7PR (tel: 028 9127 9279; email: de.dewebmail@education-ni.gov.uk; website: www.education-ni.gov.uk).

Education Scotland

Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA (tel: 0131 244 4330; email: enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk; website: www.education.gov.scot).

Gov.uk

General advice and information on government services.

Website: www.gov.uk

The Money Advice Service

The Money Advice Service helps people to manage their money, providing a free and impartial advice service. It also works in partnership with other organisations to help people to make the most of their money. It is an independent service set up by the government.

Holborn Centre, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TD (tel: 0800 138 7777 (English), 0800 138 0555 (Welsh); Typetalk: 18001 0800 915 4622 (Mon to Fri 8 am to 8 pm, Sat 9 am to 1 pm); email: enquiries@moneyadvice.org.uk; website: www.moneyadvice.org.uk; and an online chat facility is also available).

INDEX

- White's:** Sir Thomas White's
Northampton Charity 165
- Whitehead's:** Sydney Dean
Whitehead's Charitable Trust 54
- Wield:** Wield Educational Charity 268
- Williams:** The William Williams
Charity 299
Dr Daniel Williams Educational
Fund 151
- Wilmington:** Wilmington Parochial
Charity 277
- Wilson:** The Thomas Wilson
Educational Trust 227
The Wilson Foundation 164
- Wing:** W Wing Yip and Brothers
Foundation 15
- Winwick:** The Winwick Educational
Foundation 237
- Wither's:** Thomas Wither's
Charity 249
- Withington:** Withington Education
Trust 199
- Witley:** The Witley Charitable
Trust 287
- Witting:** S. C. Witting Trust 16
- Wokingham:** The Wokingham United
Charities Trust 260
- Wolverton:** Wolverton Science and
Art Institution Fund 262
- Women's:** Women's Continuing
Ministerial Education Trust 89
- Woodton:** Woodton United
Charities 207
- Woolhouse:** Mary Woolhouse 168
- Worcester:** Worcester Municipal
Charities (CIO) 189
- Works:** The Institution of Works and
Highways Management
(Bernard Butler) Trust 70
- World:** World Friendship 32
- Wormley:** The Wormley Parochial
Charity 271
- Worrall:** Worrall and Fuller Exhibition
Fund 224
- Wray:** Wray Trust 312
- Wrexham:** The Wrexham (Parochial)
Educational Foundation 151
- Wright's:** Elizabeth Wright's
Charity 192
- Wrightson:** The Matthews Wrightson
Charity Trust 29
- Wrightson's:** Miss E. B. Wrightson's
Charitable Settlement 61
- WRNS:** The WRNS Benevolent
Trust 99
- Wylde:** The Anthony and Gwendoline
Wylde Memorial Charity 171
- Wymeswold:** Wymeswold Parochial
Charities 161
- Yalding:** Yalding Educational
Foundation 278
- Yardley:** Yardley Educational
Foundation 184
- Ymddiriedolaeth:** Yr Ymddiriedolaeth
Ddarlledu Gymreig (The Welsh
Broadcasting Trust) 79
- Yonge:** Reverend Duke Yonge
Charity 297
- Yorebridge:** Yorebridge Educational
Foundation 315
- York:** York Children's Trust 316
- Yorkshire:** Yorkshire Ladies' Council
of Education (Incorporated) 18
Yorkshire Training Fund for
Women 309
- Zobel:** The Zobel Charitable Trust 8

THE GUIDE TO

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

If your job is to advise people on where to find money to help further their education, then this guide's job is to be your companion. With all the latest information and practical guidance you'll need, this is the comprehensive source for locating non-statutory support.

Now in its fifteenth edition, and in association with the National Union of Students, *The Guide to Educational Grants* is the UK's only directory of its kind containing over 1,100 national and local grant-making charities which fund school students, undergraduates and those in training. These charities distribute a combined total of over £55 million each year, with more than 100 of these grant-makers being new to this edition.

Each fund featured in this book has its own entry, and everything is indexed to help you find the funds most relevant to your work.

Included are additional sections on:

- Statutory support
- Company sponsorship
- Gap year students and overseas voluntary work
- Independent and boarding school funds
- Sources of further information and advice

This book is invaluable for educational social workers, student welfare and finance officers, teachers, advice agencies, careers advisers, and of course the individuals and families themselves.

'This is one of the most vital resources available for young people and others engaged in our Learning and Talent Programmes. It enables us to offer clear and practical advice – particularly those from low-income families and excluded communities – and for them to achieve their ambitions.'

Steve Mannix, Executive Director, Mercury Theatre Colchester

'This guide is invaluable. Not only is it a comprehensive guide to sources of support available, it is testament to society's commitment to access to education which changes people's lives every day.'

Shakira Martin, NUS President