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THE GUIDE TO

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

16th edition

Ian Pembridge



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Foreword

At the beginning of a new decade, society faces many challenges and uncertainties. Whether we think about the climate emergency, technological change and automation in the workplace, the rising need for social care or our new relationship with the European Union, there will be difficult choices and significant change ahead.

It'll come as no surprise that the National President of NUS believes in the importance of education, but I also passionately believe that expanding and maintaining access to education is essential if we are to understand and adapt to social change and if we are to find the right solutions to the challenges we're facing.

However, it remains the case that further and higher education is out of reach for too many individuals. The barriers to participation in education are many and varied, but a perennial issue is cost. Too often student support is inadequate or simply unavailable, while the cost of accommodation, books and equipment continues to rise.

As National President of NUS, my focus has been on transforming our tertiary education system to ensure it is fully funded, lifelong and accessible to all. No student, whatever their level or mode of study, should feel they cannot afford to take up the opportunity that education represents. I know that such a transformation will take many years and, therefore, while we build public and political support and develop new approaches, it's crucial that students today are aware of the less obvious sources of funding than can unlock education for them.

This is why *The Guide to Educational Grants* is such an important publication. This comprehensive guide enables students, teachers, advisers and anyone else helping those who seek education to understand the enormous range of charitable funding available towards further and higher education in the UK, helping you to get a good idea of what is offered, who is eligible and how to apply. For so many students this funding could make all the difference to them accessing or succeeding in education and, by doing so, move us all one step forward as a society.

One day, I hope the generosity of these funders is no longer necessary, but in the meantime NUS is proud to support DSC in its efforts to bring information to those who need it.

Zamzam Ibrahim,
NUS National President 2019/20

Introduction

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of *The Guide to Educational Grants*. The main objective of this guide is to provide information on grant-making charities that offer financial support for individuals who are in education or training. This guide contains over 800 grant-making charities with a total of £47.2 million available in grants, and has over 100 grant-makers new to this edition. Many of the organisations included also give grants to individuals in need for welfare purposes. These are also featured in the sister guide to this book, *The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need*, also published in 2020 by the Directory of Social Change (DSC).

This edition of *The Guide to Educational Grants* has a greater emphasis on further education. We have therefore included more sources of scholarships and postgraduate funding. Grants for school uniforms and equipment can now be found in the latest edition of *The Guide to Grants for Individuals in Need*.

Acknowledgements

We would like to offer a special thank you to Zamzam Ibrahim for her contribution to this introduction.

We are extremely grateful to many people, including charity trustees, staff, volunteers and others, who have helped compile this guide. To name them all individually would be impossible.

How to give feedback to us

The research for this guide was undertaken as carefully and thoroughly as we were able, but there will still be relevant charities that we have missed and some of the information may be incomplete or will become out of date. If you come across omissions or mistakes in this guide, please let us know so we can rectify them. An email to DSC's Research Department (research@dsc.org.uk) is all that is needed. We are also always looking for ways to improve our guides and would appreciate any comments, positive or negative, about this guide. We welcome suggestions on what other information would be useful for inclusion when we research for the next edition.

Grant-making charities: their processes and effectiveness

DSC has a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. Based upon this vision and our experience of researching this publication for over 25 years, we would like to suggest some ways in which charities that give grants to individuals could seek to encourage greater fairness and more effective practices in grant-making. We suggest that they do the following:

- ▶ Seek to collaborate with others that have similar objectives. By sharing knowledge and best practice,

organisations can contribute towards improving the wider grant-making landscape.

- ▶ Do as much as possible to decrease the amount of ineligible applications they receive. This is a joint responsibility with applicants, who should make sure that they read criteria carefully and should not apply to charities for funding for which they are not eligible. However, grant-makers should facilitate this by ensuring that eligibility criteria and application guidelines are transparent and easily available. Our research suggests that a growing number of charities choose to move towards electronic application forms and also sometimes consider a two-stage application process. Many willingly offer help and guidance with filling in the application form.
- ▶ Ensure, where they are local, that they are very well known within their area of benefit by writing to local Citizens Advice, local authorities, schools and other educational establishments and community centres. As made clear by the comments of the charity trustees during our research, an effective measure of raising the organisation's profile remains word of mouth, particularly with smaller charities. Ideally charities should aim to ensure that needs can be met as rapidly as possible, for example by empowering the clerk or a small number of trustees to make small emergency grants. If trustees can only meet twice a year to consider applications, these should cover the following peak times: in May to June when people are running out of money at the end of the academic year, or looking ahead to funding courses beginning in September; and November to December when people who have started their courses have a much clearer picture of how much money they need.
- ▶ Form clear policies on whom they can support and what they can provide, targeting those most in need.

About this guide

What charities are included?

We have included in this guide grant-making charities that give or have the potential to give:

- ▶ At least £500 a year in educational grants (most give considerably more)
- ▶ Funding for post-16 education, including postgraduate level. Some of the funders included may also give for primary school and preschool education ('education' is defined in its loosest sense, and therefore includes all types of vocational education and training, extracurricular activities and personal or professional development)
- ▶ Grants to students of more than one educational establishment

Almost 20% of the charities in this guide also give grants to individuals in need for the relief of poverty and hardship (these, along with many others, are included in the guide's sister publication *The Guide to Grants for*

Individuals in Need). The charities in this guide often additionally support educational charities, youth organisations, community groups and educational establishments. However, the information given relates only to that which is relevant for individuals. *The Directory of Grant Making Trusts*, also published by DSC, contains funding sources for organisations.

How charities are ordered

The grant-making charities in this guide are listed in five sections. The majority of grant-makers featured in the first four sections operate nationally, with criteria defined by something other than the geographical area of the applicant, although there are a few exceptions.

The five sections are:

- ▶ General educational charities (for example, general educational needs, further and higher education, overseas students and study abroad/placements, personal development, vocational training and apprenticeships)
- ▶ National charities classified by subject
- ▶ National charities classified by type of beneficiary
- ▶ National charities classified by occupation or parent/guardian occupation
- ▶ Local charities (grant-makers which support individuals living in specific geographical areas – see page 109 for details about how to use this section)

What are grants given for?

Generally, the charities in this guide offer one-off grants for a specific purpose or recurrent support for the duration of the individual's course or project. In some instances support may be given for a specific number of years or, in some rare instances, throughout the individual's education. The majority of the support given is intended to be supplementary and applicants will often need to secure money from different sources. However, small costs of necessities or sometimes even bigger projects may be covered in full. A handful of the grant-makers listed may offer low-interest or interest-free loans as well.

Grant-makers in this guide can give supplementary help with, mostly, small grants for:

- ▶ Books, training materials, equipment, tools and specialist instruments
- ▶ Small-scale fees associated with the course or training, such as exam, registration or workshop fees
- ▶ Living expenses and maintenance costs or accommodation
- ▶ Travel costs both in the UK and overseas, including for overseas study, educational trips, voluntary and gap-year experience, field studies or research purposes
- ▶ Course, school or training fees, particularly those for professional, technical or vocational courses and qualifications
- ▶ Extracurricular activities aimed at the physical and social development of the individual, including sports, outdoor activities, music (including the purchase or the loan of musical instruments) and arts

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- Specialist equipment related to disability that cannot be funded from statutory sources
- Childcare costs, particularly for mature students
- Expenses associated with apprenticeships or entering a trade or profession (this can sometimes include business start-up costs)

Supporting information and advice

This guide also contains supporting information and advice on:

- Statutory grants and student support (see page 281)
- Types of school in the UK and their funding (see page 283)
- Alternative routes to employment: apprenticeships (see page 287)
- Company sponsorships (see page 289)
- Funding for gap-years and overseas voluntary work (see page 291)
- Contacts and sources of further information (see page 293)

How to use this guide

Below is a typical charity record, 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 (2017/18)

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

 www.fictitious.org.uk

CC number: 112234

Eligibility

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

Types of grant

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

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.

Financial information

Year end	05/04/2018
Income	£521,000
Total expenditure	£574,000

Further financial information

The charity made grants to 251 individuals during 2017/18.

Other information

The charity also gives relief-in-need grants to individuals and supports charities working with children and young people in need.

Sources of information

Accounts; annual report; Charity Commission record; funder's website.

Grant total

This shows the total (or estimated) amount given in grants during the financial year in question.

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 the 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 for England and Wales, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland or the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. 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 grant

This section 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.

Exclusions

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

Applications

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

Financial information

This section includes the charity's financial year end and annual income and expenditure.

Further financial information

This field provides additional information that may be of interest, such as the number of grants made each year.

Other information

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

Sources of information

This details sources where we found the information used in the record.

About the Directory of Social Change

At the Directory of Social Change (DSC), we believe that the world is made better by people coming together to serve their communities and each other. For us, an independent voluntary sector is at the heart of that social change and we exist to support charities, voluntary organisations and community groups in the work they do. Our role is to:

- ▮ **Provide practical information** on a range of topics from fundraising to project management in both our printed publications and e-books
- ▮ **Offer training** through public courses, events and in-house services
- ▮ **Research funders** and maintain a subscription database, *Funds Online*, with details on funding from grant-making charities, companies and government sources
- ▮ **Offer bespoke research** to voluntary sector organisations in order to evaluate projects, identify new opportunities and help make sense of existing data
- ▮ **Stimulate debate and campaign** on key issues that affect the voluntary sector, particularly to champion the concerns of smaller charities

We are a registered charity ourselves but we self-fund most of our work. We charge for services, but cross-subsidise those which charities particularly need and cannot easily afford.

Visit our website **www.dsc.org.uk** to see how we can help you to help others and have a look at **www.fundsonline.org.uk** to see how DSC could improve your fundraising. Alternatively, call our friendly team at **020 7697 4200** to chat about your needs or drop us a line at **cs@dsc.org.uk**.

General educational charities

Further and higher education

Family Action

£ £123,000 (2017/18)

Correspondent: The Grants Service,
34 Wharf Road, London N1 7GR
(tel: 020 7254 6251; email: grants.
enquiry@family-action.org.uk)

 www.family-action.org.uk

CC number: 264713

Eligibility

The charity's website states:

Family Action distributes grants to individuals over the age of 14, looking to unlock their educational potential by participating in further education.

Many individuals face challenges during their time at college which may mean they're unable to complete their studies and pursue their future career goals. For others, their life situation may change meaning they need to re-train to gain employment that suits their family life.

Family Action's Educational Grants Programme helps individuals to begin their studies as well as supporting existing students to continue and complete their studies.

Applicants must:

- Be studying at an organisation affiliated to Family Action's Educational Grants Service
- Be studying on a further education course, including pre-access and access
- Be living on a low income (primarily in receipt of benefits), includes low waged

- Have right of residency in the UK or be an asylum seeker (overseas students are ineligible for grants from Family Action)
- Be 14 years or older

Types of grant

Grants can be awarded for the additional costs associated with studying such as clothing, books, travel, examination costs and laptops. The average grant is likely to be in the region of £200 to £300.

Exclusions

Grants are not available for:

- Course fees
- Costs already incurred
- Items provided by the college for the course
- Childcare
- Study outside the UK
- Higher education costs
- Postgraduate study
- Personal expenditure not directly associated with study, such as food, clothing and household bills

Applications

To apply for welfare grants create an account on the Family Action website. Usually responses will take three working days.

To apply for educational grants all applications must be submitted by authorised members of college staff from affiliated organisations.

Family Action do not accept postal applications.

Financial information

Year end	31/03/2018
Income	£23,389,000
Total expenditure	£22,080,000

Other information

Family Action provides a range of advice and support services across the country – see the 'Find us' facility on the charity's website to find the applicant's local office. Support is given to help in

the areas of some of the most complex issues, including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation, learning disabilities, domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems. It aims to improve the lives of children and families, help through the early years of child development and ensure adult mental health and wellbeing.

Sources of information

Accounts; annual report; Charity Commission record; funder's website; guidelines for applicants.

The Fire Service Research and Training Trust

Correspondent: J. B. Lancaster,
Secretary, c/o Fire Protection
Association, London Road, Morton in
Marsh GL56 0RH (tel: 01608 812511;
email: info@firetrust.info)

 <https://www.firetrust.info>

CC number: 234873

Eligibility

People looking for study and/or research opportunities in the following areas:

- Research into the prevention of, protection from, or response to fire and rescue service-related risks posed to businesses or communities
- Securing improvements in appliances of value to the fire and rescue service
- Securing the general efficiency and effectiveness of the UK fire and rescue service as a whole

Fire and rescue service personnel are eligible for funding, particularly for the development of training programmes. For full eligibility criteria, see the trust's website.

THE GUIDE TO

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

If your job is to advise people on where to find money to help with their tertiary education, then this guide is 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 16th edition, *The Guide to Educational Grants* is the UK's only directory of its kind containing over 800 national and local grant-making charities which fund students aged 16 or over, undergraduates and those in training. These charities distribute a combined total of £47.2 million each year.

Each funder featured in this book has its own record, and the records are indexed to help you find the funds most relevant to your work.

Included are additional sections on:

- Statutory support
- Company sponsorship
- Funding for gap-year students and overseas voluntary work
- Sources of further information and advice

With over 100 grant-makers new to this edition, it is an invaluable guide for educational social workers, student welfare and finance officers, teachers, advice agencies, careers advisers, and even 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 comprehensive guide enables students, teachers, advisers and anyone else helping those who seek education to understand the enormous range of charitable funding available towards further and higher education in the UK, helping you to get a good idea of what is offered, who is eligible and how to apply. For so many students this funding could make all the difference to them accessing or succeeding in education.' [from the foreword]

Zamzam Ibrahim, NUS National President 2019/20