Funding from Trusts and Charities

Some trusts and charities have funds available for students. They usually have very specific criteria that a student must meet, and the student must prove they meet these criteria when they make an application. Usually only partial funding or one-off awards will be offered as a contribution towards a student’s costs. Some charities may award money as a student progresses through their course. If a contribution is offered, the trust or charity usually asks for evidence that the remainder of the student’s funding will be secured by other means. Students with smaller gaps in their finances are more likely to get help; trusts and charities like to provide funding where it will make a real difference, not where it might be considered as a ‘drop in the ocean’ of someone’s funding requirements.

The funding panels of trusts or charities tend to meet infrequently or impose strict closing dates. It is rare that a student would be able to get funds at short notice as funding may only be given out once or twice a year.

Finding trusts and charities

Trusts and charities can be found by doing a general web search or by using the following websites and resources:

**turn2us.org.uk**
This funding database is open to all and is not limited to educational funds.

**unigrants.co.uk**
This is a database of funding open to students.

The Guide to Educational Grants

This directory lists grant-making charities. The University has one copy which can be accessed in the Student Centre at High Holborn.

Making an application

Some trusts or charities have a fixed application procedure for applying for funding, whereas others have no fixed application procedure and accept direct enquiries and applications, often just in the form of a letter. Students must follow the application process required by the trust or charity.

You may be asked a wide range of information when making your application, including:

- Name, date of birth and address
- Details of course
- Place of birth and current nationality
- How you fit their criteria
- What you require the money for, and how a grant would help you to continue with your studies
- How much money you have estimated you need and how you have worked this out. It is essential that this budget is realistic
- Details of your current financial difficulties, obligations and outgoings
- Details of any unforeseen or extenuating circumstances
- Information about other trusts and charities you have approached
- A budget sheet including income and expenditure. Contact the Student Advice Service if you need help with this
- If possible, contact details of a reference who can verify your information.
There are some key things you can do to give your application the best chance:

- Find out deadlines and make sure you apply in time.
- Include details of any other funding you have applied for or received, so the trust or charity can see that you are trying all means possible.
- Tailor your application to individual trusts and charities.
- Keep your application factual, clear and concise, keeping it to one side of A4.
- Photocopy your completed application form and relevant documents to keep for your own records.

If your application is successful, be prepared to give feedback in the future, to let the charity know how you got on and how the money helped.

**Funding advice**

If you need help with making your application to a trust or charity, or other funding advice, the Student Advice Service can help.

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**Student Advice Service**
Your money and immigration specialists

student.advisers@arts.ac.uk 020 7514 6250
Search for ‘Student Advice’ at arts.ac.uk

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