

Possible Sources of Financial Assistance for Students who are Blind or Partially Sighted

Gardner's Trust for the Blind

Angela Stewart, Boundary House, 117 Chaterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6AA

One-off grants are awarded to registered blind or partially sighted people living in England and Wales. Educational grants are mainly for computer equipment or course fees. Applications are considered quarterly from March and should be supported by a third party who can confirm the disability and need of a grant. Applications should be in writing. Either the person in need or a referral agency may apply.

Tel: 020 7253 3757

The Royal Blind Society (RBS)

RBS House, 59 - 61 Sea Lane, Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 2RQ

Annual and one-off grants are awarded to people who are registered blind or partially sighted and on a low income to help meet the extra cost of visual impairment. Grants may be used to help pay household bills, fund work related training, buy specialist medical and ICT equipment, and provide living aids. Applications can only be accepted through a professional welfare worker. Grant applications are reviewed quarterly. Please visit their website for more information and to download an application form.

For further help and advice please contact Derek Froud on **01903 857023**.

Email: grants@royalblindsociety.org

Website: www.royalblindsociety.rog

Common Investment Fund (Pooled Trusts)

**The Clerk, Mr John Miller, The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers,
Clothworker's Hall, Dunster Court, Mincing Lane,
London, EC3R 7AH**

Annual or small half-yearly grants are given to those who are blind or partially sighted who are in need or distress. Occasionally, one-off monetary grants may be given depending on the particular trust's objectives and circumstances. Applications should be in writing and supported by referrals from appropriate bodies.

Tel: 020 7929 1121

Fax: 020 7929 1124

Email: office@cordwainers.org

Website: www.cordwainers.org

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

**Information Resource Team, RNIB, 105 Judd Street,
London, WC1H 9NE**

Grants to blind and partially sighted students studying at mainstream institutions of further, higher or continuing education in the UK. Applicants must receive a means tested benefit or be on a very low income, and have unsuccessfully tried to get help from their local social services department or other statutory funding for the item (s) needed. Grants are given for essential household items, computer software or reading equipment, and other items such as essential repairs, debts for essential services and clothing. Please visit their website for more information and to download an application form.

Telephone: 0303 123 9999

Email: InfoResourceTeam@rnib.org.uk

Website: www.rnib.org.uk/

The Snowdon Award Scheme

Unit 18, Oakhurst Business Park, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9RT

One or two year bursaries, which do not usually exceed £2000 per year, are awarded to students who have a physical or sensory disability who are in or about to enter further or higher education. Applicants are expected to apply for the [Disabled Students' Allowance](#) if eligible. Students of all nationalities may apply but must be studying at a college or university in the UK. Awards are given to help cover the **additional** costs of being disabled and a student. The scheme will assist with tuition fees only where applicants are not eligible for statutory funding, and they provide justification that the need for assistance with tuition fees is related to their disability. The awarding panel usually meets in July and October, with applicants receiving results soon after each meeting. Acceptance of an award must normally be made within 2 weeks of a funding offer. Further information and application form available from the website.

Tel: 01403 732899

Fax: 01403 733538

Email: info@snowdonawardscheme.org.uk

Website: www.snowdonawardscheme.org.uk

British Association of Health Services in Higher Education (BASHE)

Student Disability Assistance Fund (SDAF)

BAHSHE Office, 35 Hazelwood Rd, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, EN1 1JG

Grants of up to £500 to students with needs related to illness or disability. Applicants are expected to apply for the [Disabled Students' Allowance](#) (DSA) before applying to the SDAF. Students who are disabled but not entitled to DSA are more likely to be awarded a grant. Applicants should be doing a degree level or postgraduate course. The fund is primarily for full time students. Those whose disability makes full time study impossible will also be considered. Awards are typically made for items of equipment to aid study, extra travel costs, helper/ note taker, extra books etc. Awards are not given for expenses incurred by all students, cost of medical treatment or medical equipment unless specific to study problems. Further information and application forms are available via the website, and they are unable to accept telephone enquiries. Applications should be completed together with a letter of support from a tutor or member of the academic staff or a disability adviser, and a doctor's letter confirming illness or disability. (Dyslexia reports are acceptable when appropriate). Ineligible applicants will only receive a reply if a SAE is enclosed. Applications are considered 3 times a year, with closing dates on the first day of November, March and June. Applications which arrive late for the deadline are unlikely to be considered until the next deadline. Applicants are usually informed about a month after the closing date.

Tel/Fax: 020 8482 2412

Email: S.Furmston@mdx.ac.uk

Website: www.bahshe.co.uk/

This document is also available in electronic format.



Produced by Welfare and Financial Advice Services

Student Services, Woodbury Building,

Telephone 01905 855501 and 542091

Email: moneyadvice@worc.ac.uk

Visit our website www.worcester.ac.uk/wfa for a guide to applying to a Trust.