

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDANCE

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The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) offers scholarships of up to £18,000 for the training and education of talented craftspeople. We want to sustain vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts and contribute to excellence in the British craft industry.

## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

### Who can apply?

Our scholarships fund the education and training of any individual UK resident, aged 17 or older, who would like to improve their craft skills.

### What we fund?

QEST funds traditional college courses, vocational training or one to one training with a master craftsman.

We want to support excellence in British craftsmanship so are looking for established makers, planning to stay in the UK and contribute to the craft sector.

We encourage applications from a broad range of crafts and are excited by contemporary craftsmanship and innovative applications of traditional craft techniques. To see the types of craft we have funded, and the standard of excellence we are looking for, please review our [Alumni page](#).

In addition to training costs, we can cover costs directly related to your training such as transport, equipment, materials, accommodation and living costs as long as it is proportionate to the grant request.

QEST cannot fund:

- Anything that is not related to craft;
- Retrospectively, meaning we will be unable to cover anything you have already paid for;
- Business start-up costs.

Please note that our funding is based on your training plan. If your training plans change at any point please let us know as this may impact your funding.

## WRITING YOUR APPLICATION

Our application process is competitive and we cannot fund every application we receive. With this in mind, here are some tips to help.

As a general rule, when writing your application, be clear and concise.

The application form is split into 8 sections: About You; Qualifications; Career History; The Scholarship; The Future; Images and References; Equal Opportunities; Declaration.

The headings below will give you advice on how to answer key sections of the application form.

## **About You**

This section will ask for your personal details, along with your website and social media accounts. Please only include these if they are dedicated to your craft or you feel they are relevant.

## **Qualifications**

In this section you should include any qualifications that are relevant to your craft.

## **Career History**

This section asks you to list previous employment, and you should only include past work experience you consider relevant. You may also want to include volunteer work, commissions or residencies.

## **The Scholarship**

### **Please briefly state the purpose of your Scholarship**

This is your first opportunity to let us know what you plan to do with your scholarship funding. You should clearly explain what you would like to do with your scholarship funding and why, in a few lines (250 characters).

### **Please describe in more detail the activity you will be undertaking and the benefits of investing in this activity**

This section is for us to see if the training you have planned is suitable. Make sure to include what you plan to learn (you can also include transferable skills that may not be directly related to craft). Spend some time thinking about why you want to complete this training and make sure explain your reasoning when describing the benefits of investing in this activity.

## **Costs**

We want to support applications that make an impact and therefore we expect the minimum funding request to be around £2,500. Your budget should be realistic and based on research, quotes or previous experience. You can include anything you might need in order to complete your scholarship. Make sure your request is reasonable and well considered.

## **The Future**

### **How will the development of your skills positively contribute towards your area of craft in the UK? (2,000 characters)**

This section gives you a chance to display your knowledge of the field. Think about gaps in the market or an area of your craft that is currently overlooked. Will you reinvigorate or sustain your craft or pass on your skills and knowledge? Explain how this training will help you to contribute to the UK craft sector.

### **What would you like to achieve within the next five to ten years? (2,000 characters)**

Outline your long term goals; they should be well defined and realistic. You should make sure to explain why this scholarship is an essential stepping stone and how your career will develop as a result of your training.

## **Images and References**

You will need to upload an image of yourself and 5 images of your work. Make sure the images you attach are high-quality (at least 2mb and 300dpi) and highlight the full range of your skillset. We will ask for a description of each image, please very briefly explain what is in the photo and the materials used to create the piece.

Include letters of support, or a written reference, ideally from a tutor or client you have worked with (if applicable) as they can speak about your existing skills and back up your training plans.

Please note that if your application is successful QEST may use these images to promote your scholarship on our website and social media platforms.

## HOW WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

All applications are reviewed by a group of experienced Skills Assessors who work in specific craft sectors. All applications go through a two stage process and then the shortlist is drawn up for interview.

When we assess your application form, we will consider:

- Your existing skill;
- Your commitment and understanding of your craft;
- The training itself;
- How the scholarship will impact your career;
- Potential risks to the success of the scholarship.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU APPLY?

We will be in touch approximately two months after applications close to let you know the outcome of your submission. If positive, you will be invited to an interview at the QEST office in London.

You will be notified as to whether your application has been successful within two weeks of your interview.

## Your future with QEST

Successful applicants will be invited to the QEST & Royal Warrant Holders' Association (RWHA) Annual Luncheon in early June to showcase their craft, meet fellow QEST Scholars and Apprentices, network with QEST donors and supporters and celebrate becoming a QEST Scholar.

Now part of the QEST family, you will continue to receive occasional news updates and invitations from QEST to participate in events and projects, which may include: scholar socials; opportunities to showcase, demonstrate and exhibit; business skills workshops as well as networking events with QEST supporters and guests of Royal Warrant holding companies.

You will be featured on our [website](#) and in our [magazine](#) as an alumnus of QEST, and are encouraged to continue to share your news with QEST for possible inclusion in future magazines and on our social media platforms.

For more information, browse our [news](#) and [gallery](#) pages.

## NEXT STEPS

We are open for applications twice a year, in January and July.

Our next round of applications will be open 14 July - 24 August 2020.

If you are still unsure about applying or have any questions please [contact us](#). Members of the QEST team are more than happy to answer queries and support any access needs you may have.

Please click the button below if you are interested in applying for a scholarship.