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QEST Scholarship Application Form

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This document is for guidance only

All applications must be submitted via our online application form

* You register for an application form [here](https://www.qest.org.uk/qestgrants) when applications are open
* <https://www.qest.org.uk/qestgrants>

**Before you apply**

This application form is designed to collect information about:

* You and your practice
* Your eligibility for the grant
* The training you’re planning and how you want to use the grant

We use this information to assess your proposal against our assessment criteria.

Please read the guidance and FAQs [on our website](https://www.qest.org.uk/qestgrants/) before completing your application.

**Tips for completing the form**

* **Be aware of the word limits:** The word count listed for each question is the maximum you can write, not a target.
* **Be concise:** Focus on answering clearly and directly. Quality matters more than quantity.
* **Use bullet points or lists:** This can help organise your response and make key points stand out.
* **Formal writing is not required:** Use the writing style you're most comfortable with. Full paragraphs are optional.
* **Assessors only know what you tell them:** While we will check any links you include, be sure all key information is clearly explained in your form responses.
* **Give yourself time:** This application form is long and detailed, allow enough time to complete each section, review your answers, and make edits. Avoid leaving your submission until the last minute.

# About you

* Title:
* Preferred pronouns:
* First Name:
* Last Name:
* Email address:
* Phone number:
* Alternative phone number:
* Adress Line 1:
* Address Line 2:
* City:
* If in London, select Borough: **Choose an item.**
* County:
* Region in the UK: **Choose an item.**
* Postcode:
* Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):
* Nationality:
* Eligibility to work in the UK: **Choose an item.**
* If other eligibility, please state:
* How did you hear about QEST? **Choose an item.**

# Your practice

*To be eligible for a QEST grant you must be:*

* ***Working in craft.****Our definition of craft is: The skilled making, by hand, of tangible objects, or the conservation/restoration of such objects.*
* ***A professional.****We consider a professional craftsperson to be those who earn an income and make a living from their craft****or****aspire to do so.*

*And your plans must show you intend to continue working in your craft and contribute to the craft sector in the UK.*

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* Please select the category that best describes your craft. **Choose an item.**
* Area of specialism:
* Describe your practice (200 words):
* *For example:* 
  + *What you make, create, or conserve*
  + *What you are recognised for —skills, techniques, or areas of focus*
  + *The types of clients, audiences, or markets you typically work with*
  + *How your business* is structured (e.g., sole trader, limited company, collective)
* What would you like to achieve with your practice in the next 5 to 10 years? (200 words).
* *For example:*
  + *Where you’d like to take your work — creatively or professionally*
  + *Any new skills, techniques, or ideas you’re keen to explore*
  + *If you have goals around things like growing your business, working with others, or sharing your knowledge*
  + *If you’d like your work to make a difference — in your community, in the craft world, or beyond*
* Where can we see examples of your work:
* Website:
* Instagram:
* Facebook:
* X(Twitter):
* Linked In:
* Describe how you meet the grant criteria (200 words).
* *Please outline:*
  + *How long you’ve been working professionally in your craft*
  + *Your intention to practice your craft in the UK long term*
* Are you thinking about the environmental impact of your practice? (200 words)  
  What steps are you taking, or planning, to reduce your environmental impact?
* *For example:*
  + *Have you made changes in your materials, processes, or packaging*
  + *Any challenges you’ve faced in trying to make your practice more sustainable*
  + *Are there areas you’re researching or hoping to improve in the future*
  + *Do you work with others (suppliers, collaborators, studios) who share your environmental values*

# Qualifications, training and awards

* List any qualifications you hold, training you've completed or awards you've received, where relevant to your craft.
  + Please start with your most recent qualification first.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Qualification | Institution | Start date:  (dd/mm/yyyy) | End date:  (dd/mm/yyyy) | Result | Description  (50 words) |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Career history

* List your career history (relevant to your craft).
* Please start with your current or most recent employment first.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Current? Self-employed? | Start date:  (dd/mm/yyyy) | End date:  (dd/mm/yyyy) | Company Address: | Role description (100 words): |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Your funding request

* Have you applied for a QEST grant before? **Choose an item.**
* How much money are you seeking from QEST? (£)
  + NOTE. The grant request should be between £3,000 and £18,000
* Give a short overview of how you plan to use the grant. What are you seeking funding for, how will it support your next step, and why now? (200 words)
* In what ways will your skill development benefit your craft field in the UK? (200 words)
  + *For example, you might consider how your learning could benefit others, support innovation, preserve heritage, raise profile, or strengthen the craft community more widely.*

# Funded activities

*Use this section to outline all the activities you hope to receive funding for.  
If you’re applying for multiple activities, please list each separately (you’ll need to copy and repeat this section).*

*We can't fund activities that take place, or refund any payments made, before the grant period begins. We can only fund training taking place from:*

* *July for Spring applications*
* *January for Autumn applications*

*Training must begin within one year of receiving the grant.*

* Type of activity: **Choose an item.**
* Activity title (e.g. name of the course):
* Place confirmed? **Choose an item.**
* Start date (dd/mm/yyyy):
* End date (dd/mm/yyy):
* Institution / organisation/ person who will be training you:
* City:
* County:
* Country:
* Website:

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*Use the questions below to clearly explain the training or development activity you're applying for — and why it matters to your craft practice.*

* Describe the activity you will be undertaking (150 words):
* *What will you be doing?*
* *What skills, techniques, or processes will you be focusing on?*
* How will undertaking this activity benefit you and your practice (150 words):
* *How will this activity help you grow or improve?*
* *What difference will it make to your work, your practice or future opportunities?*

**Cost Breakdown**

*Not all costs associated with your training will be eligible. Check the guidelines and FAQs*[*on our website*](https://www.qest.org.uk/qestgrants/)*before completing this section.*

*Include the total amount you'll pay, including any applicable VAT.*

*Only include costs you're requesting from QEST. If there are additional costs or match funding, mention them in the 'Detail of fees' section.*

*As a guide, we recommend no more than 30% of the requested funds are for associated costs (travel/accommodation/ other costs).*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Amount £ | Description |
| Fees |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |
| Accommodation |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

# Supporting documents

Please upload:

* One document containing up to 12 **images** of your work
* Two written **references** from an educational or professional source

# Equal opportunities

* Please state your ethnicity: **Choose an item.**
* What is your gender? **Choose an item.**
* What is your sexual orientation? **Choose an item.**
* Do you identify as an individual with a disability, health condition, or consider yourself neurodivergent or someone with learning difficulties?**Choose an item.**
* If yes, does this affect you in any of the following areas?

Vision (e.g., partial sight)

Hearing (e.g., partial hearing)

Mobility (e.g., walking distances)

Dexterity (e.g., lifting)

Learning, understanding, or concentrating

Memory

Mental health

Stamina, breathing, or fatigue

Social/ behavioural (e.g., autism or ADHD)

Other

None of the above

Prefer not to say

* Please advise us of any specific need you may have related to the application process or the interview arrangements:

# Declaration

* Should I be awarded a QEST Scholarship, I agree:

To submit a report every six months and a final report upon completion of my funded activities.

To cooperate with any QEST publicity about my award and encourage others to apply for our grants/ awards.