

POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ASYLUM SEEKERS/REFUGEES

FUND FOR HUMAN NEED

<http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/>

6 Friars Walk, Dunstable, LU6 3JA

Email: kedrayton1@gmail.com

Gives one-off grants of up to £100 to people who are in distress or to those attempting to get over a short-term hurdle / crisis. In particular the fund makes grants to refugees and asylum seekers, and to those who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless. Please note the charity only has a limited amount of monthly funds and receives a huge amount of applications. For this reason it is unable to help anyone who already has some source of income.

Applications may be made in writing to the charity or via the form on their website, including details of financial circumstances. However, the majority of applications are made through intermediary organisations.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE APPEAL FUND

www.prisonersofconscience.org

The Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund, PO BOX 61044, LONDON SE1 1UP

Telephone: (0) 20 7407 6644 Fax: (0) 20 7407 6655

Email: grantsofficer@prisonersofconscience.org

The Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund offer 2 types of financial assistance to prisoners of conscience:

1. Relief and rehabilitation grants

Mainly one off grants for about £350 each for prisoners of conscience and/or their families, who have suffered persecution for their beliefs. The purpose of the grants can include: Basic essentials such as food, clothing, toiletries and travel costs; Basic furniture; Counselling/Therapy sessions; Medical needs; Some vocational conversion courses such as PLAB and IELTS. They do not help with under-graduate university fees, but can help with travel fares, books etc.

2. Bursary grants for postgraduate study

Grants from the Bursaries Fund are available to former prisoners of conscience to assist with tuition fee payments for post-graduate study or professional conversion courses in the UK. Applications are considered on an annual basis. If successful, funding will be provided towards tuition fees for one academic year. A commitment for funding subsequent years cannot be given but applicants can re-apply to be considered again the following year. No retrospective funding can be given.

A recognised/approved agency should make the application on behalf of the individual or family. You can ask your solicitor to make an application or you can contact the Citizens Advice Bureaux who may apply on your behalf. If you are in touch with any other refugee organisations or official bodies, you could also ask them to make an application. If you do not know of any organisation who might be able to assist you, please contact: grantsofficer@prisonersofconscience.org for advice.

See website for full details.

PROFESSIONAL AID COUNCIL

www.pcac.org.uk

The Executive Secretary, Professional Aid Council, 10 St Christopher's Place, London, W1U 1HZ

Tel: 020 7935 0641

Email: admin@professionalsaid.org.uk

Grants are given to home students, EU, and overseas students. Grants are also given to refugees with Home Office Refugee Status or Exceptional Leave. Preference is given to students who are in their first or last year of study, and who started their course with the expectation of full funding and have exploited all other financial options open to them.

To be eligible for help, your parents must hold a university degree or equivalent and/or be part of a profession that requires this level of education. Alternatively, if you have a first degree yourself then you meet the criteria. Grants are usually in the region of £300 – £500.

Full details and enquiry form available on website.

RUTH HAYMAN TRUST FUND

www.ruthhaymantrust.org.uk

The Honorary Secretary, the Ruth Hayman Trust, PO Box 17685, London N6 6WD

Email: info@ruthhaymantrust.org.uk

One off and recurrent grants of up to £500 (on average £150) to adults resident in the UK and who speak a language other than English as their first language. In practice, most beneficiaries are refugees and asylum seekers. First priority is given to tuition and examination fees, but small grants can also be made towards books and materials. Grants towards travel costs are also made to people who have disabilities. Grants are not given to postgraduate students. Other conditions apply – please visit their website for more information.

Application forms available on the website. All applications must include an academic reference.

There is an additional annual Rose Grant Special Award of £500 available to “applicants who can show exceptional academic achievement, an outstanding commitment to the community or human rights as well as financial need”. See website for further information.

SCHWAB EDUCATIONAL GRANT

www.swtrust.org.uk

The Walter & Liesel Schwab Charitable Trust, PO Box 12327, Colchester CO4 4XE

Email: info@swtrust.org.uk

The Schwab Educational Grants helps students who are asylum seekers or refugees with small educational grants. Grants of up to £2,000 for help with resources in their courses. Awards will only be considered if the following criteria are met:

- The young person must have claimed asylum in the UK (asylum seeker) or have been recognised as a refugee by the Home Office
- The applicant should not normally be over 28 years of age
- The applicant should either be in education or applying for educational support.

Applicants can apply in person or any professional may apply on their behalf.

Full eligibility criteria and application form available on their website.

TIKO FOUNDATION

www.tikofoundation.org

Vicarage House, 58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

Tel: 02073681642

Email: info@tikofoundation.org

TIKO Foundation is an educational charity which funds young asylum seekers or young people with limited leave for remain in the UK through higher education in the UK who are not entitled to student finance. A TIKO Foundation grant provides funding towards an applicant's tuition and accommodation expenses for the duration of his or her academic course.

To be eligible for a TIKO grant, an applicant needs to be:

- Resident in the UK
- An asylum seeker or have limited leave and not be entitled to Student Finance
- Wanting to study at college or university for the first time
- In receipt of an offer from at least one high ranking university
- From a low income background
- Academically talented
- Able to demonstrate leadership qualities
- Able to demonstrate an intention to improve his or her life through higher education
- Able to demonstrate an intention to be of service to the community following higher education

Full eligibility criteria and application form available on their website.

In addition to this list, there are several websites which provide information on charitable trusts and alternative funding, some of which include a Grant search facility to help students identify appropriate funding based on individual circumstances and needs - see examples below:

- www.turn2us.org.uk is a charitable service which helps people access welfare benefits, educational grants and other help. Individuals can search their database to find funding.
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk provides a searchable database for scholarships and other funding.

When applying to charities you are advised to consider the criteria carefully as organisations often have very limited funding and will not consider applications unless they meet their specific criteria.

**The document is also available in electronic format
Produced by Money Advice, Peirson Centre, University of Worcester
See our website: www.worcester.ac.uk/moneyadvice
for a guide to applying to a Trust**

