

# POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## **BIRKDALE TRUST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED LTD**

The Administrator, BTHI Ltd, 21 Gleneagles Drive, Southport, PR8 3PP

[www.grantsforthe deaf.co.uk](http://www.grantsforthe deaf.co.uk)

This charity exists to provide financial support to children and young people who have a hearing impairment and to organisations who provide help to them. The Charity makes grants to young people up to an age in their mid-twenties resident in the UK.

The main objectives of this charity are:

- To advance the education of children and young people with particular reference to those with a hearing impairment.
- To support any other Charitable Object, which promotes the welfare of hearing impaired children and young people.

Application form and full guidance notes available on their website. The Trustees meet six times per year to consider applications and all submissions will be considered at the first available meeting.

## **CHROHNS & COLITIS UK**

Support Grants Assistant, PO Box 334, St Albans, Herts AL1 2WA

[www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](http://www.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)

Tel: 0800 011 4701 Email: [support.grants@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](mailto:support.grants@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)

Chrohns & Colitis UK offer two kinds of grants to people with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in need of financial support. To qualify, you must have been resident in the UK for six months or more, be on a low income and have a need arising from your IBD.

- **Personal Grants** of up to £500 (£200 for clothing and bedding). Available to people with Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis for an item or need arising as a consequence of having the conditions. This could be, for example: a washing machine or dryer, beds and mattresses, bedding, refrigerator, cooker, microwave, new clothing due to weight loss/gain, etc
- **Educational and Vocational Grants** of up to £800 to help you cover your education or training costs. The money can be used to cover costs such as: Books and/or other course material/equipment, Tuition fees, Additional costs of University en-suite, Retraining course...

Full guidance notes and application form are available on their website.

## **COMMON INVESTMENT FUND (POOLED TRUSTS)**

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

[www.cordwainers.org](http://www.cordwainers.org)

Tel: 020 7929 1121 Email: [office@cordwainers.org](mailto:office@cordwainers.org)

Annual or small half-yearly grants are given to those who are blind or partially sighted and 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.

## **EQUIPMENT FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

Mrs Janet Hillman, Honorary Secretary, 19 Flanchford Road, London W12 9ND

Equipment for Independent Living helps people who have disabilities who are aged over 16 and living in the UK. They give one-off grants towards disability equipment enabling people to obtain mobility, independence and earning power.

Applicants must be referred in the first instance by a professional person involved with their welfare, for example, a social worker, occupational therapist or specialist nurse. The professional person should write to the Honorary Secretary describing the applicant's circumstances and saying what equipment is needed and why. If appropriate, a full application form will then be sent out.

## **GARDNER'S TRUST FOR THE BLIND**

Boundary House, 117 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6AA

Tel: 020 7253 3757

One-off grants are awarded to registered blind or partially sighted people living in the United Kingdom. Educational grants are mainly for computer equipment or course fees. Applications can be submitted either directly by the individual or by a third party, but they must also be supported by a third party who can confirm the disability and that the grant is needed.

Applications in writing to the correspondent.

## **KIDNEY CARE UK**

3 The Windmills, St Mary's Close, Turk Street, Alton GU34 1EF

[www.kidneycareuk.org](http://www.kidneycareuk.org)

Tel: 01420 541 424 Email: [info@kidneycareuk.org](mailto:info@kidneycareuk.org)

One-off grants to help people with kidney disease of UK nationality, with the cost of University or College fees where appropriate, or the cost of books, equipment, lodgings or other expenses involved with educational and job opportunities.

Applications should be submitted by a kidney unit social worker or a member of the kidney care team and are considered daily. However, if there's no member of staff able to help, Kidney Care UK's advocacy officers can be contacted by telephone or email (contact details above).

## **MATTHEW TRUST**

PO Box 604, London, SW6 3AG

[www.matthewtrust.org](http://www.matthewtrust.org)

Tel: 020 77365976 Email: [amt@matthewtrust.org](mailto:amt@matthewtrust.org)

Awards small grants for a specific purpose or costed need to people who have a mental health problem of any kind.

Grants are only awarded when other avenues of funding have been exhausted, and are rarely made directly to the applicant, but through their representative, e.g. Social Worker, Community Care Worker, GP or Agency Worker.

Applications by letter – information on what needs to be included in this letter available on their website.

## **PETER GREENWOOD MEMORIAL TRUST FOR DEAF PEOPLE**

[www.pgmtrust.org.uk](http://www.pgmtrust.org.uk)

The PGM Trust offers small cash grants to deaf and hearing impaired students who have an offer of a place or have secured a place on a course or activity in Secondary, Higher or Further Education (or training) in the United Kingdom. You must be able to show that you are either deaf or hard of hearing by securing the support of a sponsor such as a Lecturer, Social Worker or Doctor.

Normally, a grant would be used to buy books and equipment needed for a person's studies or training. Sometimes a grant may be offered to help with travel or accommodation expenses related to a person's studies or training. Further guidance and Application forms are available on their website.

## **RHONA REID CHARITABLE TRUST**

K Clayton, Rathbone Taxation Services, Port of Liverpool Buildings, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1NW

Tel: 0151 236 6666

One-off and recurrent grants according to need for necessities and activities which would be "supporting excellence in the chosen field", for people involved in the study and advancement of medicine (especially ophthalmology), music and the arts. Grants are also made to organisations and people who are blind, visually impaired or have another disability.

Applications in writing to the correspondent. Applications are considered in March and September.

## **ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BLIND PEOPLE (RNIB)**

RNIB, 105 Judd Street, London, WC1H 9NE

[www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

Tel: 0303 123 9999 Email: [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

Grants of up to £500 to registered blind and partially sighted students studying at mainstream institutions of further, higher or continuing education, and resident 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. Applications must be supported by a professional. More information and application form available on the website.

## **SNOWDON TRUST**

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

[www.snowdontrust.org](http://www.snowdontrust.org)

Tel: 01403 732899 Email: [info@snowdontrust.org](mailto:info@snowdontrust.org)

If you have a physical or sensory disability and are in post-16 education, you can apply for help with additional disability-related costs that are not fully provided from available statutory funding.

The Trust helps fund such things as • Human help – sign language interpreters and people to take notes • Computer equipment • Adapted or additional accommodation • Travel costs • Mobility equipment • Other costs which relate solely to disability

Applications are accepted from February 1st to August 31st for funding for the academic year starting in September. Application form available to download from website, plus details of full eligibility.

## STUDENT HEALTH ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE FUND

Student Health Association Office, 35 Hazelwood Rd, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, EN1 1JG

[www.studenthealthassociation.co.uk](http://www.studenthealthassociation.co.uk)

Grants of up to £500 are made to full-time (or nearly full-time) higher education students for support needs related to their impairment or medical condition. They expect students to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) before applying to the Fund. Students who are disabled but not entitled to receive DSAs are more likely to be awarded a grant.

Further information and application forms are available via the website, no 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. Deadlines for applications are 1 March, 1 June, 1 November. It takes about a month after the deadline to finalise awards.

## VICTA

Victa Children, 5 Douglas House, 32-34 Simpson Road, Fenny Stratford, Milton Keynes MK1 1BA

[www.victa.org.uk/grants](http://www.victa.org.uk/grants)

Tel: 01908 240 831 Email: [grants@victa.org.uk](mailto:grants@victa.org.uk)

VICTA support children and young people who are blind or partially sighted by providing equipment to aid their visual impairment. Applications will be considered for children and young people who are registered or are register-able blind or partially sighted up to and including the age of 29 years and who are permanent residents in the UK. All items supplied through the grant scheme are for home use only.

All applications are independently reviewed by the trustees and outcomes will be notified in writing. Successful applicants will be asked for a contribution towards the grant. Application Forms available to download from their website.

### SEARCH FOR TRUST FUNDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FUNDING

In addition to this list, there are websites which provide information on Scholarships and Charitable Trusts, and also include a Grant search facility to help students identify appropriate funding based on individual circumstances and needs - see examples below:

- [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk) - a charitable service which helps people access welfare benefits, educational grants and other help. Individuals can search their database to find funding.
- [www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk](http://www.thescholarshipclub.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 Directory of Social Change publishes "**The Educational Grants Directory**" which lists details of charities and trust funds - a copy of this directory can be accessed via the University Money Advisers.



Produced by Money Advice, University of Worcester

See our Website for a Guide to applying to a Trust

[www.worcester.ac.uk/moneyadvice/trustfunds](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/moneyadvice/trustfunds)