Training bursary application questions

2027

For reference only – please apply via
www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/opportunities/training-bursaries

Training bursaries will be allocated to new entrants and early-career practitioners in the UK who require financial support to gain the hand skills they need to set themselves on a path to success. Apply for up to £4,000 to start training in a heritage craft or to further develop your skills.

Bursaries are for:

- new entrants who have demonstrated a commitment to starting a new craft career and need to acquire the necessary hand skills;
- early-career practitioners who have not yet attained the hand skills required to achieve commercial success; or
- early- or mid-career craftspeople who need to acquire distinctly different hand skills to develop new ways of achieving commercial success.

You can apply for a bursary for any amount up to £4,000 which can cover or contribute towards the costs of:

- apprenticeship-style training with a craftsperson/people;
- attending a specialist training course (accredited or non-accredited);
- undertaking a self-directed programme of training with one or more craftspeople;
- the cost of specialist tools or materials, books or study materials, or supporting travel and accommodation (no more than 30% of total budget).

The bursary cannot be used for general living expenses, research, promotional activities or anything else.

Successful applicants will be supported by the Heritage Crafts team. We will work with you to monitor progress and support you to achieve your aims.

We are hugely grateful to our supporters and funders to be able to offer these bursaries.

Not sure what we mean by heritage craft? Please have a look at our website and the list of crafts for more information: Heritage Crafts FAQ

For outstanding questions, please refer first to the Training Bursary FAQ. If you have

any questions about eligibility or need assistance with the application process, please get in touch with the Grants and Awards Officer, Rae Weaver in advance of applying at: rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk

When applications open, please apply by filling out the form at: www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/opportunities/training bursaries.

Video and Audio Applications
We will also accept a video application of no more than 15 minutes in length in which you address all of the questions in the list of questions above. You can send the file and supporting documents to Rae: rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk

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This first round of the year is craft specific and is likely to be for applications in leather, saddlery, precious metals, fashion and textiles, shoemaking, stained glass and maritime, rope and twine applications. This round will open on Monday 14 December 2026, with a deadline of Wednesday 17 February 2027.

The second round of the year, the summer round, will welcome applications from all heritage craft genres. Opening on Monday 29 March with a deadline of 3pm on Thursday 16 June 2027.

If you are new to a craft and you would like assistance with finding a trainer, please get in touch with Rae who can offer some initial signposts: rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk

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Application Questions

Fields marked with an asterisk* are compulsory.

Eligibility

Time is precious and we don't want you to complete the application if you are not eligible for this training bursary. **If you cannot answer yes to all of the initial questions below, it is unlikely that you will be successful in your application**. We hope to be as open as possible, but cannot support everyone.

- Are you based in the UK and intend to continue practising your craft in the UK? *
- Will your proposed training start within the next 12 months? *
- Is the training you are applying for developing your hand skills within a heritage craft? *

Information required

It is great to hear that you are eligible to apply for a training bursary. To submit the strongest application you can, it is worth gathering the details below in advance of

completing the form to avoid any delays.
To complete an application, you will need:

- Full details of the training you would like to take part in. This could be informal one-to-one training or as part of a formal course, or a combination of both.
- Costs for the training and a breakdown of how you would use the funds.
- You will be asked to share the contact details of a referee who can provide a reference in support of your application.
  - The referee could work for a craft organisation, or be a previous trainer/teacher.
  - They should not be a family member or an individual you are planning on training with.
  - Please also ensure they consent to being your reference.

About you

We will only use this information to keep you updated about the work of Heritage Crafts, in accordance with our privacy policy. Heritage Crafts does not pass on contact details to any other individual or organisation.

- First name *
- Last name *
- Email address *
- Phone number *
- Address *
- Postcode *
- Date of birth *
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Which pronouns do you use? (For example, he/him or they/them. We ask this so our team knows how to address you respectfully during the application process.)
- Your craft / intended craft *
- Business or organisation (if applicable)
- Website/social media (if applicable)
- If you have previously applied to Heritage Crafts for funding, what was it for and when?
- Are you a Heritage Crafts member? *
- If not, would you like to sign up to our fan newsletter?

Your financial circumstances

This bursary is intended for those in genuine financial need. Please tell us as much as you can about why you need this bursary.

- Employment status (tick all that apply) *
  - Employed – full-time
  - Employed – part-time
  - Self-employed
  - Student – full-time
  - Student – part-time

- Full-time carer
- Full-time parent
- Retired
- Unemployed – benefits
- Unemployed – not receiving benefits
- Unemployed – other income

- Your annual income from salary or self-employment *
  - £15,000 or under
  - £15,001 to £25,000
  - £25,001 to £35,000
  - £35,001 or above
- Other income including benefits, tax credits, universal credit, rental income, pensions etc.
  - £5,000 or under
  - £5,001 to £15,000
  - £15,001 to £25,000
  - £25,001 to £35,000
  - £35,001 or above
- The combined income of your household (everyone you live with) from salary, self employment and other household income *
  - £15,000 or under
  - £15,001 to £35,000
  - £35,001 to £55,000
  - £55,001 to £75,000
  - £75,001 to £95,000
  - £95,001 or above
- Please use this space to tell us more about your financial circumstances and why you need this bursary to support your training. *

Challenges to accessing or participating in craft

Not everyone has the same opportunities in life. This section is targeted to trainees who feel (or have felt) limited or face challenges accessing or participating in their chosen craft as a result of their background or being part of an under-represented group in heritage crafts.

We believe that the value of our craft heritage comes from the diversity of skills and traditions across all of our communities. We want everyone to feel included in heritage crafts.

- Do you feel that any of the following factors are or have been a barrier to you accessing and participating in craft?
  - Please note: even if none of these apply to you then you will still be considered on the basis of financial need.
  - Tick all that apply.
    - Socio-economic background / social class
    - Racial or ethnic background

- The dominant gender identity within the craft is different from my own
- Age
- Geographical location
- Educational background / educational level
- Neuro-divergence
- Learning difference
- Disability
- Long-term illness
- Caring responsibilities
- Lack of confidence in language skills
- Lack of confidence in digital skills
- Homelessness
- Migration status

- Is there a factor missing from this list that you have found to be a barrier? Please share what that is here.
- Please share a short summary of how the factors you have selected above have impacted your ability to progress in your craft.

Your qualifications and experience

- Describe your heritage crafts experience (200 words max). If you have already trained, please include title of course or qualification, grade, organisation or business where training took place with dates. If you are new to craft training but feel that you have transferable skills and a passion for developing your skills, please tell us about it here. *
- Other qualifications: Please include title of course or qualification, grade, dates.
- Describe any other relevant experience either inside or outside the craft sector (250 words max). Salaried and/or voluntary – please include job title, dates, place of employment and a brief description of work undertaken. *

About the proposed training

- Who will provide the training? Select all those relevant. *

If you need help with finding a suitable trainer or course, please get in touch with Rae, well in advance of the deadline: rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

  - An independent professional craftsperson
  - A crafts business
  - A retired craftsperson
  - A college, university or adult education centre
  - A specialist craft training provider
  - A craft guild, society or organisation

- How will the training be delivered? Select all those relevant. *
  - Apprenticeship-style
  - Informal one-to-one ‘in the workshop’
  - Full time course
  - Part time course

        - Evening class
- Who is/are the key person/people giving the training (including name, organisation/ business, email and phone number)? This may be the craftsperson, tutor or course organiser (if multiple trainers, please include details for all). Heritage Crafts may contact them for more details. *
- Where will your training take place? (including address and postcode)? If you are training in multiple locations, please include details for all of them. *
- What date will you start the training/apprenticeship? *
- When do you expect to finish the training/apprenticeship? *
- How many hours per week will you be taught? *
- How many additional hours per week will you spend practising your craft? *
- Please give more details about your training/apprenticeship (250 words max). You might want to share why you have selected a specific trainer or training style. How will the training be structured to work around other commitments etc. *
- Explain why you need this training bursary (250 words max) *
- What are your plans for continuing your craft when this training/apprenticeship finishes (250 words max)? For example, will there be employment opportunities with your trainer? Do you plan to set up your own business? *
- How much do you wish to apply for (up to £4,000)? You may apply for funding to cover a major cost (e.g. payment to the training provider/s) and a number of smaller associated costs, including tools, travel/accommodation or materials (not more than 30% of the bursary total).
    - Please note also that if the bursary will be used to pay the training provider, Heritage Crafts will ask the training provider to confirm your apprenticeship/training start date before the bursary funds are released. As a charity, Heritage Crafts cannot fund retrospectively (for training or support costs that has already taken place). *
- Please give a breakdown of how the money will be used (specify individual items of expenditure and the costs associated with them). If you are asking for a part-contribution to your training, please include the full financial breakdown and highlight the elements that this bursary would support, and how you intend to finance the rest. Including delivery charges, VAT or other additional costs associated with purchases. *

Reference

Please give the details of someone who can provide a reference in support of your application. The referee could work for a craft organisation, or be a previous trainer/teacher. They should not be a family member or an individual you are planning on training with.

Heritage Crafts may contact the referee for further information, so please ensure they are aware you have included them in your application.

- First name *
- Last name *
- Organisation/business name (if applicable)

- Email address *
- Phone number
- Address including postcode *
- How do you know each other? *

Images

- Please upload four images of different examples of craft you have already made.
- Please provide the images as png, PDF or jpeg files, no larger than 5Mb per image. You can also upload PDF, spreadsheets or other supporting documents as needed.
- Image notes (describing process and
- If you have any difficulties uploading your images, you can send them to rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk (You may need to use a free file transfer service such as WeTransfer).

I own the copyright (or have authorisation from the copyright owner) and give permission for Heritage Crafts and funding partners to use the attached images in print and online.

By submitting your application/ clicking 'I agree', you are bound by these terms *

Declaration

If you are under 16 years old, a parent or guardian must complete the declaration below on your behalf.

In the event of being offered a bursary:

- I undertake to keep the Grants and Awards Officer fully and immediately informed of all developments connected with this project.
- I agree to use the bursary only for the purposes listed above.
- I will keep and forward to Heritage Crafts all receipts/proof of purchases for items and costs associated with this training bursary.
- I understand that I am liable for costs if accurate receipts are not supplied to Heritage Crafts for purchases made as part of the bursary.
- The bursary and all funds will be used within 12 months of the grant offer (unless otherwise agreed with Heritage Crafts).
- I will share updates on progress of my training at key points.
- I will accept (by prior appointment) a visit from Heritage Crafts staff.
- I agree to images and testimonials shared being used by Heritage Crafts.
- I will cooperate (where possible) with any Heritage Crafts publicity requests.
- I agree (I am the bursary applicant, aged 16 years old or over) / I agree on behalf of the bursary applicant (for those under 16 years old).
- Parent or guardian details. Name, contact number and address should be provided if completing the declaration on behalf of the applicant.