

# SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION



## Guidelines : Care Leaver Grants

Individuals who are or have been in local authority care are significantly under-represented in post-statutory education. Only around one in every hundred goes on to university, compared to national participation rates of over 40%.

To help support and encourage young people who have been in the care of Social Services to continue their education beyond school age, the Foundation is piloting a new fund specifically for care leavers. We introduced it in 2007 and it will run initially for two years.

Grants are available to help with education costs such as fees, books and equipment and travel, and also towards living costs whilst studying.

### Criteria

To be eligible to apply, individuals must meet the Foundation's basic criteria. They must be:

- under 25 years old on the date their course or year of study begins, and
- a permanent resident of an inner London borough, and
- from a low income background, and
- studying in further education, higher education or at postgraduate level on a course that is at least one year long and will result in the awarding of a recognised qualification, and
- have been previously looked after by an inner London Social Services department.

### Assessment process

Each application is assessed by taking into account a range of information, including an individual's age, academic achievement and potential, their references, financial circumstances and reasons for continuing/returning to study. Applications are means tested. This helps the Foundation ensure it gives priority to those in the greatest financial need. Applicants will normally be asked to attend an interview.

### Inner London and Permanent Residency

As mentioned above, only permanent residents of inner London are eligible to apply.

Inner London is made up of 14 London boroughs:

- Camden
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Hammersmith & Fulham
- Islington
- Kensington & Chelsea
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Newham
- Southwark
- Tower Hamlets
- Wandsworth
- Westminster
- City of London

To be considered a "permanent resident" an individual must have been living in an inner London borough, for reasons other than study, for at least one year on the date their course or year of study begins.

There are, however, some exceptions to this rule. If, whilst they were in care, an individual's residency in inner London was interrupted because they were placed with a foster family outside of their local authority area (e.g. a young person looked after by Newham Council having been placed with a family in Waltham Forest), we would still consider that individual to be a permanent resident of Newham, even though they had not been living at an address with a Newham postcode.

### **Length of Funding**

Grants are normally made for one academic year at a time.

If a grant is made for more than one year, payments in future years are dependent on receipt of satisfactory progress reports from the individual's college or university and proof of re-enrolment.

### **How to make an application**

Enquiries about applying for a grant can be made using our Online Enquiry Form. A link to this can be found on the Care Leaver Grants page of our website.

Alternatively, enquiries can be made in writing or by email to the address shown below.

Staff at the Foundation are happy to answer questions about the fund, an individual's eligibility, whether or not they meet our criteria around permanent residency, and to give guidance on completing the forms. Our telephone number is 020 7480 5884 and our office hours are 9.30am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

Applications can be accepted direct from individuals or through recommendations from Social Workers or Support Workers.

### **About Sir John Cass's Foundation**

Sir John Cass's Foundation is one of London's largest and oldest educational charities. Founded in 1748, we have been supporting young people in education for over 250 years.

The Foundation provides grants to individuals, and to schools and organisations. Further information about the Foundation and its grants programmes can be found on our website.

Sir John Cass's Foundation is working in partnership with the Frank Buttle Trust on the Care Leaver Grants programme. The Frank Buttle Trust provides a range of support for individuals, including care leavers, but is limited to helping those under the age of 21, whereas Sir John Cass's Foundation is able to help young people up to the age of 25.

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