

2010 Application form guidance notes

HKF Background Information

HKF supports the government's widening participation in higher education agenda by awarding annual bursaries to students who have overcome significant personal and financial hardship to complete a course in a further education college and progress to higher education.

Financial Support: Successful students are usually awarded a £1500 bursary towards the costs of continuing their education. The bursary is paid in instalments throughout the student's higher education course. Please note that the amount of the bursary can vary and some students will be offered fee remission instead of a bursary.

Personal Support: In addition to financial support, successful students will have the opportunity to take part in the the Foundation's training, mentoring and work-shadowing programmes. This additional support and ongoing contact with the Foundation are key to the organisation's objectives and so students should only apply if they feel they will benefit from both the financial support and the additional services available.

Eligibility criteria and the selection process

HKF offers financial help to students currently undertaking a course in a publicly-funded adult or further education institution, who intend to progress to a higher education programme. Trustees define higher education using current legislation in force: statutory instruments numbers 481 (1993) and 1970 (1988).

Before making an application to the Foundation please ensure that you meet our eligibility criteria as follows:

Students can apply to the Foundation if they are:

- In the final year at a publicly-funded further education institution (e.g. in the last year of Access / A level / BTEC / Scottish Highers course at a UK FE / sixth form college) at the time of applying
- Aiming to start a first-time programme of higher education in the autumn of the year in which they are applying at a UK higher education institution (i.e. HND, BA, BSc, Bed, Foundation Degree). Students taking a 'gap' year will be considered.

AND

- Experiencing barriers to continuing their education
- Able to demonstrate that they face severe financial hardship

Students cannot apply if they:

- Are already on a higher education course
- Are seeking funding for a postgraduate course
- Are studying / intending to study at a privately funded institution
- Have already received an HKF award
- Have previously undertaken a higher education course
- Are studying or intend to complete their higher education course at an international institution.

Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered for an award.

Each year the Foundation receives applications from many more students than we are able to support. You should only apply for an award if you are facing financial and personal difficulties which will make progression to higher education difficult. HKF awards are designed to support students who have overcome significant barriers to complete their further education. To see examples of some of the issues our students face and to meet some students who have benefitted from an HKF award please visit our website at www.hkf.org.uk. If you have any questions about whether or not you should apply for an award please contact Rachel Watters, Bursary Scheme Manager on 01908 363486.

Making an application

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st March 2010. Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

The Foundation will only accept five applications per college. It will not be possible to accept more than five applications under any circumstances. Full information on all of the bursaries available in 2010 are given on the HKF website (www.hkf.org.uk).

Colleges are asked to select up to five students to nominate for an award and the Principal of the college will be asked to confirm that they support the student's application.

How to apply

- Application forms can be downloaded from the HKF website (www.hkf.org.uk)
- The student should read the guidance notes fully before completing the application form
- The student must give their application to their supporting Referee and ask them to complete a supporting statement
- The College Principal must sign the application form to confirm that the college wishes to put the student forward for an award
- The form must be posted to the Foundation's office in Milton Keynes to arrive no later than Wednesday 31st March 2010

Completing the application form

There are five sections to complete in the application form. Please note that the information you provide in the form will be held and processed in accordance with our Data Protection Policy.

Note 1: Personal details

- Please complete the personal information section of the form – we need this information to contact you about your application. Please print your details clearly and indicate which country you live in (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland).
- Please ensure that you put your name as you would want to see it on, for example, a certificate, with your first name in one box and your second name in the other. You don't need to include your middle names.
- Please tell us which college you currently attend and which course or courses you are studying. Please give this information in full and ask your college to stamp in the box.

Note 2: Preferred Higher Education Institution

- Please give your top 2 university or higher education institution choices and courses so that we can match your application to available awards. Please write the universities name in full.

Note 3: Applicant's Personal Statement

When answering the questions in the personal statement section of the form please consider the following. In making a judgement about your application, the selection panel will base their assessment on:

- Your personal and family circumstances and the barriers that you have faced in continuing your education
- Your ambitions for the future, why you have chosen your course of study and how the HKF award will help you to achieve your ambitions
- Your financial circumstances, including how you have managed financially whilst at college and how you will support yourself at university
- How you would spend the £1500 bursary if successful
- How you would benefit from the additional support offered by the Foundation

Your application to the Foundation is completely confidential and the selection panel will only be able to take into account information that is given in your answers to the 5 questions. Your supporting Referee will be asked to give a supporting statement about you but if there is any information that you feel should be taken into account when your application is considered you must include it here. In most cases the Foundation will match the applicant to the available awards. However, if you think that you meet the additional criteria for any of the badged bursaries please give relevant information in your personal statement.

Note 4: Declaration of eligibility, consent for publicity and checklist

- Please confirm, by ticking the appropriate box, that you meet the Foundation's eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria can be found on our website at www.hkf.org.uk
- Please confirm that should your application be successful, you will keep in touch with the Foundation and agree to take part in any publicity that may arise as a result of your selection for an award. If you cannot commit to keeping in touch with the Foundation please do not apply for an award.
- Please look through the items in the checklist carefully and tick to indicate that you have met all these requirements.

Note 5: Equal Opportunities Monitoring Information

- Please complete the equal opportunities monitoring information section of the form – it is important for the Foundation to ensure that we are accessible to all students and we will use this information to monitor whether or not we are reaching a cross section of the student population.

Information you give us will only be used to support your application.

Note 6: Referee's Supporting Statement

The Referee's Supporting Statement is an important part of the selection process. Please be sure to include all of the requested information and any other information that you believe should be taken into consideration by the selection panel. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide their referee with a copy of their personal statement.

When completing the referee's supporting statement please consider the following:

- The referee providing the supporting statement must provide their college contact details and confirm that the college wishes to support the student's application.
- The supporting statement can be completed by a college referee, student services staff member or other professional at the college.
- The student's application will not be accepted without a supporting statement.
- The referee's Supporting Statement should be no more than 500 words and should cover the following:
 - What are the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and what barriers have they overcome to continue their education?
 - How well suited is the applicant to the higher education course they plan to take and how realistic are the student's ambitions?
 - What contribution, to your knowledge, has the student made to a) college life and b) their community?
 - Is there any other information that you believe is relevant to the student's application?
 - How do you think the student would benefit from the additional support offered by the Foundation?

Applications will only be accepted for consideration if they are accompanied by the referee's supporting statement and signed by the Principal.

Informing you of the outcome of your application

- The Foundation does not acknowledge receipt of completed applications
- The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st March 2010 and applications received after this date will not be considered
- The selection panel will meet in May 2010 and you will be informed of the outcome of your application by the end of June 2010
- All students will be informed of the outcome of their application and the referees of successful students will also be informed.
- If you are successful in being awarded an HKF bursary there may be certain requirements which must be met prior to you receiving your award. In the case of University Badged Bursaries you must be accepted at the sponsoring university and take up a place there prior to being awarded the bursary.

For further information on any aspect of completing your application please contact the HKF Bursary Scheme Manager Rachel Watters on (01908) 363486 or email enquiries@hkf.org.uk.