York Foundation for Craft & Conservation

# Guidance Notes for Bursary Applicants 2026

## Guidance for Bursary applicants

The Foundation's annual bursaries support training and skills development in the conservation of built and artistic heritage and the craft skills vital for its preservation. We want to support the growth of a vibrant community of expert craftspeople and conservators for the future. The bursaries offered are generally of two kinds:

- Up to £2000 to assist an individual craftsperson or conservator to train or extend their skills and/or knowledge,
- Up to £3000 to assist established businesses and organisations and experts in the heritage field to support an employee to develop their skills and experience.

Applications may be made between 2 February and 16 March 2026. If you have questions about the application process, please contact the Foundation at info@conservationyork.org.uk.

## Who can apply?

There are no restrictions on the fields of expertise in which applicants practise, provided they are heritage-related, but preference will be given to crafts, skills, and expertise which are judged to be in short supply.

We welcome applications regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or nationality and we encourage those with protected characteristics, under-represented in the craft and conservation sector, to apply.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to practising their skills in the UK. Applicants from the Yorkshire region are particularly welcome to apply and are considered favourably in shortlisting.

Several Bursary awards are sponsored by York-based charities and reserved for applicants based in the City of York and environs. Applications are welcome from those who have applied to us in the past and been unsuccessful as well as from previous Bursary winners. It is unusual, however, for a Bursary to be awarded to the same individual in consecutive years..

## What do we fund?

The Trustees are pleased to consider applications for assistance towards the following:

- a course of relevant vocational or academic study;
- a placement for work experience or as an intern;

- attendance at a relevant conference or technical workshop;
- research expenses related to a course of study (e.g. travel or facilities for a Masters dissertation or thesis);
- tools, equipment, or other professional necessities for practitioners which are essential to advancing their professional practice or business.

Bursaries are offered for courses, events, or activities which will start during the 12 months following the application round.

## How to apply

Applications should be made using the online application form for either:

- an individual craftsperson or conservator
- a business or organisations in the heritage field

We advise that it is useful to review the whole form before starting the application so that you can prepare material ahead of time and then copy and paste your responses into the form in a single session. If you have a Google (Gmail) account, you can save the application once you have started it, so you can come back with any additional information before submitting.