York Foundation for Craft & Conservation

Example Application Tips

Bursary Applicants 2026

Guidance for Bursary applicants

The Foundation awards bursaries based on the information we receive via our short online application form and from your referees. We encourage applicants to share their personal story and explain their journey, motivations, and circumstances in their own words. Applications are more likely to be successful when the assessment panel can clearly understand who you are, the work you do, and how this bursary would make a meaningful difference at this stage of your practice. Your story helps us assess impact, need, and alignment with the purpose of the bursary, not just outcomes or achievements.

We have provided the following prompts to help you create a strong Bursary application. It is not necessary to answer all of these; rather, use them as a starting point to find inspiration and to help us understand why the Bursary will make a difference to your practice or training.

Prompts

1. Your Journey as a Conservator or Craftsperson

Tell us your story. How did you come to work in conservation or craft? Describe the experiences, mentors, traditions, or communities that shaped your path. Was there a specific object, technique, or moment that confirmed this was the work you wanted to pursue?

2. Connection to Materials, Techniques, or Traditions

What materials, techniques, or craft traditions are you most drawn to, and why? What do they mean to you personally or culturally? Are there skills or practices you are committed to preserving, reviving, or developing further?

3. Current Practice or Project

Describe your current work, training, or project. What are you creating, conserving, or learning, and what challenges or learning goals does it involve? What skills or knowledge are you hoping to deepen through this work?

4. Goals as a Practitioner

What are your short and long term goals as a conservator or craftsperson? How do you hope your practice will grow over time? Do you plan to work independently, within an institution, or within a community or collective?

5. How the Bursary Will Support Your Practice: Why Now?

How would this bursary directly support your work or training? Please describe the specific costs or opportunities the funding would enable. Why is this bursary important to you at this stage of your practice or training? What difference would it make right now?

i.e. Tools, equipment, materials; specialist training, workshops, apprenticeships; studio, workshop or lab access; travel for research, site work, or mentorship

6. Barriers, Access, and Commitment
Have you faced financial, geographic, cultural, or systemic barriers in pursuing conservation or craft work? How have you continued your practice despite these challenges?

7. Final Reflection
Is there anything else you would like the selection committee to understand about your practice, values, or aspirations?

The above prompts are suggestions only, but they may help you better tell your story to the funding panel.

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.