

Education Opportunity Award

Scholarship application questions and guidance

This document provides an overview of the information required to complete the online application form. All questions included in the application are outlined below, along with the corresponding page numbers in the form.

It may be helpful to save a copy of this form and prepare your answers in advance. The online application form does not allow you to save your responses part-way through.

Page 2: Personal details

- Full name
- York St John Student ID
- Programme of study

Page 3: Scholarship eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the Education Opportunity Award, you must be aged 25 or older on the day you enrol on your PGCE course and meet at least one of the following criteria.

Please select all criteria that apply to you and ensure that each one selected is clearly explained in your supporting statement.

- **My residual household income is less than £25,000 – Yes/No**

Residual household income= gross income (before tax and National Insurance) and taking off allowances for the following:

Payments into private pension schemes, additional voluntary contributions, and employment-related costs. £1,130 for any child other than you (if you're under 25 and dependent on parent's income) who is totally or mainly financially dependent on them.

Whose income is counted

- *If you are under the age of 25 and depend on at least one parent- parent's income, which includes income of your parent's partner if they have one.*
- *If you are under the age of 25 and do not financially depend on your parents i.e. you are estranged, you've been married/ in a civil partnership before the start of your course, you have supported yourself financially for at least three years- residual household income will include your own income and your partner's if you live with them.*

- *If you are over the age of 25- residual household income will include your own income and your partner's if you live with them.*

If you are a postgraduate student, we may contact you to request evidence of your residual household income. This would usually include a P60 or tax return from the previous full tax year. For undergraduate students, this information is usually provided as part of your student finance application.

- **I am a carer – Yes/No**

A carer is someone who looks after another family member, partner or friend on an unpaid basis. This person needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, mental health problems and cannot cope without this support.

- **I have parental responsibilities for one or more children under 18 – Yes/No**
Having legal rights and duties relating to your child's upbringing.

- **I have experienced unexpected changes to my family circumstances in the last year – Yes/No**

Examples of unexpected changes include serious illness or family bereavement. These circumstances will be separate from the criteria noted above. This is not an exhaustive list.

Page 4: Supporting statement

As part of your application, we will ask you to write two supporting statements. We recommend you write these before starting your application so that you can copy and paste them when you reach that section of the form.

Statement 1:

Why are you applying for this award?

Using up to 400 words please, describe your personal circumstances and explain why you would benefit from receiving this scholarship.

You should outline your situation or background, how this has impacted your studies, and how your circumstances relate to the eligibility criteria listed on page 3.

Statement 2:

Using up to 200 words, please explain how you would use the funds to support your education.

You should outline how the scholarship funds would benefit you and the impact receiving this scholarship would have on your academic journey.

Page 5: Written reference

You will need to provide contact information for an independent referee to support your application.

Your independent referee should be someone who knows you in their capacity as your employer, tutor, religious leader, health professional, sports coach, or other similar people who know you and your circumstances and can endorse your application. Your referee cannot be a family member, friend, partner, or YSJ staff member.

We will only contact your referee for a written reference should we have any questions about the information provided on your application form.

You will be asked to provide the following information about your referee:

- Name of referee
- Email address
- Relationship to referee

You will need to have the name and contact details for your independent referee ready before you start this application.

Page 6: Declaration and future engagement

- I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all statements provided in this application are true and correct – Yes
- I am happy for my experiences to be used as a case study for future applicants and for fundraising activity (this can be anonymous if preferred) – Yes / Yes-anonymously / No