

ARCHITECTS
BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY



Student Hardship Fund

Jan 2024 – Jan 2025



RESPONSIVE INCLUSIVE IMPROVE COMMUNITY COMPASSION

Introduction

Architects Benevolent Society (ABS) is a charity with 170 years' experience of supporting the architectural community and their families in times of need.

Following on from the success of our Student Hardship Fund pilot in 2022, we have been approached to administer funds previously held in the Middle Orchard Trust. This new ABS student Hardship Fund will provide us with the opportunity to assist final-year undergraduate and Masters students/apprentices in relevant subjects. This fund differs from our previous Student Hardship Fund in expanding support to postgraduate students.

The hardship fund will be run as a pilot from January 2024 to January 2025, but will continue after this period until the fund has been exhausted. This pilot will help us evaluate the administration of the fund, ensure that we are meeting the needs of post-graduate students and review the level of support being provided. We aim to make a meaningful difference to those facing a sudden reduction or loss of income, which may prevent them from completing their studies or taking up the opportunity of a first job in their profession.

Thank you for agreeing to be part of the pilot.

Key facts about the fund

- **Eligibility – final year, final semester undergraduate or Masters students (or 3 months post-graduation) of Architecture, Architectural Technology, Landscape Architecture**
- **Grant awards are based on *unexpected and significant* hardship not educational merit**
- **Grant is a fixed sum of £500 per month for up to 3 months (lump sum is available if appropriate)**
- **Grants are paid within 2 weeks of a complete application**

Contact details

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Middle Orchard Trust student Hardship Fund

Referred to as “the Fund”

Aims and principles

The Fund is a *financial hardship* fund and is not based on educational/academic merit.

The Society’s aim is to provide financial assistance to those who are most in need by nature of *significant and unexpected* economic hardship or due to barriers which create additional needs.

The provision of financial assistance in this way is specifically aimed at achieving the following outcomes:

- to enable final-year students/apprentices to overcome financial barriers preventing them from completing their course
- to support recent graduates to access opportunities to start their career in the architectural sector

The Fund is intended to complement, rather than replace existing funds such as the RIBA Education Fund and university hardship funds. Grants are to be for fixed amounts, detailed below.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for financial support, students must meet the following criteria:

- be at risk of being unable to complete course due to financial pressure, resulting from unexpected reduction/loss of income

AND

- be in the **final semester of the final year** of a full-time or part-time accredited undergraduate or Masters course or **have completed 75% of an apprenticeship** in Architecture, Architectural Technology or Landscape Architecture

OR

- have graduated from an accredited undergraduate or Masters course, or have completed an apprenticeship in Architecture, Architectural Technology or Landscape Architecture **within the last 3 months** (from date of application).

Grants available

Monthly grants

Fixed sum of £500 per month for up to 3 months* for daily living and housing expenses.

*A lump sum of up to £1500 can be given in appropriate circumstances

One-off grants

Specific items linked to supporting education: childcare, replacement laptops, travel costs.

Exclusions

Course fees, course materials, field trips.