Technology Bursary Frequently Asked Questions 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What do you mean by...

- **New to Higher Education**

  This means you should not have previously studied an undergraduate degree course or equivalent course (e.g. HND Level 5/6). Those who have completed an HND course level 4 and below are still eligible to apply. If you have previously studied a vocational course or a course in another country and you are not sure whether this would be seen as 'Higher Education' please contact us by email at bursaries@rts.org.uk

- **First Year Student**

  This means you have started your undergraduate degree or Level 5/6 HND in 2019 and will be going into your second year of study in September 2020.

- **Home Student**

  A student can be classed as Home, EU or International based on a number of criteria. To be classed as a home student and therefor eligible for this bursary you need to meet the conditions set out below. Please note, you need to meet both status and residence conditions below.

  - 'Settled status/nationality' - means you must be a national of the UK or have the right of permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain in the UK. I.e. you must not be subject, under immigration laws, to any restriction on the period for which you may stay in the UK. Students may also be the 'relevant family member' of a UK national (a relevant family member is generally a spouse or civil partner, a direct descendant, or a dependant).

  - 'Ordinary residence' - means that in addition, you must also have been ordinarily resident in the UK for the three years prior to the start date of the course for which you are applying, and that residence should not have been wholly or mainly for the purposes of receiving education. Being absent from the UK due to study abroad is usually considered a 'temporary absence' and does not affect 'ordinary residence' if the home/permanent address is within the UK.

  - Should your status change after you have applied for or been awarded the Royal Television Society bursary, we reserve the right to withdraw the bursary offer at any time.

- **Household Income**

  One of the eligibility criteria for this bursary is that your gross household income (before tax) should be below £35,000. We will apply the same approach to household income as the Student Loans Company. Before we give you the bursary, we will ask you to provide evidence that the Student Loans Company, (or relevant organization for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland) has assessed your household income as below £30,000. This means you will need to apply for a means-tested maintenance loan or request an assessment by the Student Loans Company of your personal circumstances.

  If you are short-listed for a bursary, we will request confirmation of the assessment from you and will expect you to provide it by 13 September 2020. If we do not receive it by this deadline, we reserve the right to withdraw any bursary offer. If for any reason this is not possible, please contact us at Bursaries@rts.org.uk to discuss your situation.

- **'Firm Choice"**

  This means that this is the offer you have accepted from a University as your first choice.

- **Submitted Work**

  As part of the eligibility criteria for this bursary you may submit an example of your work that can be viewed electronically. If your piece of work is a group effort, **you must** specify your role in the production process, for example, 'Director and main lead'. All work must be submitted electronically, ensuring that you use a common file format and checking that your link works before you attach it. Please also ensure that the work is not password protected, if it has to be protected, please ensure that you provide the password.

- **Exam Results**

  As part of the eligibility criteria for this bursary we do ask you to submit evidence of your ability to study. As part of this evidence, we would like to know your latest exam results, such as GCSEs, as well as any predicted grades, if known, for A Levels or BTECs or other relevant qualification. Whilst evidence of your academic achievement is important, you will not be excluded from the application process if you do not have higher education qualifications such as A Levels but have been accepted onto an eligible course.

What if...?

- **What if I don't take up my course place?**

If you have not registered on your course within three weeks of the course start date, the bursary will be withdrawn and offered to another eligible student.

- **What if I withdraw from my course?**

If you withdraw from your course, you will not be eligible to receive any remaining bursary payments. We will not usually reclaim any bursary funds already awarded. Before we make

your bursary payment each year we will expect to receive a report and video diary, as explained in our terms and conditions and we will request confirmation from your University that you are still studying.

What about the money?

- **When will the bursary be paid?**

The bursary will normally be paid during February in each academic year; February 2021, February 2022 and February 2023. If a bursary payment has not been paid by the 5th working day of April in any given year due to a student not supplying the required information, the bursary offer will be withdrawn.

- **What if I have a gap year or a placement year?**

Bursary payments will only be made for three or four consecutive years of education where a student progresses from one year to the next. Where a course lasts for longer than this due to gap years or re-sits, or industry placements, bursary payments will be made in the year of study, not in those gap years or work experience years.

- **How will the bursary be paid?**

  The bursary will be paid by bank transfer/credit only.

- **What can I spend it on?**

  The bursary is to cover living costs; there are no conditions about how you spend it.

Applying for the bursary…

- **Help – I can't submit the form by the deadline...**

Please do not leave your application to the last minute. We are unlikely to allow late submissions of applications. However, if you have a specific problem that means you cannot submit your application please email bursaries@rts.org.uk and provide a telephone contact number.

- **Can I appeal if I am not happy with your decision?**

The bursary is discretionary and the decision of the Panel is final. We will contact some applicants who were unsuccessful for feedback on our application process. We welcome the comments of all applicants; any comments should be emailed to bursaries@rts.org.uk.

- **Can I apply next year if I am unsuccessful this year?**

The scheme is only open this year to students starting their higher education course in 2020 or in their first year of study. You can therefore only apply next year if you will be in your first year next year, assuming we continue with the same criteria.

- **I am studying for a masters or other postgraduate degree – can I apply?**

  Our bursary scheme is only open to undergraduates or those studying a Level 5/6 HND – we do not have a scheme to support postgraduate students.

- **What if I am taking a gap year – when should I apply?**

You should apply for the bursary in the year that you will be starting your course.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at bursaries@rts.org.uk