**Harpur Trust Postgraduate Bursary – guidelines for applicants 2018**

The Harpur Trust has run an Undergraduate Bursary scheme for students leaving school or college for 10 years. In that time, there have been significant changes in British higher education and the funding available to students. The Trust has undertaken research, including surveying students graduating from the Undergraduate Bursary scheme, to establish whether the programme meets the needs of the target group and the aims of the scheme as identified by Trustees.

One of our findings was that with increasing numbers of students completing first degrees, there is growing pressure to gain further qualifications in order to access high quality graduate level jobs. For some careers a further professional qualification is essential. Given the family circumstances those eligible for our undergraduate funding, graduates are experiencing difficulty financing vocational postgraduate degrees.

The Trustees have therefore agreed to pilot a Postgraduate Bursary Programme, open only to graduates of our Undergraduate Bursary Programme.

**Eligibility Criteria**

**To qualify for support students will :**

* Have received a grant from the Harpur Trust’s Undergraduate Bursary Programme
* Have graduated within the past five years or be due to graduate in the year of application.
* Have an offer of a place on a full time postgraduate course from a UK university or accredited professional training provider
* Still list Bedford Borough as their permanent, non-term time address.
* Graduate with a 2:1 or above.

**Courses**

Applicants must show that their courses meet the following criteria:

* Be either a genuine professional requirement for their chosen career- *or*
* Provide clear evidence that the qualification will result in demonstrably improved employment prospects within their chosen career.
* Be either an MA, MSc, PGCE, Legal Practice Course (accredited by the SRA) or Bar Professional Training Course (accredited by BSB)

**Other**

Applicants should be mindful of the following additional criteria which will be considered in the assessment process.

Applicants should apply for all relevant additional funding i.e. Student Finance Postgraduate Loan, Social Work Bursary, Initial Teacher Training Funding and subject specific bursaries. In some cases subject specific bursaries for trainee teachers are significant and the Harpur Trust Bursary will not be essential to enable the candidate to complete the qualification.

Applicants will need to provide an academic reference.

The maximum award will be £4,000.