

The SICS Postgraduate Studies Bursary

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Introduction

The Scottish Intensive Care Society is pleased to offer a postgraduate studies bursary to part-fund studies undertaken in fields of work allied to intensive care medicine. The bursary is available to all membership categories, and will be advertised to members on the Society's website and at the ASM and AGM with a set closing date each year (end of April). A standardised application form and marking scheme will be used, and the final decision on a successful applicant will be agreed at a quorate Council meeting in May.

The bursary will be paid in advance of the study period, with an agreement that, if studies are not completed, the award will be refunded in part or entirety depending on review. The successful applicant will be required to produce progress updates as requested, and provide a final report for SICS records.

What it is

A contribution to the funding of an individual's postgraduate studies in a field of work allied to critical care that will bring tangible benefits to critical care in Scotland, including but not restricted to patients, families, the public and all related health professionals. Applications from students new to further studies are particularly welcome.

What it is not

The bursary will not be awarded:

- To supplement ongoing studies
- For research projects
- To make up a shortfall if another body has defined the cost of a project as being, for example, 90% of that requested by the applicant
- To fields of study not allied in some way to critical care
- Members working in industry or overseas

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a member of the Society in good standing. Application to join the Society at time of submission of the bursary application is acceptable, and the applicant must remain a member throughout the period of their funded study
- Applications are welcome from all membership categories
- As this is a postgraduate bursary applicants must already have a degree
- The course of study must be provided by a recognised UK institute of higher education
- A letter of acceptance to the course of study from the educational institution must be provided
- Other secured sources of funding must be declared at time of application
- Applicants are allowed only one submission per round of awards
- Applicants who have previously successfully applied for the bursary are eligible to apply again 24 months after the submission of the final report of their previous bursary, provided eligibility criteria are met
- The bursary will cover a maximum study period of 12 months
- Applicants must be in NHS-related employment during their period of study

Value

- The bursary will be up to a total value of £3,000
- Eligible costs: course fees, required course materials
- Costs which are not covered: travel, subsistence, accommodation, computing equipment costs, membership of organisations, journal subscription costs, library services and other general or unspecified costs

Important dates

- Closing date: 30th April
- Result date: June, following consideration at the May Council meeting (all applicants, successful or otherwise, will be notified of results)
- Claim date: within three months of the result date
- Start date: Within six months of the bursary being awarded
- Final Report date: Within three months of the completion of studies

Application process

The application should be submitted electronically by 5pm on the closing date. Late applications will not be considered. The application should consist of:

- Standardised application form (downloadable from the SICS website)
- Brief CV (one page of A4) highlighting track record of achievements and/or delivery of any related projects
- A letter of acceptance to the course of study from the educational institution
- A brief statement from a referee (e.g. line manager, clinical supervisor etc.) vouching for the applicant's good standing, ability to undertake and complete the course, and in support of the application, as such study may impact on their regular work

Assessment & notification process

- By standardised assessment form (available on the website)
- Applications will be assessed by SICS Council members and the process will be overseen by the Education and Training Group
- Final discussion and decision at the May Council meeting
- All candidates will be notified of outcome within two weeks of the May Council meeting
- The decision of the SICS Council is final, feedback will however be provided on request

Award of bursary

- The bursary amount must be claimed by the successful applicant from the SICS Treasurer within three months of the date of award
- The bursary will be withdrawn if the money is not collected within this timeframe
- The applicant is required to agree a clause which clearly stipulates that all the sponsorship money has to be returned in the event that the studies were not undertaken or the applicant was not compliant with SICS conditions (including the production of a final report)
- The successful applicant is required to produce a final report for the SICS records within three months of completion of the studies

Contacts and further information

The Education Group Chair or the Honorary Secretary (contact details available on the SICS website)