

Townsend Scholarships - Guidance

Purpose

As a result of the generosity of Lambeth resident Miranda Townsend, each year the Foundation is able to offer up to three scholarships to Lambeth black and minority ethnic pupils from low-income homes who gain a place at a Russell Group University. Each scholarship is worth £1,000 a term for three years (£9,000 in total).

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must:

- be a current Lambeth resident and have lived in the borough for at least one year
- live in a low-income household
- be from a black or minority ethnic background
- have accepted an offer from a Russell Group University and be intending to start their university course in the 2021/222 academic year

Procedure

Completed applications must reach us by **18 June 2021**. Decisions on the scholarships will be made by the Foundation's Governors by **16 July 2021**.

These decisions will be made on the following criteria:

- Clear fit between long term career goals and chosen course;
- Extent to which previous experience and achievements indicate an enthusiasm and passion for the course/career;
- Extent to which the Scholarship will have significant impact in supporting the student in their chosen course;
- Good references.

Any decision will be conditional on the applicant successfully acquiring anticipated grades and starting at their planned Russell Group university course.

Successful grantees will receive termly payments of £1,000 per term upon confirmation of attendance at university. Grantees will also be expected to complete a short report at the end of each academic year.

Guidance - Eligibility

Lambeth Residency – You must have been a Lambeth resident for at least one year before date of application. If you live outside Lambeth, you are still considered to be a Lambeth Resident if you are *looked after* by the London Borough of Lambeth or if your family is still in the care of Lambeth (e.g. you have been rehoused outside the Borough but your family still receives housing benefit from Lambeth Council).

Low Income – This is defined as either:

- a) You are currently claiming Free School Meals **OR**
- b) Your parent/s (or carer/s) are receiving income-based benefits (Universal Credit, Income Support, Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance, Income-related Employment Support Allowance, Support under Part IV of Immigration & Asylum Act 1999 or Guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit) **OR**
- c) Your parent/s (or carer/s) income counts as low income as per the Walcot Foundation's financial eligibility checker (<https://www.tfaforms.com/431379>)

Black or minority ethnic background – You should consider yourself to come from any ethnic group other than White-British.

Russell Group Universities:

University of Birmingham	King's College London	Queen Mary University of London
University of Bristol	University of Leeds	Queen's University Belfast
University of Cambridge	University of Liverpool	University of Sheffield
Cardiff University	London School of Economics & Political Science	University of Southampton
Durham University	University of Manchester	University College London
University of Edinburgh	Newcastle University	University of Warwick
University of Exeter	University of Nottingham	University of York
University of Glasgow	University of Oxford	
Imperial College London		

Guidance – Why are you applying for the Townsend Scholarship?

Below is some additional guidance for the key questions in the Townsend Scholarship form:

Why are you applying for your chosen course?

Please explain why this course interests you. Are there subjects within the course that you are interested in focusing on? Also, if appropriate, please indicate any particular reasons on your choice of university.

What are your long-term career goals?

In this section, please give details about what job you would ultimately like to have. Please also sketch out what steps you think you will need to take to reach this career goal. It will also be important to highlight how your chosen university/course will assist you in this.

What relevant skills, experience or achievements have you gained from education, work (paid/voluntary) or other activities and how do you think these experiences will help you at university?

This section enables you to give details about experiences and achievements that highlight particular skills that will benefit you to make the most of your time at university. Examples are: volunteering at a local community project, position of responsibility in a sports team or after-school activity, school prize, Saturday job etc. Please make the experiences and achievements as **specific** as possible and explain how these have helped you develop particular skills/attitudes.

How will the Townsend Scholarship enable you to make the most of your time at university?

Please give details of how the additional funds would help you at university. You can give information about how it could be used towards such items as general living costs (e.g. rent, food), travel costs, IT equipment, specialist equipment/software, support with extra-curricular activities (e.g. sport, music) or opportunities during the holidays to gain experience that would benefit your course/career plans.

About Miranda Townsend

Miranda Townsend has lived in Lambeth for over 47 years. She trained in archaeology and worked initially at the British Museum but later moved into education with the former ILEA. She developed a concern at the effects of racism in education and became a strong supporter of multi-cultural education. She is particularly keen to encourage Lambeth BME students to aspire to study at Russell Group Universities and to support those gaining places throughout their degree courses. She has made provision in her Will to leave a substantial legacy to the Foundation for this work, and in the meantime has made a smaller gift – which the Foundation is supplementing – to enable the programme to begin in her lifetime.

About the Walcot Foundation

We are an independent grant-making foundation and charity. Our work is to break cycles of financial deprivation for people living in Lambeth. We offer a hand up, not a hand out, and seek to tackle poverty by creating opportunity. Over the ten years to March 2020 we made 3,372 grants totalling £19,655,000. See our website for more details.