



Application Guidelines
2019/20

Aspire Awards

What are Aspire Awards?

At the University of Southampton, we believe that your education should be about more than just your subject of study. Sometimes our students have grand ideas for life-enhancing projects that they would like to carry out if only they had the opportunity.

So to help them, the University of Southampton has created the **Aspire Awards**.

There are up to twenty £1,000 bursaries that will be given out to those extra-curricular¹ projects that our undergraduate students would like to do, and that our judges consider to be the most deserving.

Opportunities are harder to come by for certain groups of students², so ten of the awards are reserved specifically for applications received from these students. The remaining ten awards will be awarded to up to ten of the best applications from everybody.

¹ Aspire Awards are not available for funding placements that are an essential part of a student's course of study.

² These are 'Widening Participation' students – those that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- students from low-income backgrounds (with a current household income assessment by student finance of £25,000 or less);
- mature students (students that were over 21 at the start of their first year of study);
- estranged students;
- care-leavers;
- students with disabilities;
- students that have been recruited to the University through the Access to Southampton scheme;
- students from POLAR quintiles 1 & 2;
- students that are the first in their family to go to University.

By giving these awards, we are aiming to fund well-planned, realistic projects that fulfil one or more of the following aims:

- **Broaden your educational development**

- By this we mean increasing your range of learning to other areas of study other than those of your University course.

- **Complement or enhance your course of study**

- By this we mean increasing your breadth or depth of learning in areas directly related to your course of study.

- **Enhance your cultural development**

- This might mean increasing your understanding aspects of your own culture, or introducing you to those of other cultures.

- **Have a positive impact on society**

- Projects that improve the quality of life for others.

In this way we hope that we can help to make your time here at the University of Southampton about more than just getting a degree.

How do I apply?

You should watch the presentation on the Aspire website (www.soton.ac.uk/aspire) where you can find out more about the awards.

You can then fill out an online application from the link on the web page.

The link takes you to the application [here](#).

Alternatively, you can use this QR code:



We are accepting applications between:



Monday 14 October 2019

and

Friday 28 February 2020

What makes a successful application?

We are looking for projects that are feasible, well-planned, and fulfil one or more of the four aims stated above.

Whilst we understand that not all applications will fulfil all four aims, preference will be given to those that provide a good overall match.

A good application...

- ...will describe a project that is realistic in its aims – it must be feasible to achieve.
- ...will clearly describe how it fulfils each of the stated aims (or as many as are appropriate).
- ...will show proper consideration for all of the costs of a project, along with details of how any extra costs above the £1,000 award will be met.
- ...will show realistic consideration of all of the risks and pitfalls of the project, along with any appropriate contingency planning.

Developing your project

After you have submitted your initial application, an advisor will contact you to give you some initial feedback on your application.

At that point we will try to establish if you want or need any assistance with any particular aspect of your application (such as developing a budget, creating a risk assessment, or improving the sustainability aspects of your project). If we can put you in touch with any expert advice within the University, we will try to do so.

If appropriate we will offer you a session at one of our Project Development Workshops, which we will be holding in early December and again in early February. At these appointments you will be able to discuss your project with an advisor.

You can submit updates and amendments to your project plan at any time during the 'open for applications' window. Once we have closed to further applications on 28 February 2020, we will not be allowing any further adjustments to your project.

What happens to my application?

All applications will be considered by a panel of judges.

The panel will first consider each application for feasibility – any proposed projects that are not thought by the judges to be feasible will not be considered for an award. In particular, applications without an appropriate accompanying risk assessment may be refused.

Those that are considered to be feasible will then be rated by the judges according to each of the four aims stated earlier (enhancing cultural development, broadening educational development, enhancing the course of study, positive impact on society). If the project meets none of these aims, it will be automatically rejected.

Consideration will also be given to quality of planning.

Up to ten projects received from the Widening Participation students that the judges think are the best planned and most worthwhile will receive an Aspire Award of £1,000.

Once these have been awarded then we look at all the remaining applications and make up to ten awards to the most deserving of them.

The judges' decision is final.

All applicants, successful and unsuccessful, will be notified within one week of the decision being made.

If your application is successful...

The timing of your payment will be determined by the judges based on the requirements of your project.

All successful applicants will be invited to an Award Ceremony in late February where they will receive their award.

You will be required to agree to provide receipts / proof of payment for any part of the award spent, and you will also be required to return any unspent monies.

You will also be required to write a short report (about 400 words), with a photo, within three months of completion of your project. This should contain information about your project, explaining what it was, and the benefit gained from the award.

This report and photo will be used by the University to publicise future rounds of the Aspire Awards.

Aspire Awards
from the
UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

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