# List of grant awarding charities which may assist blind and partially sighted students

The following is a selective list of charities, from which it may be possible for blind and partially sighted students to obtain financial assistance in addition to that available from statutory sources. There are several small trusts for blind and partially sighted people which cover specific local areas. Often local associations and societies for blind and partially sighted people have grant awarding committees.

## Grant awarding charities in England

### RNIB

RNIB offers grants to registered blind or partially sighted people for useful technology that can help them live independently.

Applicants must be a resident in the UK, registered with their local authority as blind (“severely sight impaired”) or partially sighted (“sight impaired”) and receiving a means-tested benefit (excluding Tax Credits).

They can only consider grants towards a limited range of items such as accessible smartphones and tablets, grants are capped at a maximum of £500. Contact our Technology grants team or visit their website for more information before applying.

RNIB Technology Grants Team

105 Judd Street

London

WC1H 9NE

Tel: **020 7391 2020**

Email: **tfl@rnib.org.uk**

Web: **rnib.org.uk/grants**

### Association of Charitable Organisations (ACO)

International House

24 Holborn Viaduct

London

EC1A 2BN

Tel: **0207 255 4480**

Email: **info@aco.uk.net**

Web: **aco.uk.net**

ACO offers help to members wishing to apply for available grants to assist their needs, but they are unable to offer grants directly. Some of the grants that they help to source, include help with day-to-day essentials and back to school costs. Applicants will be asked to provide evidence supporting their claim, while also meeting the eligibility criteria. Assistance may also be offered to applicants from EU countries.

### The Camelia Botnar Foundation

Maplehurst Road

Cowfold

West Sussex

RH13 8DQ

Tel: **01403 864 556**

Email: **enquiries@cameliabotnar.com**

Web: **cameliabotnar.com**

The Camelia Botnar Foundation provides residential training and work experience for young people who wish to learn a skilled trade. This can be used for a potential career path and successfully making their own way in life. The foundation invites applications from anywhere in the UK and you must be though they must be aged between 16-19 years and not be in full-time education.

### Disability Rights UK (DRUK)

Ground Floor

CAN Mezzanine

49-51 East Rd

London

N1 6AH

Tel: **0800 328 5050**

Email: **students@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Web: **disabilityrightsuk.org**

DRUK offers online information and free factsheets for students, families and professionals with disabilities. The DRUK helpline can support by offering advice on entering higher education, training courses and employment.

### Lawrence Attwell’s Charity

Five Kings House

1 Queen Street Place

London

EC4R 1QS

Tel: **0207 213 0561**

Email: **attwell@skinners.org.uk**

Web: **skinners.org.uk/atwell/individuals**

Lawrence Attwell grants are available for young people living in England and Wales from low-income backgrounds to help gain vocational and accredited qualifications. Grants can be offered for up to £1,500 for people aged 16-26, wishing to study courses up to A level grade, which can help obtain skills and gain employment. Funding is offered for course fees, equipment/materials, travel costs, childcare and living costs.

### Blind Children UK

Brent Civic Centre

Engineers Way

Wembley

HA9 0FJ

Tel: **0800 781 1444**

Email: **services@blindchildrenuk.org**

Web: **blindchildrenuk.org**

Blind Children UK provide services for the families of children and young people with a visual impairment from birth to the completion of full-time education. Services include family support, educational advocacy, IT advice and support, activities, CustomEyes large print children’s books and they may be able to provide grants for computers, speech and magnification software for home use.

### Princes Trust

The Prince's Trust

9 Eldon Street

London

EC2M 7LS

Tel: **0800 842 842**

Email: **contact us form available from website**

Web: **princes-trust.org.uk**

The Princes Trust offers grants to help young people into education, training and employment. They can also provide funding and support to young people who might be interested in setting up their own business.

### RNIB - The Graham Rushton Award for Blind and Partially Sighted Law Students

Graham Rushton was a blind lawyer who left a considerable sum of money to RNIB as a legacy, the interest earned on which is to be spent on assisting blind and partially sighted law students studying English Law in the United Kingdom.

RNIB and the Society of Visually Impaired Lawyers have worked in partnership to establish an annual grant award from the legacy. The Graham Rushton Award is a grant worth normally around £5000 annually for which blind and partially sighted people can apply. The amount given may vary from year to year depending on interest rates.

#### Who can apply?

Anyone who is studying English law in the United Kingdom, whether for a degree, a post-degree conversion qualification or a post-degree training course, who will be doing so in the next academic year. Priority will however be given to applicants who have reached a stage in their studies where local authority grants and other funding sources are not available, such as a Legal Practice Course (LPC) or Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC), and to those who have not previously benefited from a Graham Rushton Award.

Before being awarded any money, applicants may be required to demonstrate that one or more of the following applies to them:

* they have a confirmed place on a course
* they are studying English Law within the United Kingdom
* they are able to provide proof of sight loss
* they have proof of a current or offered training contract or other legal position.

#### How do you apply?

Contact Kudirat Adeniyi at RNIB on **020 7391 2057** or e-mail **Kudirat.adeniyi@rnib.org.uk** to request a Graham Rushton Grant application pack in your preferred format.

### Snowdon Trust

Unit 18, Oakhurst Business Park

Wilberforce Way

Southwater

West Sussex

RH13 9RT

Tel: **01403 732 899**

Email: **info@snowdontrust.org.uk**

Web: **snowdontrust.org/grants**

The Snowdon Awards Scheme can provide students with a physical or sensory disability with grants, ranging from £250 to £3,000. These will assist to cover additional costs for items such as computers, mobility equipment or personal assistant that will support with the high costs of being a student or trainee. Students are offered the opportunity to access education or training and enjoy a level of independence that may not have otherwise been possible. Applicants must be over 16 to apply.

### Student Health Association

e: **shaaf@studenthealthassociation.co.uk**

w: **studenthealthassociation.co.uk**

The Student Health Association runs the Student Health Association Assistance Fund (SHAAF) to help students with disabilities to keep up with their studies. The maximum amount of each award is £500 and students must be involved in higher education on a full-time or nearly full-time basis. Students are expected to apply for the Disabled Students' Allowance before applying to the SHAAF. Students who are disabled but not entitled to receive DSA are more likely to be awarded a grant by the SHAAF than students who do receive DSA.

Deadlines for applications are 1 March, 1 June and 1 November of each year.

## Grant Awarding Charities specifically for Scottish students

### Anne Herd Memorial Trust

C/o Bowman Solicitors

27 Bank Street

Dundee

DD1 1RP

Tel: **01382 322 267**

Email: **enquiries@bowmansolicitors.co.uk**

Web: **bowmansolicitors.co.uk**

The Anne Herd Memorial Trust was set up to provide funding for blind and partially sighted people or to organisations providing services for them. Preference given to students from the Dundee and Tayside area. Please write to Elizabeth N. McGillivray or email **ENM@bowmansolicitors.co.uk** for more information.

### Webster and Davidson Mortification Trust

Thorntons Law LLP

White Hall House

33 Yeaman Shore

Dundee

DD1 4BJ

Tel: **01382 229 111**

Email: **nbarclay@thorntons-law.co.uk**

Web:  **nbarclay@thorntons-law.co.uk**

The Webster and Davidson Mortification Trust provides awards to blind and partially sighted students in further and higher education to learn and appreciate music. They also provide grants to organisations working with blind and partially sighted people to arrange educational trips. Applications must be made in writing and submitted by 31 March each year.

## Grant Awarding Charities specifically for Welsh students

### Disabled Students’ Grants

These grants are available to eligible undergraduate and postgraduate students to cover the additional study-related costs you may have as a direct result of a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. The amount you get isn’t based on your household income. It’s based on your individual needs.

The maximum amount of a grant in 2022/23 will be £32,546 and covers the following areas of expenditure:

* non-medical personal helper
* major items of specialist equipment, and
* other disability related expenditure.

A separate uncapped travel allowance will also be available for students who incur additional study related travel costs due to their disability. For further information visit **gov.wales/student-finance/disabled-students-grants.**

## Further Information

Current addresses and telephone numbers of local voluntary agencies can be obtained from RNIB’s Helpline.

### RNIB Helpline

Call: **0303 123 9999**

Email: **helpline@rnib.org.uk**, or say, **“Alexa, call RNIB Helpline”** to an Alexa enabled device.

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