

Life's Work Scholarship

Author: Kam Hussian

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Purpose:

To provide students in need with financial support to enhance their opportunities at Sixth Form, University, and in life.

Award Value:

£500 each year for 4 years

Available awards:

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Background:

Growing up, I never had my own PC or laptop. In 2008, my state school sponsored an HP Mini laptop worth £180. While they subsidised part of the cost, my family still had to contribute £120—an unfathomable significant sum at the time for me. The laptop was meant for my sister, but I also used it to complete a few assessments. It opened up a different world for me.

A few years later, everything changed when I won a £2,500 seed funding grant for my business idea during university. At 19, I was finally able to buy my first laptop. I felt a mix of excitement and guilt for not using the money directly on business materials. Although I needed the laptop for everyday use, I worried it might be considered a luxury. However, I was reassured that investing in a laptop and having reliable Wi-Fi was essential for running a business (and for life). This turned out to be true, as every design I drew, every supplier email I sent, and every customer sale I made happened on that laptop. It served me well for six years, accompanying me through university and the early stages of my career.

Now, I want to empower students who find themselves in similar situations—facing tough luck by not winning full scholarships but still needing a break to get started. I'm offering financial assistance to help them acquire laptops, books, resources, 3D printers, design tools, and any other necessary equipment. This scholarship isn't meant to cover every expense or maintain a lifestyle during university; it's designed to provide students with a crucial starting point. After all, in today's world, all you really need is a laptop and good Wi-Fi to change your world.

Requirements:

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1. Financial Need:

- Applicants must demonstrate financial need through one of the following:
 - A household income below a specified threshold (e.g., £25,000 per year).
 - Eligibility for free school meals or other government assistance programs.

2. Academic Background:

- Must be currently enrolled in or accepted to a state school or further education institution.
- A commitment to pursuing higher education or vocational training.

3. Entrepreneurial Spirit:

- A demonstrated interest in aiming to create opportunities and providing goods and services through innovative commerce, including:
 - Previous involvement in entrepreneurial activities or initiatives, such as starting a small business, participating in entrepreneurial clubs, or developing a unique project.
 - Plans to pursue careers that foster innovation and economic development.

4. Social Sustainability Commitment:

- A clear desire to contribute to social good, evidenced by:
 - Participation in community service, volunteer work, or social initiatives.
 - Plans to work in fields that promote social change, such as development, education, or healthcare.
- Intent to start or be involved in a socially-focused business or charity.

5. Personal Statement:

- A short personal statement (250-500 words) explaining:
 - How financial support will impact your educational journey and future goals.
 - Your entrepreneurial aspirations and commitment to social sustainability, including how you plan to contribute to your community.

6. References:

- Two references from teachers, mentors, or community leaders who can speak to your character, commitment to social good, and financial need.

7. Age Requirement:

- Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 20 at the time of application.

8. Residency:

- Must be a resident of the UK and attending a state school in the UK.

Process:

- Fill Short Application Form with Personal Statement
- Upload CV
- Initial Call Screen (20 minutes)
- Final Panel Interview (30 minutes)

The process isn't designed to be bureaucratic or time-consuming. However, if you find that you fall short in any area, we hope you can take a positive perspective from it. At this stage in your life, you may not yet have a CV, experience writing cover letters, or conducting interviews. Our goal is for the process to provide a valuable learning experience that you can build upon for the future, where these formative experiences will be essential for your growth and success.

Contact:

Kamran Hussain

kamranhussa1n@live.co.uk

+44 7938859843