

Fundraising Advice

Although the Guildhall School has a wide range of scholarships on offer, we expect you to take the initiative in supporting your studies and you should apply to as many sources of funding as possible. The following advice will help you seek alternative methods of funding your programme.

If you research thoroughly, then persistence, initiative and a positive attitude coupled with clear and realistic goals should eventually pay off.

Other Sources of Funding

Private grants and awards from Charities and Trusts

- Local Trusts in your part of the country and in London
- Major grant-making trusts which fund education
- Grants for individuals in need
- Local businesses, trade unions or charitable trusts established by national companies and corporations (especially those where you have a family connection)
- Local community – e.g. Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, church
- Local theatre, musical or arts organisation
- Your college or university – check out the careers office and alumni association
- [Help Musicians UK funding database](#)
- [The Countess of Munster Musical Trust website](#) contains an excellent guide to sources of funding and competitions for young musicians. It includes a comprehensive list of useful web links and addresses of charitable trusts. The Trust also considers applications for the assistance of the musical education of individual students (British or Commonwealth students).
- [Marshall Scholarships](#) for US students
- [Fulbright Scholarships](#) for US students
- [Commonwealth Scholarships](#)
- [British Chevening Awards](#)

Sponsorship and earnings

- Sponsored events and benefits - You could organise a show or a concert either with friends or on your own.
- Earnings - Your programme will be very intensive so you may not be able to work during term-time. However, you may be able to find ways of earning money before the programme begins and sometimes during vacations. Make sure you plan this in advance and if you have a visa, check how many hours you are allowed to work.

Where to find more information

Libraries and publications

- Local library. This will have local information as well as useful books
- [The Directory of Social Change \(DSC\)](#) - publishes a comprehensive range of fundraising guides. In particular,
 - The Directory of Grant Making Trusts
 - The Guide to Major Trusts
- Sponsorship & Funding Directory (Hobsons)
- Sponsorship and Donations Year Book (Hollis)
- National publications about studying abroad eg Study Abroad published by UNESCO
- The Grants Register (Published yearly by Palgrave Macmillan Reference Ltd. Available from: [Palgrave Macmillan](#), Houndsmill, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS)

The internet

- [The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#) –a resource with a searchable database for funding, help with letter writing and other useful ideas and information. Once you have accepted your offer at the school, you will have free access
- [The British Council website](#) or local office
- [Fundsnet Services](#) website is useful for US and international fundraising.
- [Brightside](#) website has information to help prepare for university
- [Association of Charity Officers](#) has useful links to member organisations' websites
- [Learn Direct](#) has advice regarding studying including funding.
- [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.](#)
- [Turn2Us](#) funding wizard to find local charities and other funding

Other contacts

- Your teachers, course tutors and careers advisors
- Contacts – family, friends, people who have engaged your services
- LEA – ask for advice and refer to Local Authority websites which may list charitable trusts established to benefit people from your area
- If you are not a UK student, you should contact your own ministry of education and British Council office for details of scholarship opportunities for students wishing to study overseas.

Planning and executing your fundraising campaign

Research

- Spend time researching all the possible areas suggested above. Make a list of the ones you will approach, how much you can ask them for, and when their deadlines are.
- Many applications are due in 6-12 months before you start the course so plan ahead. Keep a careful record of every approach you make and the response you get, including the dates.

Applications

You will spend a lot of time and space repeating the same information. Many people create a leaflet showing what's special about themselves and this opportunity, covering much of the information in an attractive and arresting form. If you are completing application forms, photocopy them first to give you chance to practice.

Make sure:

- You check the criteria, are definitely eligible, and will be able to abide by their rules.
- You know how much you can ask for and indicate how much the total cost of studying is.
- You understand the application procedures and you follow them.
- You know the deadlines for applications and decisions.
- You keep on friendly terms with anyone with whom you make direct contact.

Why do I merit funding?

Whoever you approach for financial support, you will need to consider this question clearly and imaginatively. Try to include the following information:

- What do you hope to achieve at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama?
- What are you going to do when you leave the Guildhall School of Music & Drama?
- How will the programme/training help you to achieve your career aim?
- CV (including details of achievements and prizes), references and budget.
- Evidence/information demonstrating financial need (e.g. financial background, student loans, overdraft).
- Evidence that you have helped yourself or have helped others (e.g. fundraising events, community work) and have applied for funding elsewhere.
- That you have been accepted to a conservatoire of international renown, and were selected on the basis of a competitive audition and interview.

Quote the large numbers of applicants to places (see prospectus for details). Places are offered to those who can demonstrate a high level of talent and commitment, which, in the view of the audition panels, could lead after professional training to a successful career.

- Communicate how passionate you are about this opportunity

- Indicate that the programme involves a large number of contact hours (for acting this is a minimum of 35 hours per week in the first year for three 12-week terms) so that it is not possible to finance the programme through part-time work
- An academic reference supporting your application may be useful.

If you need assistance in submitting an application or would like to discuss in more detail the information contained in this document, please contact me.

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