



## 2024 Vaughan Williams Bursaries for postgraduate composers

[vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-bursaries](https://vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-bursaries)

### **Up to five Vaughan Williams Bursaries of £6,000 each, will be awarded.**

These annual study bursaries are open to applicants who demonstrate exceptional compositional talent and who are intending to make composition their professional career. Bursaries are awarded for the costs of taking a first taught Masters' course in composition at UK universities or conservatoires.

### Guidelines

1. Applications will open on 1 December 2023 for courses beginning in Autumn 2024. The closing date for applications is Friday 12 April 2024.
2. Applicants must be under the age of 30 on 1 May 2024, though in exceptional circumstances the Trustees will consider those who are under the age of 35.
3. Applicants must be either UK/Irish nationals, or have lived in the UK continuously for at least 3 years. Non UK/Irish nationals will be asked to provide proof of residence.
4. All applicants should have completed, or be about to complete, a first degree in music as a single subject at a recognised institution. Where this is not the case, you must include additional details of your compositional study and musical experience to date.
5. You can only apply for one year of funding at a time. For courses lasting longer than one year you will have to submit a new application for the second year.
6. Applications will be assessed by a panel of experienced composers and teachers. You will be advised of the outcome of your application within twelve weeks of the application deadline.
7. We are not able to support the following:
  - Courses in TV/ film composition
  - Courses teaching only electro-acoustic composition
  - Performance courses
  - Research degrees centring on musicology or analysis
  - PhDs
  - Courses taking place outside the UK
8. By making an application you agree to abide by the conditions outlined on page 4.


# Making your application

## Step 1 Register your application

### **Complete and submit the online form.**

Please do this well in advance of the deadline so that you have time to contact your referees and complete your application fully. You can save the form at the end of each short section and go back to it later. For reference, the information required to complete the form is summarised on page 3 of this document.

You will be asked to accept the conditions on page 4 of this document.




Once your application has been successfully registered you will receive an email confirming your **unique registration number** and a link to upload your scores and references. You need to keep this email. Please check your junk folder if you do not receive it. You must quote your registration number in any correspondence about your application.

If you run into technical problems making your application **please get in touch**.

## Step 2 Contact your referees

**Applications must be supported by two confidential references** from professional musicians, one of whom should be your most recent composition teacher.



Please ask each referee to upload their reference (which must include their email address and phone contact) through the link provided in your registration email. References must be in either pdf or MS Office formats. Reference file names must start with your personal registration number followed by the last name of the referee.

Applicants will be responsible for ensuring that their references are supplied by the deadline. No application will be considered without two references.

## Step 3 Upload your scores and any supporting information

All information must be received by 23.59 hrs on the day of the deadline.



**You must submit three professionally presented pdf scores of recent works. The name of each uploaded file must begin with your name.**

*Please try to select works for varied forces which represent the range of your compositional ability. You should also be able to provide an online playable link to at least one recording (audio or video) of one of the submitted works. Recordings should ideally be of an actual performance rather than computer generated. Do not submit actual sound files Please ensure all links are valid until July 2024.*

**If you are not a UK/Irish national**, you must also provide independent proof that you have lived in the UK continuously for three years. (We will accept a letter from your place of study.)

You will receive email confirmation when your application has been received. Please check your junk folder if you do not receive this.

# Registration Form

The [online form](#) will be available to complete from 1 December.  
You can save the form at the end of each section and return to complete it later.  
The form asks for the following information:

## Section 1 Personal Details

Your name  
Contact details  
Nationality  
Date of birth  
Name, place and duration of the course of study for which you are applying

## Section 2 Your music


You are asked to upload three scores. For each piece we need to know:  
Title and date of composition  
Instrumentation and duration  
For at least one work you must include a clickable link to an online audio or video recording

## Section 3 Your musical study and experience to date

Place of study for your first degree  
Title of course/qualification (eg BMus Composition)  
Date of course completion  
Names of your composition teacher(s)

Brief outline of your musical study and experience, including relevant prizes and awards

List of any important performances (max 3) of your compositions in the last three years

 Brief statement telling us how you feel your chosen course of study will benefit you as a composer (suggested maximum 200 words)

## Section 4 Financial Information, references and undertaking

£ Total Tuition costs for the next year  
£ Estimated total living costs for the next year

£ How much you can contribute towards these costs from: grants/scholarships, earnings, family support, student loan, savings or other sources

Any other factors which affect your application, or your financial position, and which you would like the Trustees to take into account

Names of your two referees including your most recent composition teacher

An undertaking that you will abide by the terms of the VW Bursaries and complete your application by the stated deadline.

# Bursary Conditions

## Applications

1. You agree to complete your application and provide the requested information by the deadline clearly stated on our website. It is your responsibility to ensure your referees supply their references by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. You agree to update the Foundation during the application process if there are changes to your education plan or contact details.
3. The Foundation will acknowledge receipt of completed applications.
4. The Foundation will collect, process, and use personal data made available to us only for the purpose of dealing with this application.
5. We will aim to let you know the Trustees' decision within 12 weeks of the application deadline.
6. Deliberations are confidential and the Foundation cannot undertake to provide applicants with individual feedback. The Trustees' decision is final.

## Bursaries

7. Beneficiaries must confirm acceptance of their bursary and the terms of its award within 10 days of receipt of an offer.
8. On offer of a bursary you will be given a reference number which must be quoted in all correspondence with the Foundation.
9. Bursaries are to be used only for the specified purpose stated in your application. If you make any changes to your place of study, or course, or timeline for your studies as outlined in your application, you must inform us as soon as possible. We will do our best to support you, but we do reserve the right to review the bursary in this instance and continued funding is conditional on our renewed agreement in writing.
10. Bursary holders undertake to acknowledge the award of a Vaughan Williams Bursary in their biography (online and in print) during the duration of their course.
11. By accepting a bursary, you agree that we can disclose your name, place of study and any grant paid to you in any publication (electronic or otherwise), including annual accounts.
12. If you decide to postpone or cancel your course of study before completion, we reserve the right to claim back any funds already paid out.
13. We do not ask for a formal report at the end of your studies, although it always good to know how things have gone. Please keep in touch – we may be able to help again in the future.

## Payments

14. Bursaries will be paid in two equal instalments unless agreed otherwise with the Director. A first instalment will generally be paid in September/October as you begin your course of study. A second payment will generally be made in the January following.
15. We require proof of your registration on your chosen course before payment is made.
16. You undertake to provide us with details of your bank account at the point that the bursary falls due for payment.
17. We will make every effort to make swift payment once the terms have been met.
18. You will confirm receipt of payment to us in writing within 10 days of payment.

