



## 2025/6 Vaughan Williams Scholarships for postgraduate composers

<https://vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-funding/>

Vaughan Williams Scholarships of up to £8,000 each, will be awarded

These scholarships are open to applicants who demonstrate exceptional compositional talent and who are intending to make composition their professional career.

Scholarships are awarded towards the costs of study on a taught **Masters' course or PhD in composition** at UK universities or conservatoires. These are one-off scholarships, and not renewable.

### Guidelines

1. Registration of applications by online form is open between **1 January – 31 March 2025**. All scores/references/supporting documents must be uploaded no later than **Friday 11 April 2025**. Applications not completed by this date will be invalid.
2. **Masters** students can apply at any point as long as they have at least one full academic year (full time) or two full years (part time) left to complete from the date of the final deadline for submissions. **Doctoral** students can apply at any point as long as they have at least one full academic year (full time) or two full years (part time) left to complete before the date of the commencement of the writing up period.
3. There is no age limit for applicants.
4. 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.
5. All applicants should have previously completed, or be about to complete, a 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.
6. The VW Scholarship will only be awarded once to any composer. Successful applicants may not reapply at a later date. Previous recipients of VW Bursaries may not apply.
7. 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.
8. We are not able to support the following:
  - Courses in TV/film/gaming composition
  - Courses teaching only electro-acoustic composition
  - Performance courses, or courses where composition is not the sole focus
  - Research courses centred on musicology or analysis
  - Courses outside the UK
9. By making an application you agree to abide by the conditions outlined on page 4.

# Making your application

## Step 1 Register your application

**Complete the online form between 1 January and 31 March 2025 at:**

**<https://vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-funding/>**

*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 send to your referees and to upload your scores.** *You need to keep this email. Please check your junk folder if you do not receive it. You should quote your registration number in any correspondence.*

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

**You must complete and submit the online form before 31 March 2025**

**Steps 2 and 3 below must be completed by Friday 11 April 2025**

## Step 2 Contact your referees

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

**Please contact your referees immediately on registering your application. You need to send them the upload link provided in your registration email and include the following instructions:** “References must include the name; email address and phone contact of the referee and be in either pdf or MS Word formats. Reference file names should include the applicant’s name followed by the last name of the referee. References are **confidential** and should be personally uploaded by the referee and not the applicant.”

*Applicants will be responsible for confirming that referees supply their references by the deadline. No application will be considered without two references.*

## Step 3 Upload your scores and any supporting information

**Upload three professionally presented pdf scores of recent works to the link provided in your registration email. The name of each pdf file must begin with your name.**

*Please try to select works for varied forces which represent the range of your compositional ability.*

**If you are not a UK/Irish national**, you will need to 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. **Get in touch if you do not receive this.***

# Registration Form – Information Requested

The online form will be available to complete from 1 January-31 March at <https://vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-funding/>. 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, start and end dates of the course you are applying for.

## Section 2 Your music

Tell us about the scores you are submitting. For each piece we need to know:

- Title and year of composition
- Instrumentation and duration
- Premiere performance details (performers, venue, date) if appropriate
- You must provide an online playable link to at least one recording (audio or video) of one of the submitted works. Do not submit sound files. Please ensure all links are valid until July 2025. *Recordings should ideally be of an actual performance rather than computer generated and the date, place of performance and names of the principal performers should be acknowledged.*

## Section 3 Your musical study and experience to date

Place(s) of study  
Higher Education: Title of course(s)/qualification(s) (eg BMus Composition) and grade(s) received  
Date(s) 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 simply how you feel your chosen course of study will benefit you as a composer (suggested maximum 250 words)

## Section 4 Financial Information, references and undertaking

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

Names of your two referees including your most recent composition teacher

An undertaking that you will accept the conditions of the VW Scholarships (see page 4) and complete your application by the stated deadline.

# Vaughan Williams Scholarship 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 stated 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.

## Scholarships

7. Beneficiaries must confirm acceptance of their scholarship and the terms of its award within 10 days of receipt of an offer.
8. On offer of a scholarship, you will be given a reference number which must be quoted in all correspondence with the Foundation.
9. Scholarships 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 scholarship in this instance and continued funding is conditional on our renewed agreement in writing.
10. Scholarship holders undertake to acknowledge the award of a Vaughan Williams Scholarship in their biography (online and in print) during the duration of their course.
11. By accepting a scholarship, 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 with other projects in the future.

## Payments

14. Bursaries will be paid in two equal instalments unless agreed otherwise with the VWF Director. A first instalment will be paid on proof of registration on your chosen course in the 25/6 academic year; the second payment will be made four months later, on confirmation from your place of study that you are continuing your studies.
15. You undertake to provide us with details of your bank account at the point that the scholarship falls due for payment.
16. We will make every effort to make swift payment once the terms have been met.
17. You will confirm receipt of payment to us in writing within 10 days of payment.

