
RIBA Part 1 Bursary 2025

Information and Guidance Notes for Applicants

Background

The aim of this scheme is to provide long term financial support to Part 1 architecture students who demonstrate talent and commitment to their studies and who might struggle to cover the costs of living and course-related expenditures.

Successful applicants studying full-time will receive £8,000 paid in termly instalments (£1,500 in the Autumn term and £1,250 in the Spring and Summer terms) throughout the second and third years of their Part 1. Successful part-time applicants, or those studying a course with a placement year included, will receive the same maximum amount in payments proportionate to the length of studies.

As part of the RIBA Part 1 Bursaries offer, we are pleased to confirm the availability of one **RIBA Goldfinger Bursary**. This bursary will follow the same selection criteria and offer the same support as a RIBA Part 1 Bursary but will prioritise applicants identifying with, and demonstrating, one or more of the following backgrounds:

- an underrepresented racialised group (this would be any applicant from a non-white background, including traveller and gypsy communities)
- a socio-economically disadvantaged household
- being the first in their family to attend university

We are delighted to announce the inaugural **Hans and Christopher Eisner scholarship** as part of the RIBA Part 1 Bursary offer. This scholarship serves as a memorial to Hans and his son Christopher who were both architects and RIBA members. The recipient of the scholarship will receive a Part 1 Bursary and also funding for their Part 2 course subject to successful completion of their undergraduate studies. All eligible applicants for a RIBA Part 1 Bursary will be considered for the Hans and Christopher Eisner scholarship.

The RIBA Goldfinger Bursary is made possible thanks to a generous donation from the family of Ernö Goldfinger. The Hans and Christopher Eisner scholarship is made possible thanks to the generous bequest of Hans Eisner. The remaining RIBA Part 1 bursaries are made possible thanks to the generosity of generous donations by the Rosenberg Memorial Fund, the WJ Parker Trust, and individuals, corporate partners, and trusts and foundations through to the RIBA Education Fund.

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Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be enrolled in the first year of a RIBA Part 1 course in the UK.

Evidence of the completion of the first year, proof of enrolment and confirmation of funding from Student Finance will be required before the bursary is paid to successful applicants.

All home, EU, and international students are eligible to apply.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed by members of the RIBA Education Development Group. This is an expert working group tasked with overseeing the allocation of grants, awards, and bursaries from the RIBA Education Trust Funds in accordance with the objectives attached to each fund, and as delegated by the RIBA Education and Learning Committee.

The assessors will use the following criteria to select the successful applicants:

- evidence of their academic performance, commitment to studies, and potential contribution to the profession
- demonstration of financial need
- demonstration of clear consideration of their future goals and aspirations as an architecture student, and how they hope to achieve them

The assessment panel will base its decision on household income and financial need as well as demonstrable academic ability and merit.

Submitting an application

To apply for this scholarship, you will need to submit an online application via the Good Grants application platform: <https://riba.grantplatform.com>

You must complete all required sections of the online application form, which has been designed to ensure the assessment panel have all necessary and relevant information to evaluate the applications thoroughly and fairly.

Please see below further guidance on key sections of the application form:

Section 4: Household income assessment

To help our assessors determine your household income and financial need, we have requested certain information regarding the annual income of your parent(s) or spouse/partner (if applicable), details of any dependants (if applicable), and your financial resources for the 2025/26 academic year.

If your parent(s) or spouse/partner need to provide their annual income, they should provide their net income for both the current and forthcoming year.

Sections 6 and 7: Income and Expenditure for 2025/26

If you are living with a partner, your income and expenditure listed should be for the whole household.

Rent/mortgage payments should be calculated for the 10-month academic year; if you intend to pay rent for a 12-month period please note this in the application form.

Do not include your accommodation deposit in this section. As it is money that you will receive back at the academic year, the assessors will not consider this as expenditure.

Only give your proportion of utility bills where you will be sharing your accommodation.

The assessors usually only accept travel costs for public transport to/from university, travel for project work, and one return trip home per term for UK students and one return trip home per year for international students. If your travel costs are high because you exceed these criteria you must explain why in the application form.

The assessors only take account of car or motorbike ownership costs in exceptional circumstances.

You should make it clear whether any specific one-off items of expenditure (such as field trips, course costs or equipment costs) have already been paid for or still need to be paid.

The assessors do not normally make any allowance for debt repayment or debt interest. If there are exceptional circumstances, such as a formal debt repayment arrangement with a lender, and you think they should consider these, you are asked to explain this in the application form.

If you have savings, you should include these in your income declaration. If you are not able to use these towards your costs, please specify your reasons in the personal statement.

Supporting documents

You are required to upload the following supporting documents in the online application form - items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are required documentation and items 5 and 7 should be provided if applicable to you. Documents must be uploaded as either PDF or .doc files.

1. Proof of enrolment in your current course (e.g., a letter from your university's registry department)
2. Five pages of design work in one PDF and at high resolution
3. A letter of endorsement written by your Part 1 Year/Studio tutor, commenting on your academic performance to date and your commitment to your studies
4. Confirmation from Student Finance (England/Wales/NI) or SAAS, or grant provider, confirming the total sum made available to you in the current academic year 2024/25. If you were ineligible, refused a loan or did not apply, please attach of the most recent bank statements for all accounts (including credit cards and savings accounts) held for the last full month, collated into one document.
5. Confirmation of any other funding, including bursaries, scholarships, and grants etc. (optional - to be provided if applicable)
6. Tenancy/mortgage agreement confirming your current share (if you have confirmation of your tenancy for 2025/26, please include this agreement)

instead). If you are not formally paying rent, please provide evidence of any contributions you are making, e.g., a letter from a parent or guardian noting the monthly amount

7. If your parent(s) and/or spouse provided their income details in the 'Household Income Assessment' section, please provide a copy of their most recent payslip (optional - to be provided if applicable)

Guidance for referees

If you are providing a reference about the applicant it would be useful for the accessors if you would comment on the following:

- their academic performance and achievements to date
- their commitment to their studies
- their potential contribution to the profession
- any other reasons you may have for recommending them for the bursary

Application process and deadline

Applications must be submitted via riba.grantplatform.com by 15:00 (GMT) on Friday **14 March 2025**. You will NOT be able to submit an application after this time.

You will receive an automatic email notification upon submission of your application.

Applications will be processed and then assessed over a period of 6 to 8 weeks, after which all applicants will be informed of the results.

The first instalment of funding will be available in October 2025, providing the recipient has confirmed their enrolment.

Confidentiality

All information provided in the applications will be treated in the strictest confidence, in line with the RIBA Privacy Policy: architecture.com/about/privacy-policy

Contact

If you have any issues with the online application system, or any questions about your application, please email student.support@riba.org. Please note, this email address is monitored Monday-Friday, 09:00-17:00 (BST).