

2018 – EDUCATION GRANTS

Freemason Sponsor's Notes

The Education Grant is to assist students in necessitous circumstances. It is **NOT** a scholarship.

Procedure:

1. The Education Grant Application **Form is filled in by the applicant**.
2. It is the **student's responsibility** to: complete the form, sign & initial where indicated, write a letter of introduction, provide two original signed and dated character references (not emails), attach copies of academic qualifications, proof of enrolment (as per description in form), and provide a statement of their necessitous circumstances. The student may provide a list of their achievements or awards, **but copies of them are not required**.
3. Once the student has fulfilled the above criteria, they are then ready to **meet with you** (likely to be between January & February). A meeting place is to be agreed upon between yourself and the applicant. Some Sponsors prefer to meet at the student's house so that they can fully appreciate the candidate's need for assistance.
4. As the Sponsor, please **go through the application form with the student**. You are welcome to chat informally about their chosen course of study, motivation, family situation, and how they intend to support themselves through University. Keep in mind when going through the application with the student that the emphasis is on their financial situation giving confirmation of necessitous circumstances.
5. **When the meeting has finished, please take the completed form & all supporting documentation with you when you leave.**
6. The Sponsor is then asked to complete the *To be completed by your Freemason Sponsor* section in the back of the application form. **The form is not to be returned to the student.** Please comment on the applicant's financial hardships, scholastic ability, family circumstances, financial / economic needs, suitability of the course, motivation, character, disabilities, etc and honestly state whether you believe the student meets the criteria for financial assistance (it's ok to say 'no' if this is what you believe).
7. Once you have completed this section, it is ready to be forwarded to Grand Lodge. Please do not give the form back to the student, as they do not need to read your appraisal of them. The **Sponsor is to send the form to Grand Lodge**. The form must be received by Grand Lodge office by the closing date.

Please Note:

- The instruction on the first page under *Submission Procedure* states that it is the student's responsibility to make sure there is ample time for this process to occur.
- **The form does not need to pass through the Lodge or need the approval of the Secretary or Worshipful Master.**
- **As of 2009, the application form no longer needs to be signed by a Lodge Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Sponsor to inform the Lodge that they are sponsoring a student. The Lodge does not need to see the form, nor know the name of the student.**
- An Individual Freemason may sponsor as many students as he wishes. Applications are open to everyone: Freemason's family, friends and general public, without discrimination.
- The Committee wish to advise that they prefer that Brethren do not sponsor any family member(s).