

Mountain Training Scotland

Mountain Training Personal Skills and Qualification Scheme Bursary Policy Statement 24/4/2024

Background:

This is part of Mountain Training Scotland's Strategic Key Aim 2 'To progress the equitable, inclusive and diverse, access to the Mountain Training personal skills training and qualification schemes in Scotland'.

Mountain Training Scotland annually offers a limited number of bursaries to support candidates wishing to undertake a Mountain Training personal skills training course, or training or assessment (including re-assessment) course in one of the Mountain Training qualification schemes provided by Mountain Training Scotland (see [Appendix 1](#)) for whom both the personal financial constraints may be a barrier to participation and whose participation may promote MTS's commitment to diversity, equity, equality and inclusion (see [Appendix 2](#)).

Funding:

Mountain Training Scotland will commit an amount to be set annually to the Bursary Fund. The continuation of the scheme and the amount committed will be reviewed as part of the Board's annual financial review.

The MTS Board may choose to withdraw all unallocated funds should financial circumstances dictate or for any other reason.

MTS would like to acknowledge the generous financial support from the [Cairngorm Club](#) that helps support bursary awards to applicants. Based in Aberdeen, the Cairngorm Club was founded in 1887 and is the oldest and one of the largest hillwalking and climbing clubs in Scotland.

Funding is available up to a maximum of £600 for the Mountain Training course fees ONLY (Please note the bursary does NOT cover scheme costs such as registration fees, first aid course, travel/accommodation, purchasing equipment etc) and must be claimed within 6 months of the Bursary being awarded.

Eligibility Criteria for Bursary Consideration:

Candidate's applications for this bursary should be able to demonstrate:

1. an indication of the personal financial constraints which prevent them from participating on the course.
2. their commitment to encouraging wider participation in climbing and or hill and mountain walking from their community. This may be either through their own circumstance or through a clear intention to either work towards gaining a Mountain Training qualification OR use their Mountain Training qualification to

facilitate participation in Mountain, Hill and Climbing activities by others in their community (as part of this you will be asked to provide a reference from a referee who is not a spouse, partner or close family member to vouch for and support the above) see [Appendix 2](#).

3. that they have fulfilled all the stated experience prerequisites for attending the training or assessment course as prescribed by Mountain Training; OR they have completed their Mountain Training qualification course run by a Mountain Training Scotland approved Provider and submitted a bursary application within four weeks from the end date of the course.
4. that they have a commitment to the relevant activity through their own personal background and experience.
5. that they have registered for the relevant Award.
6. that they are old enough to register on the Mountain Training scheme of their choice and resident in Scotland at the time of application and the relevant course.
7. That their Mountain Training course is one of those provided by Mountain Training Scotland and will be delivered by a Mountain Training Scotland approved Provider.

Application:

1. Applications must be made in writing using the prescribed form which is available from MTS. A Reference is required to support the application from a referee who can vouch for the applicant's commitment to encouraging wider participation in climbing and or hill and mountain walking from their community. Please note referees cannot be a spouse, partner, or close family member.
2. The applicant's Mountain Training course they are applying for a bursary for MUST be undertaken and completed with an MTS approved Provider. This includes retrospective applications.
3. Retrospective applications for Mountain Training qualification courses completed will be considered if an application is submitted within four weeks from the end of the course.
4. All applications will be considered as soon as is reasonably possible by the designated Board Member + one other Board Member of Mountain Training Scotland and the outcome will be communicated formally to the applicant by the Executive Officer.
5. Appeal will be considered by the Board at the next Executive Meeting and their decision shall be final. This will be in accordance with the MTS Complaints Policy.
6. The candidate must pay for course fees initially and claim the amount awarded within 6 months of the bursary award being made. Payment will be made after confirmation by MTS with the Course Provider of attendance. In case of difficulty in this respect, please contact MTS.
7. Applicants may submit multiple applications for different qualifications but only one per course and one per calendar year.

Promotion:

Promotion of the scheme will be via MTS's Strategic Partners; MTS Members and the Course Provider Network based on information provided by the Executive Officer.

Implementation: 1st April 2024

Review Date: Executive Meeting prior to setting annual budget. Review to be conducted by the Executive Board.

Appendix 1

Mountain Training [personal skills training](#) schemes provided by Mountain Training Scotland Providers that are eligible for bursary support:

Rock Skills

- Intermediate
- Learn to Lead Sport Climbs
- Learn to Lead Trad Climbs

Hill & Mountain Skills

- Hill Skills
- Mountain Skills

Mountain Training [qualification](#) schemes provided by Mountain Training Scotland Providers that are eligible for bursary support

Camping Leader

Lowland Leader qualification

Hill and Moorland Leader qualification

Mountain Leader

Winter Mountain Leader

Indoor Climbing Assistant

Climbing Wall Instructor (includes Abseil and Top Roping Module)

Climbing Wall Development Instructor

Rock Climbing Instructor

Rock Climbing Development Instructor

Appendix 2

MTS is fully committed to its Key Strategic Aim 2 'To progress the equitable, inclusive and diverse, access to the Mountain Training personal skills training and qualification schemes in Scotland'.

Summary of relevant core MTS Diversity, equity, equality and inclusion aims include:

- Identify and seek to address the challenges facing candidates accessing and completing a Mountain Training qualification.
- promote greater diversity of participation in walking, climbing and mountaineering related activities.
- Ensure and develop accessibility and access to all Mountain Training awards for candidates based on 'reasonable adjustments'.
- Support the Mountain Training Association in providing accessible and low-cost opportunities in Scotland for candidates both pre- and post-qualification.
- Develop links between leadership and safe participation, and other relevant agendas including education, health and wellbeing.
- Support the needs of youth and community workers, and young adults via Mountain Training Scotland courses, training, resources, expertise and networks.