

June Baker Trust

Grants for emerging conservators in Scotland

Guidance for Applicants

1. About the June Baker Trust

The June Baker Trust was constituted in 1990 to promote and encourage the development and study of the arts and sciences of restoration and conservation of either historical or artistic artefacts in Scotland. Our Conservation Awards scheme has to date awarded more than £30,000 in grants to Scottish conservators for continuous professional development.

2. About this grant scheme

Our track record with the Conservation Awards and awareness that people in the early stages of a conservation career need additional support led the trustees to apply for funding to develop a scheme that specifically awards grants to emerging conservators, in addition to, and running alongside our existing grants scheme. The Emerging Conservator's Grants Scheme has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust.

The Emerging Conservators Grants Scheme gives funding of up to £1,000 to support conservators who are in the process of gaining their early workplace experience to fund a learning plan of their own choosing. This learning plan can be on top of or instead of employment.

The learning plan must meet the June Baker Trust's objectives for the scheme which are for recently qualified conservation professionals to:

- build professional networks;
- gain practical and employability skills; and
- widen sector understanding,

with the overarching aim of increasing future employability.

3. Eligibility to apply

Application is open to graduates from conservation courses who are within 3 years of qualifying. To apply, you will need to be able to demonstrate a strong Scottish connection and commitment to conservation in Scotland.

4. What the grants are for

Grants are to fund a self-directed programme of learning activities lasting for no longer than one year. This might take the form of a single intensive work placement in the absence of formal employment, or it might be a programme of 1-day activities which add to what you are learning as an intern/trainee. Either way, you will need to demonstrate that your activities have specific

personal learning goals, and you will need to plan your activities with these goals in mind. We will be looking to see a range of ways you intend to meet your personal learning goals.

To come up with a learning plan, you will need to reflect on your learning so far and identify your strengths and weaknesses, and where you have gaps in learning. You will then have to think about the direction you want your career to take and come up with an activity or activities which help bridge the gap between where you are now to where you want to be in a few years' time.

Here are some examples of activities you might consider including in your learning plan:

- Undertaking workshop visits to meet experts with particular specialist expertise in a subject area you are interested to find out about;
- Arranging some mentoring sessions with a senior professional you respect and admire who is independent of your workplace;
- Arranging a programme of workshop visits to find out more about different types of work place;
- Undertaking a short secondment in a workshop to learn and refine skills by working alongside people in a different environment;
- Attending conferences and workshops that build networks and gain sector understanding.

This is not an all-inclusive list, so if you have other ideas for implementing a learning plan, please include them. Whilst we will accept applications for learning plans which focus on just one of the above, we are keen to see applications which include a range of activities.

5. Making your case for funding

You will need to make your case for being awarded a grant through what you tell us in the application form.

You will need to research your options carefully and also make contact with the people you want to be involved to ensure they are happy to help you BEFORE developing an application. Competition for grants could be fierce, so it is important you spend the time to research and plan your application thoroughly.

Before getting started, here is a tip from a previous successful applicant:

“Think about what you really lack of experience but you believe is relevant for your career in this profession. What you have always wanted to feel confident with, but never got the opportunity to get immersed or trained in.”

You will need to tell us about your learning plans in Section 2 of the application form. Before completing this section we recommend that you reflect on your learning to date. You should think about what you have achieved, what you may have missed out on so far, what you most want to know and what you need to know to support your next steps as well as your longer term career aspirations. You should also think about your preferred learning style, and what activities best suit it. This is not only important to build your case for funding, it will help you to make the most of your learning experience should you be successful.

You will also need to consider how your ambitions and needs might be addressed, and explore what opportunities there are to address them, then source feasible and realistic ways of achieving your goals before bringing all your ideas together into a plan which aims to meet them.

When completing Section 2 of the form, please note the following.

Question 2.1. The required summary is intentionally short. We recommend you write this AFTER you have answered the other questions.

Question 2.2. Our objectives are: building professional networks; gaining practical and employability skills; and widening sector understanding. A close fit between your learning goals and our objectives will help you make a good case for funding.

Question 2.3. The timetable you provide would normally cover a period of up to one year. You will need to keep to the timetable you set, so be realistic about it.

Question 2.4. Helping you to achieve your career aspirations and enhancing your future employability are the June Baker Trust's aims for the grants scheme, so it will help you make a good case for funding if you can tell us about these in your response to this question.

6. Costing the plan and deciding how much to ask for

You will need to research the costs of your planned activities before completing the application. The activities in your learning programme may be instead of or additional to paid employment. Funding through this scheme cannot be used as a substitute by employers for paying trainees. If you have secured funding for part of what you plan to do from other sources at the time of application or do so after an award is made to you, you must tell us.

Please provide real costs whenever possible. Please indicate where costs are estimated, and explain how you arrived at the estimate.

7. Completing the application

The application form is in four sections.

1. About you
2. About your plan
3. What your plan will cost
4. Terms of grant and declaration.

You must complete all sections of the form.

Please refer to this guidance while completing the form to ensure you have done all that is required. The June Baker Trust is unable to respond to queries on the application process.

Please complete the form electronically using the boxes provided. You must answer all the questions and include everything you want to tell us in the form. Do not include hyperlinks or append supplementary information.

We recommend you ask someone you trust to read over and check your application before you submit it.

Submitting the application

To submit your completed application, please e-mail it as an attachment to:
junebakertrust@gmail.com.

Closing date for applications: 31st January.

Your application will be acknowledged and you should expect to hear if you have been successful by mid-March.