



The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for completing applications for the Dora Opoku Student Award for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students

Introduction to the Dora Opoku Student Award

The Dora Opoku Student Award is offered to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic pre-registration midwifery students seeking support for attendance at study days or to undertake elective visits. BAME student applicants are also automatically considered for an Iolanthe Student Award to maximise their chances of receiving an award.

The Dora Opoku Student Award at a glance	
Amount Granted	Maximum £1,000 (single award)
When to Apply	Applications open on 3 rd Dec 2019 and close on 3rd February 2020 . The award winner will be announced in April 2020.
Eligibility Criteria	For Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students on a UK pre-registration course.
Timing	For projects starting after 1 January 2020 and completed by April 2021

What type of projects and research are suitable?

- **Courses** to gain skills or knowledge relevant to a student's midwifery practice.
- Travel and attendance at **study days or conferences** in the UK or abroad relevant to a student's midwifery practice.
- **Small research projects or ideas to improve local maternity services**. In this case it is important to have the written support of an academic supervisor, mentor or NHS midwifery manager who can confirm that you have the capability and/or opportunity to achieve this.
- Previously, a number of student awards have supported overseas elective placements. Increasingly Iolanthe awards are supporting **student placements within the UK**. These awards provide an opportunity for students who wish to experience a model of care different to that available in the area in which they study.
 - If a student wishes to apply for an award for an **elective placement overseas**, particularly in a developing country, the application should demonstrate that the student has taken an active role in arranging the placement and carefully considered the potential value and risks of the placement to them and others. Applications will only be considered where there is a clear benefit over and above a UK placement.



A Guide to Writing a Good Application

	What goes wrong?	What do good applications have?
The purpose of the application	Applications which give little information about the proposed course, project or elective visit or are vague (e.g. I'd like to visit an area, rather than a named institution) tend to do less well.	<p>A clear justification is given for the choice of course, project or elective and what makes it innovative. For electives, the applicant has identified an institution or person to visit and made contact with them. A supporting letter from the host institution also benefits the application.</p> <p>The applicant has identified how their visit or project will benefit the wellbeing of mothers/parents and/or babies. Projects which promote equality or target vulnerable groups (e.g. black or Asian women, or women at risk of domestic violence or substance misuse) are also viewed more positively.</p>
Is the application going to lead somewhere for the applicant?	Poor applications tend to read as if little thought has been given as to what the applicant will get out of the elective, course or project.	<p>A good application makes it very clear to the reviewer the value that the applicant and others (mothers/parents and babies, other midwives, and the profession and/or employer) will get from the award.</p> <p>The best applications provide a clear justification for the applicant's choice of course, project or placement. They give details of what the applicant hopes to learn as a result (good applications tend to include objectives) and how that can be achieved with the planned project. The Trustees also want to know how you will share your experience or the knowledge that you gain.</p> <p>Good applications are written with feeling and are persuasive.</p>
Costs	No details are given – a lump sum is stated. Applications which have excessive costs, or include costs for items which do not appear to be relevant, do less well. Remember, the reviewers have access to course and travel costs themselves so can see what reasonable costs are.	<p>A good application gives detailed, well researched costs and has a brief justification for why these are included. If the total costs exceed £1,000 it is better to detail them all and apply for part of them. Do not include any personal costs which you are not expecting to have funded even if they are part of a trip (e.g. holiday excursions).</p> <p>Projects that appear to provide value for money tend to do better. Evidence of additional attempts at fund raising is also viewed positively.</p>
The overall quality of the application	Applications which are too long or have missing sections tend to score less well. The form has word counts where	A good application should be complete, well presented and readable. It is important to keep to the correct length and comply with word counts. The best



	you might need guidance as to an appropriate length. Applications which exceed the word counts will not be forwarded to the judging panel.	applicants use a limited amount of references to support their application, using current policy or research to justify their choice. This shows initiative and is viewed very positively.
Support and commitment.	Applications which give little or no information about the support they have are viewed less positively.	<p>Please ensure you give those people providing a supporting letter enough notice. Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline.</p> <p>A supporting letter from the applicant's educational institution is included. Other support or funding (no matter how small) is acknowledged.</p> <p>There is evidence that the applicant is committed to undertaking the course, project or elective. A supporting letter from the elective site is included, if applicable.</p>

[See below for the guide to completing the online application form](#)



Guide to Completing the Online Application Form

We have designed the form to be as easy as possible to fill in. If you have any difficulties understanding what is required please contact awards@iolanthe.org and we will be able to help you.

You can apply for the award at <https://www.iolanthe.org/student-award>. Below are some further explanations to help you fill in the form.

Once you start completing an application form, your data will be stored, even if you haven't submitted it. Please see <https://www.iolanthe.org/privacy-policy> for more details on how your data will be stored and processed.

Before you start, please ensure that you have asked for supporting letters (tutors/confirmation of placements).
Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline.

***indicates essential reading**

Field	Explanation
*Data protection	Applying for an award will require you to go to our online application system on an external website based in the USA. By entering data into the application form, you are agreeing to have your data stored and processed outside of the EU as well as by Iolanthe Midwifery Trust. This includes data about your eligibility for the Dora Opoku Award, which will include that you are of BAME origin. Data about your ethnicity is regarded as Special Category Data under General Data Protection Regulations and we need your explicit consent to store and process it. Further details about what this means and the rights you have over the data can be found in our Privacy Policy
*Saving the application	You can save the application at any time by clicking on Save at the end of the form. You can then continue entering data or choose to resume later. If you want to come back later, you will be given a link (or choose to have the link sent to you in an email) so you can return to the form at another time. Please note: The form does not save automatically if you use the back button or close the browser tab or window.
1. Applicant's Details	
Educational institution	This should be where you are undertaking your pre-registration course.
Email addresses	We request two email addresses in case your preferred email address is linked to your place of study which expires when you finish your course. This is particularly difficult if it happens in the course of the award administration.
2. Details of support requested	
Start and end date	Projects are only eligible for an award if they start on or after 1 January 2020 and are due to finish by 30 April 2021. (You will hear if you have been successful in April 2020)
Reason for the request	Please give only a brief overview here of your project and keep to the word count.
Contact institution	If you are planning an elective placement please give whatever details you can here about where you will be visiting on your elective and who is managing the visit at the site.
3. Cost of the project	The total cost requested should be £1,000 maximum. Please provide detailed costs with justification. Remember, the reviewers have access to travel costs etc. Include likely maximum costs as we are unable to adjust your award upwards after it has been granted but indicate this in the justification section. Please do not include personal costs which are not eligible for funding e.g. "scuba diving excursion"



4. Further details about the support requested	This is where you should set out the main description of your project. Read the above information about what makes a good application. The maximum word count is 1000 words including references. The text should be referenced where relevant (but not excessively referenced). You can make this box bigger by dragging on the bottom right hand corner.
7. Additional documents	Please upload supporting statements from your educational institution (tutor or lecturer). This should be personal to you rather than a standard supporting statement. Additional supporting statements should be provided where relevant for conference presentations or elective placements. Supporting documents cannot be added to an application after the deadline.
Save/Submit	<p>You can save this application and return to it later. You will be sent a link to find it again.</p> <p>Please save regularly as you complete the form to prevent any loss of data you have input. When you are ready to submit your application, click on Submit. You will be able to download a pdf of your application. You will receive an email acknowledgment of your submission. If you do not receive this, please contact awards@iolanthe.org.</p> <p>Only submitted applications will be judged. Saved but unsubmitted awards will be deleted shortly after the closing date.</p> <p>By entering data into the application form, even if you do not save or submit the form, you are accepting that your data, including data which shows you are of BAME origin, will be stored and processed electronically for the purpose of awards administration and judging. More details about how your data will stored and processed see our Privacy Policy</p>

The closing date for this award is 3 February 2020

