The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for completing applications for the Dora Opoku Student Award for Black and Brown Students

Introduction to the Dora Opoku Student Award

The Dora Opoku Student Award helps a Black or Brown pre-registration midwifery student with the costs of attending a study day or taking up elective placements. Black and Brown 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 1 Dec 2021 and **close on 1 February 2022**. The award winner will be announced in April 2022.
Eligibility Criteria	For Black and Brown students on a UK pre-registration course.
Timing	For projects starting after 1 January 2022 and completed by April 2023.

What type of projects and research are suitable?

- **Courses** to gain skills or knowledge relevant to your student midwifery practice.

- Travel and attendance at relevant **study days or conferences** in the UK.

- **Small research projects 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.

- **Elective midwifery 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.

- **Return to Practice midwives** can also apply for a Student Award for associated costs. To be eligible, they need to have been accepted on an NMC approved RtP course and have the support of an NHS Trust or Board for practice hours.

  Please note that due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, overseas elective placements will not be funded in this round of awards. You may travel within the UK, including to Northern Ireland.

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A Guide to Writing a Good Application

	What goes wrong?	How to improve your chances of getting funding
The purpose of the application	Too little information about the proposed course, project or elective visit	Clearly justify your choice of project or placement and tell us what makes it worthwhile or innovative. For UK electives, make sure you have identified an institution or person to visit and made contact with them. A supporting letter from the host institution also benefits the application. Identify how this will benefit the wellbeing of mothers/parents and/or babies – in the case of electives, consider this both locally and where the elective will take place. Projects which address health inequalities for ethnic communities or target vulnerable groups are also viewed more positively.
Benefits from the funding	Not giving enough thought about how you, your fellow students, future employers, the midwifery profession, maternity services and women/families will benefit.	Spell out the benefits of your project to yourself and others (parents and babies, other students, and the profession and/or current or future employer). Explain how you will share your experience or the knowledge that you gain. Give details of what you hope to learn as a result and how that can be achieved with the planned project.
Costs	Including excessive, irrelevant or personal costs Not being clear in your project description about what the money will be spent on	Give detailed well-researched costs with a brief justification for why these are included. Include precise details on what the money will be spent on in the section describing your project. Don't include personal costs which you are not expecting to get funded (e.g. holiday excursion). Provide evidence of other fundraising – we view this positively as a sign of commitment.
The overall quality of the application	Missing out sections and applications which are too long and unfocused.	Make sure your application is complete, well presented and readable. Use the word counts to help focus the information.

| | Applications which don't convey conviction or interest. | Reference your application with research or policy if appropriate but not excessively.

Write with feeling and persuasion. |
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| Support and commitment. | Not enough evidence of support to do the project. | Please ensure you give those people providing a supporting letter enough notice. **Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline**.

A supporting letter from your educational institution is included. If possible, ask for a personal reference rather than a standard letter.

Other support or funding is acknowledged.

Provide evidence that you are committed to undertaking the course, project or elective. A supporting letter from the elective site is included, if applicable. |

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 within and outside of the UK and 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 Black or Brown ethnicity. 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. Save regularly so you don't lose your work.
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 2022 and are due to finish by 30 April 2023. (You will hear if you have been successful in April 2022)
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. Please note that this year we will not be funding overseas elective placements due the global Covid-19 pandemic.
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	You can save this application and return to it later. You will be sent a link to find it again. 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. Only submitted applications will be judged. Saved but unsubmitted awards will be deleted shortly after the closing date. By entering data on an application form you are accepting that your data, including data which shows you are of Black or Brown ethnicity (regarded under GDPR regulations as Special Category Data), will be stored and processed electronically both inside and outside the UK and the EU for the purpose of awards administration and judging. More details about how your data will be stored and processed can be found in our Privacy Policy

The closing date for this award is 1 February 2022