The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for completing applications for Iolanthe Midwives Awards

Introduction to the Midwives Awards

The Iolanthe Midwives Awards help recipients with the cost of professional education or projects that help to improve midwifery care and practice. You will need to show in your application that your proposed plan will lead to improvements in care through practice, education and training or research.

Iolanthe Midwives Awards at a glance	
Amount Granted	Maximum £1,500 (multiple awards available)
When to Apply	Applications open on 1 Dec 2021 and **close on 1 February 2022**. The award winners will be announced in April 2022.
Eligibility Criteria	Midwives registered with the UK NMC
Timing	For projects starting after 1 January 2022 and completed by April 2023. For courses taking longer, you can apply for apportioned costs covering the eligible time period.

What type of projects and research are suitable?

Awards are made to help midwives with the costs of self-development or training, to undertake research or to make improvements to local services.

This could include:

- Developing services for pregnant women/individuals or new mothers/parents and/or babies in a local hospital or in the community

- Organising study days for local midwives

- Training courses to develop specialist skills to use in your midwifery practice.

- Conference entry fee and travel to conferences, either as an attendee or to present research findings on good midwifery practice. Please note that due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, we are not funding travel abroad in this round of awards. You may travel within the UK, including to Northern Ireland.

- Assistance with academic fees for Masters and PhD studies

Each application will be judged on its individual merits. See below for a guide to writing a good application.

You can apply for more than one award, for instance a Midwives Award and the Jean Davies Award. You may do this for the same project or for different projects. However, we advise that you think carefully about the nature of your project and about the amount you wish to apply for before making multiple applications. Please tailor your applications to be appropriate for each award.

A Guide to Writing a Good Application

	What goes wrong?	How to improve your chance of funding
The purpose of the application	Giving too little information about your proposed project or just copying information from elsewhere (eg academic course objectives)	Clearly justify your choice of project and tell us what makes it worthwhile or innovative. Identify how this will benefit the wellbeing of mothers/parents and/or babies. Projects which address health inequalities for ethnic communities or target vulnerable groups are also viewed more positively.
Benefits from the project	Not giving enough thought about how you, your employer, 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 midwives, and the profession and/or employer). Explain how you will share your experience or the knowledge that you gain.
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. Applications which don't convey conviction or interest.	Make sure your application is complete, well presented and readable. Use the word counts to help focus the information. Reference your application with research or policy if appropriate but not excessively. Write with feeling and persuasion.
Support and commitment.	Not enough evidence of support to do the project.	Include a supporting letter from your manager/academic lead/course tutor. If possible, ask for a personal reference rather than a standard letter. Acknowledge other support, eg time off or part-funding. Please ensure you give those people providing a supporting letter enough notice. **Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline.**

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/midwives-award. Below are some further explanations to help you fill in the form.

* 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 on 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. 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 to ensure you don't lose your work.
Applicant's name/PIN	You must be a midwife with an NMC pin to apply for this award
Telephone	A mobile number is preferred
Email addresses	We request two email addresses in case your preferred email address is linked with a job or place of study which expires when you move on. This is particularly difficult if it happens in the course of the award administration.
1. Abridged CV of applicant	We will be looking for evidence that you have the capacity to undertake and complete the work. Please include in the additional information section any relevant exceptional performance in training or a job. Please be honest about your CV and explain any gaps in the additional information section.
2. Details of Proposed Project	
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). If you are on a longer course, you can apportion costs to the appropriate time period.
Commitment to course/project	Enter brief but comprehensive details here about what time you will have available for the project, and any previous or current work which demonstrates your commitment to this project.
Manager's support	Your manager's support will add weight to your application. Please add a supporting letter at the end of the online application form (section 8)
3. Outline of proposed project	

Project outline	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.
4. Cost of the project	The total cost requested should be £1,500 maximum. Please provide detailed costs with justification. Please do not enter personal costs you are not expecting to be funded (e.g. holiday excursion).
8. Additional documents	Please upload supporting statements from your employer and details of ethical approval. Additional supporting statements should be provided where relevant for academic courses, conferences or ethical approval for research.
Save/Submit	You can save this application and return to it later. You will be given or sent a link to find it again. 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 will be stored and processed electronically both within 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