

Equine Welfare Clinical Scholarship Grant



Terms & Conditions

INTRODUCTION

The charity's mission statement is as follows.

*"The Trust promotes the health and welfare of horses through knowledge and ethical scientific research to reduce disease and suffering"
"...welfare through knowledge..."*

In pursuance of this, The Horse Trust awards equine welfare grants each year for Scholarships in equine clinical studies and equine science.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

1. The aim of an equine scholarship is to provide specialist training in equine clinical subjects to veterinary surgeons in the United Kingdom.

The individual appointed to fill the post (the resident) must be a veterinary graduate who has at least two year's experience in veterinary practice, and whose degree is registerable with the RCVS.

2. Scholarships are awarded to eligible institutions. Those that are eligible are:

UK university veterinary schools, other university departments and institutes in the UK that have an interest in the horse, recognised charitable institutions in the UK e.g. The Animal Health Trust and equine veterinary practices with registered equine hospitals in the UK.

The host institution is responsible for the appointment of the scholar.

3. Equine Scholarships will normally be awarded for up to 1, 2 or 3 years (2 and 3 year grants will be subject to annual review).

Application Procedure

4. Applications should be made by the potential supervisor of the scholar on behalf of the institute he/she is employed by. Applications are considered once a year, and must be submitted on The Horse Trust forms which are available on request. The procedure is as follows.

1st May - dead-line for applications

Early June - applicants are informed of the results of their application. If the application is successful, the award should commence as soon as possible after 1st January the following year.

5. In section 9 of the Equine Scholarship application form, the supervisor is required to describe the programme for the resident. This programme must be structured, with one or more recognisable goals at the end of the period of study. Certificates, (which The Horse Trust would expect to be completed in the first year), and Diplomas of the equine speciality boards of the RCVS could serve this purpose in part, as could MSc degrees and Fellowships containing appropriate material.

Aims and Objectives

6. The primary aim of the Clinical Scholarship is to develop the Scholar's expertise in the chosen field. The Scholar should be given a broad experience of equine medicine and surgery. To meet these aims a structured programme is required, which should include the following objectives;
- A broad training in all aspects of the chosen field including the opportunity to visit alternative centres of excellence to greater the experience of the scholar.
 - Attainment of at least an MSc or a Certificate of the RCVS speciality boards or an equivalent qualification by or in the second year of the award.
 - The Scholar is expected to gain sufficient expertise to complete an RCVS or ECVS Fellowship/Diploma or equivalent during or soon after the conclusion of the award.
 - Undertake a clearly defined, relevant clinical research project which is approved by the host institution's ethics committee and notified to The Horse Trust in the first interim report .
 - Experience of teaching groups of undergraduates.
 - Publication of at least 2 substantial clinical evidence papers in refereed and appropriate non-refereed journals.

Appointment of the Equine Scholar

7. The Horse Trust should be sent details (Curriculum Vitae) of the scholar prior to his/her appointment as the appointment may be subject to The Horse Trust's approval. The Horse Trust would encourage institutes to appoint persons who intend to remain in the equine field in the UK after the period of the award. All advertisements for the post must clearly display The Horse Trust as the funding body.
8. The institute is the manager of the scholar, who should be engaged under contract and conditions determined by the host institution in accordance with relevant legislation.

The Horse Trust accepts no liability for resident scholars (including compliance with, and claims for compensation under any statute or common law and health and safety requirements) beyond retrospective reimbursement of the individual's salary within The Horse Trust's approved grant for the Equine Scholarship.

Reports

9. The **scholar** must submit a written progress report in a specified form to The Horse Trust by the 9th month into the programme in hard format and on disc and then annually for each year that the grant is awarded, for example if the scholarship begins on 1st January the report will be due by the 1st September each year. A final report is due within three months of the award's agreed date of conclusion, this report must be in addition to a 1000 word summary submitted in hard format and on disc.

The **supervisor** must submit a confidential written report of the scholar's progress by the 9th month into the programme and then annually for each year including a final report three months after the conclusion of the scholarship programme. The report must include a recommendation as to whether the award should be renewed for each coming year.

Abeyance and Absence

10. Scholars are expected to complete the scholarship programme in a single continuous period (apart from authorised absences). The placing of awards in abeyance is therefore not encouraged. However, where the host institution considers that abeyance is necessary, it should contact The Horse Trust immediately.
11. Prolonged absences, for medical or other reasons, which might interfere with the completion of the scholarship programme must be reported to The The Horse Trust, which may, in consequence, apply further conditions to the award.

Financial Matters

12. Awards can commence from 1st January and payments will be made twice yearly on agreed dates. The Horse Trust expects the award to commence as soon as possible after 1st January and at least within three months of this date. The Horse Trust should be advised of the official start date.
13. The amount awarded for the Equine Scholarship grant is predetermined by The Horse Trust.

The grant is principally intended to provide for payment of an annual stipend to the scholar. The amount of stipend is determined by The Horse Trust. Tuition fees must be notified to The Horse Trust on an annual basis and will be paid biannually with the stipend. Departmental expenses and the scholar's expenses can all be claimed for separately each year. Claims for such expenses must be made within 14 months of the beginning of the budgetary year in which the expense was incurred, they must be completed on Home of Rest forms and be supported by relevant receipts. A budgetary under spend cannot be carried forward to the following year. The budgetary year is determined by the start date of the Scholarship.

Indirect costs and overheads will not be met by The Horse Trust (this includes telephone, fax, stationary and postage costs) - grants are awarded on the basis that institutions agree to pay these costs.

14. The supervisor (applicant) will be responsible for advising his/her finance office of the terms and conditions under which the grant has been approved.

The Horse Trust reserves the right to undertake a financial and/or clinical audit of a scholarship which it is funding at any time during the period of the award.

15. The Horse Trust retains the discretionary ownership of all equipment purchased with grant money. This equipment may not be used for commercial gain during the scholarship without The Horse Trust's prior written approval (registered equine hospitals would not normally be eligible for the purchase of equipment)

Publications and Acknowledgements

16. The Horse Trust's support must be acknowledged in any publications or oral presentations arising from the work. Reprints/copies of all published articles should be sent to The Horse Trust.

Applicants must also agree to publication of the information on The Horse Trust Internet web page. Authorship will be duly recognised.

17. At least one substantial paper arising from the scholarship programme should be published in a refereed journal during the award.

Change of Supervisor

18. If the supervisor moves to another institution, or if a change of supervisor becomes necessary for any reason, The Horse Trust's approval for the residency to continue under a new supervisor must be sought and received in writing in advance.

Commercially Valuable Information and Patenting

19. If the supervisor or the grant holding institute are of the opinion that the results of work during the scholarship should be considered for patent protection and/or commercial exploitation, The Horse Trust should immediately be informed in writing and its approval sought, before such results are published or provided to, and any negotiations entered into with any industrial or commercial organisation. The Horse Trust's approval may be conditional upon it receiving a share of any financial benefit arising.

Results which could warrant commercial exploitation must be considered for patent protection by the grant holding institution. Publication of the results must be delayed until such consideration and any consequent patenting have taken place.

The latter must be undertaken without unnecessary delay. The Horse Trust must be kept informed during and at the outcome of any patent application.

Termination of Equine scholarships and Withdrawal of Grants

20. Grants may be withdrawn in full or in part when The Horse Trust is not satisfied with the scholar's progress, when the scholar/supervisor/ or the grant-holding institution fails to comply with these terms and conditions, or for other reasons.

If a scholar for whatever reason fails to complete the course, the institution may have to reapply for the grant.

The Horse Trust also reserves the right at any time and without notice to terminate Equine Scholarships in full. In such cases, The Horse Trust will reimburse expenditure properly incurred up to the date of the termination and will not be liable for any matters or circumstances, including financial, after this date. The Horse Trust would reimburse salaries contractually payable by the host institution to resident scholars in lieu of the contracted notice period (or part thereof as appropriate).

Acceptance of Grants

21. Grants offered are not valid until they and their terms and conditions have been accepted in writing by the supervisor and any other individuals whose acceptance may be required by The Horse Trust.

Changes to the Terms and Conditions

22. The Horse Trust reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time. Institutions with existing grants will be informed of changes and The Horse Trust will seek to ensure that existing grant holders are not disadvantaged by such changes. The Horse Trust may, in relation to any individual Equine Scholarship, lay down further terms and conditions of grants, or vary any of these terms and conditions, as it sees fit.