

VARSIITY

The Varsity Trust

Information for Applicants

2025 – 2026

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About the Trust

The Varsity Trust is a unique venture, created by a deed dated 1 July 1992, with the principal object of furthering the education of students in journalism by the provision of funds in the form of scholarships, bursaries or grants to students attending Universities in Cambridge.

Varsity provides a unique learning opportunity for those interested in journalism and photojournalism to experience the elements of the trade in a professionally-run environment, with the same pressures of deadlines, accuracy and quality to be met as at any other publication. The Trust seeks to reward those with a passion for journalism by assisting them with their first steps into the professional world.

If suitable candidates present themselves, the Trustees intend to make an award or awards to a student or students about to graduate or recent graduates from either the University of Cambridge or ARU who intend to undertake approved journalistic training of any sort in 2024/2025, this includes contributing to the cost of full and part-time diploma courses provided by The National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ).

Trust awards are tailored to individual circumstances, but, normally, are intended to make a significant contribution to the tuition fees for the training concerned. The maximum award to any individual will be £5,000.

How to Apply

Applications are now being accepted for the Varsity Trust Scholarships for the academic year 2025/2026 for those planning to undertake postgraduate training in journalism.

The deadline for receiving applications is midday on 10th April 2025.

To apply, send a single PDF file comprising the following:

1. A covering letter.
2. Your CV.
3. The names and contact details of three referees.
4. "Cuttings" demonstrating three examples of your work in student journalism (1 cutting per page - maximum three sheets of 'A4' total).
5. Details of any other potential sources of funding and income for your intended course. In addition, a detailed breakdown of how you propose to meet the remaining the fees and maintenance costs of the course.
6. A personal statement of approximately 250 words on your motives for becoming a journalist.

Applications should be sent to trust@varsity.co.uk with "Varsity Trust Application" as the subject.

If you have any queries, or require any further information, please email trust@varsity.co.uk

Eligibility

Students may apply before any firm offer of training has been received, but payment of any award will be conditional on the applicant being successful in receiving an offer from their chosen institution *and* after providing confirming documentation that they have actually taken up that place on an approved course of training in journalism.

The Trustees hope to be in a position to make an election or elections early in Easter full term.

Submissions will be discussed by the Trustees and shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview.

While experience of student journalism is a pre-requisite, applicants need not necessarily have specific experience in writing for *Varsity* or its associated publications.

Applications will be accepted from members of the University of Cambridge and associated institutions - and Anglia Ruskin University.

Trustees

Dr Mike J Franklin: (Chairman)

Quondam Fellow, Hughes Hall, formerly Admissions Tutor, Tutor, Praelector and Director of Studies in History and in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, Hughes Hall, Former Fellow of Wolfson College, Chairman of Varsity Publications Ltd.

Dr Raphael Lyne:

Reader in Renaissance Literature in the Faculty of English, Fellow and Director of Studies in English, Murray Edwards College.

Peter Davies:

Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, USA, formerly Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, University of Oregon, USA, former Business Manager, Varsity Publications Ltd.

Alan Bookbinder:

Graduate of St Catherine's College, Oxford. Former Master of Downing College and previously a journalist and producer for the BBC.

Varsity Trust Scholars

1994: S Caplan
1995: H O'Grady
1996: A Carter, K Newton
1997: K Giannone, I Wall
1998: C Watson
1999: P Taneja, E Tofield
2000: Jane Mulkerrins
2001: Charlotte O'Brien
2002: Holden Frith
2003: Willow Burton
2004: Emma Baker
2005: Ellen Jones
2006: Zoe Smeaton, Katy Watson
2007: Mary Bowers
2008: Katherine Faulkner
2009: Katy Lee
2010: Elliot Ross
2011: Lauren York
2012: Alice Hancock
2013: Tom Belger, Charlotte Keith
2014: Alice Udale-Smith
2015: Hazel Shearing
2016: Decca Muldowney
2017: Lauren Brown
2018: Elizabeth Howcroft
2019: No award made
2020: Sarah Collins
2021: Joanna Heywood
2022: Stephanie Stacey
2023: Fergal Jeffreys
2024: Isabel Dempsey

Holders of Varsity Trust Bursaries

1994: J Oliver
1995: A Kwatra

1997: V Brignell
1998: S Foley
1999: Emily Tofield
2000: Sarah McMillan
2001: Alex Horne
2002: Alexander Marshall, Elizabeth Willcocks
2003: Emma Charlton, Steve Nowottny
2004: Martin Hemming
2005: Ruth Barnett

2007: Charly Lester
2008: Natalie Woolman
2009: Sarah Rainey
2010: Megan Boot

2016: Alex Davis
2017: Peter Rutzler
2018: Anna Menin

2020: Ellie House

2023: Lotte Brundle
2024: Gwenno Robinson

Varsity Annual Prizes

1992: P Prabhakaram; C Scobie; J Price; D McManus; Mark Weatherall
1993: R Grange; J Price; R Barnwell; A Petridis
1994: A E Johnson; B Harford; A Petridis; S Caplan
1995: F Mountford; P Fulis; C Elmes; E Halliwell
1996: O Burkemann; A Burke; C Elmes; I Wall
1997: R Russell; C Cheirakal; A Burke; D Norrish
1998: N Stanton; A Harris; S Michaka; S Laitner
1999: A Horne; S F Said; M Blank; D Rookwood
2000: T Royston; A Smith; A Faludy, T Catchesides
2001: T Catchesides, L Thompson, E Day, S Brealey
2002: S Wright, C Mispratt, D Thorley, R Sharp
2003: I Hollingshead, M Hemming, Tom Ebbutt, V Flower, Matt Orme
2004: Sam Richardson, Andrew Sims, Amol Rajan, E Jones, J Wood
2005: James Dacre, Jess Holland, Adam Edelshain, Ned Beauman
2006: Rachel Divall, Mary Bowers, Jon Swaine, Ifti Qurashi
2007: Joe Gosden, Jonny Ensall, Michael Derringer
2008: Anna Trench, Dylan Spencer-Davidson, Patrick Kingsley, Katy Lee
2009: Emma Hogan, Clementine Dowley
2011: Helen Mackreath, Osama Siddiqui, Charlotte Wu, David Rosenberg, Charlotte Sewell, Hugo Gye