

# **Varsity**

**The Varsity Trust**

**Information for Applicants**

**2026 - 2027**

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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 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 2026/2027; 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 2026/2027 for those planning to undertake postgraduate training in journalism.

The deadline for receiving applications is midday on 9th April 2026.

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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 - including 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  
2025: Sophie Denny, Evie Selby, Felix Armstrong,  
Elizabeth Bratton

## 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 Nowotny  
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