



What is TalentAid?

The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys already gives Grants and Scholarships to many hundreds of young people at schools, universities and colleges. These are mainly for children of Masonic families where the income has reduced resulting in a degree of poverty. This is usually due to death, desertion or disability of a parent.

Each year the Trust also receives many requests to support gifted children of the family of Freemasons. Often there is no “distress”, just an inability to afford the additional costs associated with having a talented child. Some requests are for fees at specialist schools or colleges, such as the Royal Academy of Dance or the Guildhall School of Music. Some are for fees at Public Schools that have a national reputation in a particular field, such as Millfield for sport or Wells Cathedral School for music. Other requests are for lower levels of support, such as specialist sports coaching, advanced music lessons, purchase of instruments or equipment, and travel expenses to take part in competitions. The Trust sets aside an annual sum specifically to support such talented children and young people.

Am I eligible?

Candidates must be particularly gifted in sport, music, dance, drama or art and need to be able to demonstrate this by performance at recognised examinations, performance at regional and national levels, gaining entry to highly competitive schemes, groups, or courses etc. Grants are **not** available so that an academically gifted child can attend a better school. Candidates must have an appropriate Masonic qualification. All grants are means-tested.

Masonic record

Young people will be eligible for TalentAid if their father, step-father, grandfather, or guardian, whether or not they currently live with him, is a subscribing Freemason under the English Constitution; or is no longer subscribing but is in good standing; or was in good standing at the time of his death. There is no qualifying period of membership, but length of membership may be considered when prioritising applications.

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Recurring grants

A Recurring Grant will generally cover the cost of school or college fees (subject to a parental contribution based on income and less any support from other sources such as school scholarships). Once a Recurring Grant has been awarded, the recipient will have the “guarantee” of the grant being available for each year of the course, subject to an annual review of family finances and the child’s performance at school or college.

Non-recurring grants

Non-Recurring Grants are awarded on a one-off or on a yearly-renewable basis.

How do I apply?

You can find the TalentAid application form available for download on the main TalentAid webpage. If you think you are eligible to apply for support, please complete this form and return it to the Trust, together with the relevant supporting documentation. For any further information, please contact the Trust.

Recommended Deadline

Following receipt of your application, we may ask one of our Welfare Advisers to visit you at your home. Although we deal with all applications as soon as possible, the application process can be lengthy. All decisions on applications are made by the Trust’s Petitions Committee who meet four times a year.

If you are applying for assistance with the cost of school or university fees, or require a decision before the start of the academic year in September, please submit your application form to us as soon as possible, preferably by the end of April of the year in which the course commences. If your form is received after this your application may not be considered before the beginning of the academic year.

Any questions?

We are always very happy to address any questions you might have or give you any additional information you might need. Please get in touch by:

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