Royal Female School of Art (RFSA) – WM College Bursary Guidelines

These Bursaries are for students in financial hardship who will not be able to pursue their studies without assistance.

GRANT APPLICATION FORM: RFSA Bursary Application Form 2026/27

KEY: Foundation Arts Diploma = FAD, Creative Arts and Creative Digital Media = CACDM

Timetable	
What	**Date**
RFSA information and application guidance	**FAD:** Tuesday 22 February 2027 **CACDM:** Monday 12 April 2027
Deadline for applications	**FAD:** Tuesday 16 March **CACDM:** Monday 12 April 2027
Decisions sent out	**FAD:** Week beginning 20 April **CACDM:** As and when application outcome decided
Deadline for filling out the payment form and giving to finance department	**FAD:** Week beginning 19 April **CACDM:** Last Monday of each term.

What is the RFSA bursary?

The Royal Female School of Art Foundation promotes the education of men and women in Greater London in the subjects of Fine Art and Design, particularly those students who have added pressures in their lives due to financial hardship, removing barriers to participation and engagement in studies and care responsibilities. To achieve its aims, the Foundation provides financial assistance to individuals and educational organisations.

For the academic year, RFSA has awarded a grant to Working Men's College to be used as bursaries for adult (18+) learners enrolled onto Creative Art and Creative Digital Media Courses.

Working Men's College Bursary Policy

With the help of RFSA WM College aims to support adult learners living in Greater London, who fall under the following categories: single parents, students with care responsibilities, students with disabilities, students on very low incomes, and mature students with no other significant means of support. WM College will disperse the RFSA grant as a bursary as part payment towards eligible courses where the bursary can be used towards costs including but not limited to Course Fees, Course Materials, Travel, Childcare and End of Year Projects.

Who can apply?

To apply for an RFSA bursary the following criteria apply:

- You are resident in Greater London
- Enrolled on a course within Creative Arts or Creative Digital Media course at WM College within the academic year
- Evidence of financial hardship
- You are not eligible for government living expenses student support (e.g. due to course level, age, previous degrees, etc.), or you are eligible and have applied but failed to obtain a grant or loan – *this is applicable to Foundation Arts Diploma learners only*
- You have not been engaged in any disciplinary procedures.
- You have an attendance record of minimum 85% to date, (excluding agreed absence with your tutor due to extenuating circumstances)
- You are not in arrears with the college for another course. If you have an outstanding payment to the college then your application will not be considered.

Please note, if a learner withdraws from the course, they will be required to return any funds awarded for the particular period, failure to return the funds will result in immediate legal proceedings against the individual and third parties may be involved to recoup the funds.

Application

Please use the following application form: RFSA Bursary Application Form 2026/27

Overall, your application should be no more than 500 words and include costings (and links to websites that evidence these costings)

The application form will ask you to outline how you meet the following criteria and why you should be considered for a RFSA bursary. Please respond to each question in the form.

1. Why you are not eligible for a government loan/grant for your living expenses.
2. How you have pursued other means of support and failed.
3. What you intend to use the funds for- should you be successful. Be as detailed as you can and include research which demonstrates you have selected the most cost-effective and environmentally conscious options.
4. How you think obtaining the grant will help you progress/achieve a higher grade.

Other information needed:

- Your application will require a reference from someone who knows you in a professional capacity (such as a tutor or employer). Please ask their permission first then, once they have agreed, add their name to the form
- Sign the declaration that the information provided is accurate.

Evidence we may ask for

To help us assess your application, you will normally be asked to provide:

- a completed RFSA Bursary Application Form;
- evidence of income or benefits (where applicable);
- evidence of financial hardship;
- a short personal statement explaining why you need support and how the bursary will help;
- tutor endorsement where appropriate.

Additional evidence may be requested if further information is required.

Making the decision

Your application will be assessed by a bursary panel made up of representatives from Head of Learner Experience, Learner Services, Curriculum Managers and Additional Learner Support. In some cases, the decision will be made immediately if sufficient evidence is at hand during the application process, in most cases for Foundation Arts Diploma (FAD) learners a panel would normally convene and communicate the decision accordingly. **Please note: any bursary application decisions made are FINAL and there is no appeal against any decisions.**