



aspiringsolicitors
foundation

The AS Foundation

Tips for a successful grant application

“Removing financial barriers to the
legal profession for aspiring solicitors.”

Have you read the application form properly?

All the information needed to make a successful application is on the 'Apply' page of our website: www.theasf.org.uk/apply

The most common reasons why any application may be declined are as follows:

- **No references have been provided**
- **Applicant has not given us enough detail about their commitment to a career as a solicitor**
- **Applicant is not/does not appear to be socially mobile**
- **Applicant has asked for scholarship for a course they have already started, or not at BPP**
- **Applicant has asked for something which is excluded as per the guidance on our website**
- **Applicant has asked for money – The AS Foundation does not provide money, but the actual resource required.**



The AS Foundation is a social mobility charity. We help people from low-income backgrounds. Socially mobile candidates are still underrepresented in the legal profession and are less likely to be able to afford the resources or studies needed to become a solicitor.

Social Mobility Criteria

Are you eligible to apply?

Did you...

- Attend a **state school** and are the **first generation** of your family to **attend University** OR
- Receive a **scholarship or bursary** because of family income/social mobility status OR
- Consider yourself to be from a **low-income background** OR
- Receive **free school meals** aged 11-16 due to financial hardship OR

Have you...

- Spent time in **local authority care** OR
- Been a **refugee/asylum seeker** OR
- Been in paid employment during A-levels for 20+ hours per week OR
- Been in paid employment during undergraduate degree for 10+ hours per week.

Applications will be thoroughly checked, and action will be taken if anything is found to be inaccurate or untruthful. In this case the application will be rejected and the right to appeal will be waived. The AS Foundation may refer matters to the relevant authorities if any fraud is suspected.

Commitment to a career as a solicitor

- Even if you fit all/most of the social mobility criteria, you need to be able to demonstrate some evidence of a commitment to a career in law, otherwise you will be declined.
- This could be that you are studying law, applying for a GDL, taking legal work experience, or attending open days for law firms.
- Where applicants often fail on this is the lack of detail. We don't want you to write an essay, but we expect more than one or two lines. You can write it in bullet points or as a list.



References

Make sure you have one (1) reference.

- Preferably from an organisation email, e.g., `firstname@theasf.org.uk` or `firstname@law.ac.uk` – this makes it easier to verify that the contact is a real person and that it's not you pretending to be a referee.
- Academic references are preferred, if possible.
- It is **your** responsibility to get your referee to send us a reference. You may need to chase them if they do not confirm with you that they have provided one.

We decline any applications that do not receive a reference within 30 days.

We cannot accept friends or family as referees.

Please note: Outlook, Hotmail and Gmail email addresses may be blocked for incoming or outgoing messages. There is nothing The AS Foundation can do to overcome this, and it can mean messages not getting to the intended recipient.

Grant types

We provide:

- **Laptops**

Windows only unless there is a valid reason for needing a specific model due to accessibility requirements.

- **Part-funded scholarships**

BPP University only. See next slide for more details.

- **Business clothing**

Applicants need to have a placement/interview or event confirmed.

- **Study resources**

E.g. textbooks, online subscription to the Economist, Financial Times.

- **Travel tickets**

To events/work experience/interviews only. We **do not** fund travel to and from university.

- **Other**

We very rarely grant anything from this category, but we have done in the past. This is generally for other material objects such as printers, monitors or accessibility needs.

We do not provide financial support for:

- **Living costs including telecom bills**
- **Any type of business start-up**
- **Gap years/overseas projects**
- **Medical treatment**
- **Non-personal expenditure such as community projects**
- **Things that have already been paid for.**

Scholarships

- **Scholarships are not cash bursaries.**

A scholarship from the AS Foundation is credit towards your tuition fees at BPP University. The funds go directly to BPP once we have confirmed you have enrolled on your course.

- **Scholarships are for BPP University only.**

We do not currently offer scholarships for any other universities.

- **We do not fund retrospectively.**

If you have already started your course, it is too late to apply for funding.

- **Apply with enough time before you start your course.**

For example, if you apply in August for a course starting in September, it is too late as applications take up to 45 days to be reviewed.

