

RCN Foundation Marcia Mackie Fund Information to Applicants

1. Background

The RCN Foundation is offering financial support of up to £1,000 from the Marcia Mackie Fund to nurses currently registered in the UK and working in Northern Ireland in any sector. Marcia Mackie CBE was the Chair of the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority and Chair of the Benevolent Fund for Nurses in Northern Ireland during the 1970s. She was married to James Mackie of Mackie's Foundry on the Springfield Road, Belfast, and her donation to RCN Northern Ireland aims to assist nurses who wish to enhance nursing through personal professional development or research investigation.

2. Eligibility Criteria for the Scheme

Those who wish to apply must be:

- nurses currently registered in the UK and working in Northern Ireland in any sector; and who will commence the **funded activity between 1 September 2025 and 1 September 2026**

Previous RCN Foundation bursary successful applicants are eligible to apply provided they have fulfilled all the terms of their previous award(s).

First time applicants may be given priority.

Student nurses and members of RCN Foundation Board are not eligible under this scheme.

3. Items Eligible for Funding

- a. Fees for courses*
- b. Travel - public transport at the cheapest available rate is preferred. Travel by car and parking costs will be considered where compelling reasons are given, in which case the mileage rate will be 45p per mile.
- c. Accommodation.
- d. Staff replacement costs for courses requiring absence from work of at least five consecutive days or a total absence of six or more days per calendar year. (Evidence from the employer of reimbursement expenses will need to be provided).
- e. Research costs (for example, focus groups).
- f. Project costs for personal professional development projects (not service development).
- g. Costs for implementing and/or publishing/promoting the learning/outcomes where these are not made available commercially**

* Subject to the qualifying date, fees for courses other than those at post-graduate level and above may be funded in full and for the full length of the course, subject to the scheme limits and such amount and period as requested by the applicant.

* Applicants seeking funding for courses at post-graduate level, e.g. PG Diploma, MA, PhD, will be expected to make a personal contribution of at least 10% towards fees. However, the panel may take a discretionary view in cases where a separate rationale for the 'balance' is set out by the applicant and the panel feel a compelling case has been made for full funding, subject to the scheme limits.

* Where funding is available from another funder we may fund part of the costs.

* Where funding is sought for a second/subsequent academic year, a bursary would be subject to satisfactory completion of the first/previous year.

* The panel will normally give a lower priority to courses that they believe the employer has a responsibility to fund.

**Funding to attend a conference will only be considered where there will be clear benefit to the education of nurses for work in Northern Ireland as an outcome of your attendance.

4. Items not Eligible for Funding

- Activities taking place before the start date (i.e. before 1 September 2025).
- Books.
- IT equipment or software.
- Meals and subsistence.
- Taxis/mileage at full rate except where there is a medical or other compelling reason.
- Service development project costs.

5. Funding Available

Bursaries of up to £100 each are available.

6. Terms and Conditions

Your application will only be assessed if:

- You meet the eligibility criteria set out above.
- One copy of the application together with the requested supporting information, including references, are sent to grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk

Those who submit incomplete or late applications will be ineligible.

If you are successful, the standard RCN Foundation bursary terms and conditions will apply. Please email grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk to obtain a copy.

On completion of the funded activity you will be required to provide a written report to the RCN Foundation and give a presentation to the RCN Northern Ireland Board or to return funds on withdrawal of the funded activity.

7. Adjudication Process

All applications will be judged by a selection panel of at least three judges who will make a recommendation to the RCN Foundation Grants Committee.

The RCN Foundation Grants Committee will decide the final allocation of bursary awards, taking into account the panel's recommendations, the funds available and the agreed priorities for this programme.

The decision of the RCN Foundation Grants Committee is final.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application, but we no longer provide feedback for unsuccessful applications.

8. Application Enquiries

If you have an enquiry about your application, then please contact grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk