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Saltire Scholarships for Outward Mobility – Information Note

Outward mobility has been identified as a valuable method of providing additional skills that make students and graduates more employable. The opportunities that it offers students to acquire new skills, learn about new cultures and develop broader perspectives are well recognised. The European Union has for many years funded mobility opportunities through the Lifelong Learning Programme and this promises to be significantly enhanced with the proposals for Erasmus for All from 2014. In April 2012, as part of the Bologna Process, the 47 Ministers of the European Higher Education Area signed up to a Europe wide mobility strategy – recognising the benefits and challenges involved in increasing mobility levels.

This Scottish Government fund aims to provide our students with support for further opportunities to study overseas, to make more students mobile - enhancing their skills and ultimately making them more employable. It will be part of the Scotland's Saltire Scholarships programme – providing additional funding for outward mobility to complement that offered to incoming students.

Aims

Saltire Scholarships for Outward Mobility will be funded through a competitive process, open to Scotland's universities, colleges and their student associations.

The aim for 2012/13 fund is to increase the number of students undertaking study or training overseas by funding:

- Mobility for individual students (to be described as Saltire Scholars);
- Structures within institutions and student associations to support outwardly mobile students

Eligibility and criteria for funding

The fund is open to all publically funded Higher Education Institutions, Colleges and Student Associations in Scotland. Applications can be submitted by individual organisations or as a group.

The fund aims primarily to support projects providing funding to the student for their mobility period and we expect applications to focus the vast majority of their work on this aspect. We do recognise though that some organisations may require funding to develop supporting structures.

The funding will be awarded on a match funded basis and this must be clearly demonstrated in the application.

Funding will be awarded to projects on the basis of the following criteria. That they involve or are open to:

- All students who are considered as a “home” student for fee purposes (undergraduate and postgraduate) who have not previously been mobile
- Mobility of any duration to the Scottish Government’s key partner countries: Canada, China, India and the USA
- Mobility of less than three months to those countries in the European Higher Education Area (recognising that Erasmus funding is only available for mobility of three months minimum)
- The award of credits or the recognition of learning outcomes attained via the Higher Education Achievement Report, Diploma Supplement or similar documents
- Widening access to the full spectrum of students, including those from traditionally “hard to send” areas such as students from lower income groups (who have little or no experience of travel overseas), students with family commitments, students with caring responsibilities and students with disabilities.
- A clear plan for sustaining the work beyond the period of funding

Project bids will be scored in the following areas:

- Collaboration
- Evidence of Ability
- Value for money
- Widening Access
- Recognition of learning
- Sustainability
- Risk Assessment

Staff costs will not normally be funded, although proposals which involve match funding via financial and in-kind contributions from partners will be welcomed.

Funding

A total fund of £130,000 will be available. Each project will be assessed on a case by case basis. There is no minimum or maximum bid. It is expected that the fund will kick-start activity which will be funded by the applicant and other partners in subsequent years. Work is expected to be undertaken during the coming academic session - 2012/13 - with funding to be claimed by 1 March 2013.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to report on their projects every six months with a final report to be submitted at the project end.

Timing

The closing date for applications is **24 August 2012**. Applications will be assessed by an advisory group expected to include representatives from Scottish Government, SAAS, NUS Scotland, British Council and the Scottish Bologna Experts before recommendations are made to Ministers. An announcement of successful bids will be

made by no later than 14 September 2012 to enable projects to commence at the beginning of the 2012/13 academic session.

Scottish Government
July 2012