

## RPS Bursaries

### Introduction

The RPS provides bursaries to individuals to deliver photography projects that might not otherwise get funded. In addition, there are also small sums of money available for other purposes. Full details of what is on offer can be found on the RPS website under 'resources'. Some of the RPS's Groups and Regions have looked to award bursaries as a way of engaging with particular audiences or to support the RPS in delivering on its charitable objectives.

This document is intended to help a Group or Region decide whether a bursary is right for them.

### Practicalities

#### RPS bursaries

The three main RPS bursaries are intended to run annually. They are funded by a legacy and by funds given by external sponsors. Each bursary has clear objective in terms of the type of project it is intended to support e.g. environmental, social documentary, and the intended recipient. The general timeline is:

- Call for applications. This requires a proposal, budget and examples of past work.
- Selection by a small jury
- Award made to an individual. The funding is usually split into two parts with the final instalment made on completion of the project and receipt of a concluding report. An interim update is required from the applicant to ensure that it is on track
- Completion of the project is within an agreed period. It may be followed up from the RPS with, for example, a Journal feature on the project.

At the outset a contract is signed between the RPS and the successful applicant which sets out payment terms, delivery dates for the interim and final project, any conditions relating to the funding, and any rights the RPS has over the use of the project, and future acknowledgement to the RPS by the recipient.

#### What to consider

From a Group or Region perspective, you should consider:

- Is a bursary the best use of your funds on behalf of your membership?
- What are you expecting from the award?
- Is the bursary a one-off, or on-going? For a set period? Can it be funded fully?

- What conditions might be applied in terms of recipients e.g. UK only, age restriction, etc. Are they consistent with UK equality law?
- Who will manage the selection process and what criteria will you use to select?
- Who will manage the recipient during and at the end of the project?
- What are you expecting in terms of using the project e.g. in a Group publication, or RPS Journal, or an exhibition?
- Is the successful project consistent with the RPS's five main aims: inclusion, environmental and social responsibility, member involvement, financial sustainability and profile raising?

### Alternatives

There are alternatives to awarding a project bursary such as mentoring.

### Next steps

If you are confident that a bursary is appropriate for your Group or Region to deliver and your committee has agreed in principle seek advice and feedback from the RPS's Education Manager or the RPS's Director of Programmes. They will have experience to share, examples of previous bursaries, and can supply a sample contract.

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