

MS THERAPISTS EDUCATION FUND

Guidelines

Background

Therapists, both specialist and generalist, play a pivotal role in improving the quality of life of people affected by MS. With the current financial constraints within the NHS it is often very difficult for therapists to get financial support to attend education courses to help with their professional development. This lack of financial support means that they can be working without the ability to develop their clinical expertise, evidence-based practice and management skills.

The MS Therapists Education Fund has been set up with contributions from the MS Trust and pharmaceutical industry.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund is to enable therapists to best meet the needs of people with MS by expanding their MS knowledge and skills, and to enable therapists to develop services in their locality. The fund is aimed primarily at physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and psychologists although applications from other therapists will be considered. Specifically it will enable those who are working in a clinical role with people with MS to attend academic courses, conferences, study days or masterclasses to develop their clinical expertise and expand their skills base.

Eligibility

All therapists regulated by the HCPC who work with people with MS will be eligible to apply to the fund. Special consideration will be given to those working at a higher level of practice and to those working solely within the speciality of MS. Priority will be given to staff working within the NHS or social enterprises delivering services to the NHS. Where a person has a caseload which is not 100% MS this will be taken into consideration in assessing the level of the grant given.

Rules

- Applicants must submit a typed and well-presented request to the fund using the specified grant application form that can be downloaded from the [MS Trust website](#)
- An up to date CV **must** be sent with the application form.
- The maximum funding available is outlined in the table below; with a maximum allocation of £2,000 per individual applicant per year. The amount awarded is at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

Course	Maximum funding available
MS Trust conference	75%
Other MST courses, e.g. Development Module	75%
External courses and higher education	75%

- Evidence must be included within the application to show that the NHS or other possible funding sources have been approached before applying to the MS Therapists Education Fund.
- In the case of applications for funding for higher education, requests for funding over more than one year will be considered.
- No requests for travel or accommodation costs will be considered.
- The provider of the balance of costs **must** be stated in the application. Self-funding is acceptable.
- The grant will only be paid direct to the provider of the educational course.
- Applications are sent to the Steering Committee for consideration and approval, on the 1st of each month. Applications received after the 1st will not be sent for review until the following month. Once reviewed, applicants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible.
- Once the grant has been paid, failure to attend the course will result in a requirement to refund the award.
- After completing an academic course a report is required outlining how the course met the learning objectives as specified on the application form. This report should be submitted within one month of the end of the course. Failure to do so may require re-payment of the grant.
- If a person applies for a subsequent award the total amount they have been allocated will be considered when assessing the level of the grant awarded. In particular grants made within the last two years will be assessed.
- For larger funding awards, the applicant may be asked to write an article for the MS Trust's quarterly publication or for the website.
- The fund runs over a calendar year and is of a finite size. Once the monies have been allocated no further monies will be available in that calendar year.

For further details email: hpteam@mstrust.org.uk

June 2021