



## **Blue Star Foundation**

Policy on grant-making – November 2018

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### **Objective of the Foundation**

1. The objective of the Foundation is to advance the physical education, for the benefit of the public, of students at Newcastle University, by participation in the sport of rowing through the provision of facilities, equipment and financial support.

### **Principles in making grants**

2. The Trustees make grants at their discretion to advance the objective and charitable purpose of the Foundation. Given limited funds, they are not under any obligation to provide a grant, even if the application is fully compliant with this policy. The Trustees' decisions on grants are final.
3. Any adult over 18 can apply to the Foundation for a grant, but preference will be given to grants coming from verified students of the University. As rowing is a team sport, the Trustees will prioritise applications that are supported by any student rowing organisation at the University. Such applications should be endorsed by a member of the managing committee of that organisation, usually (but not necessarily) its President, Chair or equivalent.
4. The Trustees believe it is important to ensure the sustainable development of rowing at the University. For that reason, grant applications that can show evidence that they contribute to a long-term plan, or will have an impact over a multi-year period, will be prioritised. Equally, applications that only provide a 'one-off' benefit will be deprioritised.
5. The Trustees also believe that, at the present time, the most effective way to advance the Foundation's objective is to fund rowing equipment spending. For this reason, grant applications that align with this criterion will be prioritised.
6. The Trustees believe that encouraging participation and ensuring high performance in sport are both important considerations in advancing the Foundation's objective. In awarding grants, the Trustees attempt to balance these factors, even though they may sometimes be in tension.
7. The above principles are not absolute. All applications will be considered on their merits and applications, even those contrary to these principles, may be considered if they can compellingly show that they advance the objective of the Foundation.
8. The Trustees intend to consider grant applications in a holistic manner, to ensure that the Foundation is awarding grants in a strategically coherent way. This may mean that applications that are strong when looked at in isolation may be deprioritised. For example, repeated strong applications that only benefited men's rowing at the University might be deprioritised in order to award funds to applications that advanced women's rowing.

### **Exclusion from grants**

9. The Trustees do not intend to fund day-to-day spending for rowing activities, such as fuel, transport/travel or insurance costs. The exception to this is where it can be demonstrated that

rowing activity would not occur without specific grant funding, such as to attend a prestigious international race or selection trials for the GB rowing squad.

10. The Trustees will not fund any social activities, even if in connection with rowing at Newcastle University.
11. The Trustees consider that, at the present time, it is not appropriate for the Foundation to award rowing scholarships to students. This is due to the limited resources available to the Foundation and the administrative challenges involved in running such a scheme.

### **Grant applications**

12. Grant applications must be made formally in writing to the Trustees. Verbal applications or informal written applications will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to use the form provided when making an application.
13. When applying for a grant, applicants must provide information that:
  - a. sets out how the resources applied for will be used, whether funds from other sources are being sought, and how this will advance the objective of the Foundation;
  - b. explains how many people are likely to benefit from the grant each year, and what the characteristics of the beneficiaries are likely to be (e.g. gender, skill level in rowing);
  - c. sets out how the Trustees will be able to verify that any funds provided will be used for their intended purposes;
  - d. enables the Trustees to contact the applicant, to make suitable inquiries to verify the information provided in the application, and to undertake appropriate due diligence.
14. Grant applications must be accompanied by a signed (or electronically authorised) statement confirming that all information provided is correct.

### **Assessment of grants**

15. Grants will be assessed by the Trustees. The Trustees will not delegate the decisions around grant-making to any individual or committee.
16. The Trustees may ask for further information from the applicant before making a decision.
17. The Trustees will normally consult representatives from student rowing organisations at the University, as well as professional University coaching staff, to inform their decisions on applications. However, the final decision on an application will be made by the Trustees only.
18. The Trustees aim to make a decision on each grant application within 28 days.
19. The Foundation has only limited financial resources. For that reason, the Trustees may decide to part-fund a grant application or to defer awarding funding until the Foundation can award such funding at a later date. The Foundation may also be unable to provide funding for applications that do fit the criteria and priorities above.
20. Where a grant makes up a large proportion of the Foundation's financial resources, the Trustees may consult the members before making a decision or refer the matter to a General Meeting, as they consider appropriate.

21. The Trustees may provide reasons or an explanation when making a grant decision but are not under any obligation to do so.

**Evaluation and monitoring**

22. The Trustees consider it essential to properly monitor the use of funding awarded through its grants. The Foundation will normally use restricted funding when providing funds to other organisations or apply funds directly itself.
23. As grant applications differ, the Trustees will set evaluation requirements bespoke to each application. This could include written reports on the use of grant funds or monitoring visits by representatives of the Foundation.