



Student Travel Awards 2026

Guidelines for Applicants

LIST OF AWARDS

- RSA Barns-Graham Travel Award (£2,000)
- RSA Blackadder Houston Bequest ECA Travel Awards (2x £3,000)

RSA BARNs-GRAHAM TRAVEL AWARD (£2,000)

ABOUT

The RSA Barns-Graham Travel Award (£2,000) provides a travel and research opportunity for graduating and postgraduate students. Funded by the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Charitable Trust and administered by the Royal Scottish Academy, the award consists of:

- A monetary award of £2,000 to fund travel outside the UK for a period of research and development for a new body of work.
- An exhibition of selected completed work at the Royal Scottish Academy at a future date.
- The donation of work into the prestigious RSA Permanent Collections.

ELIGIBILITY

- Entrants must work predominantly in painting, printmaking or sculpture.
- Entrants must either be undergraduates graduating in summer 2026 or currently studying at postgraduate level at one of the following Scottish art schools: Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, Edinburgh College of Art, Glasgow School of Art, and University of Highlands and Islands.

RSA BLACKADDER HOUSTON BEQUEST TRAVEL AWARDS (£3,000)

ABOUT

The RSA Blackadder Houston Bequest Travel Awards (£3,000) provide a travel and research opportunity for two graduating and postgraduate drawing and painting students from Edinburgh College of Art. Funded by the Blackadder Houston Bequest and administered by the Royal Scottish Academy, the award consists of:

- Two monetary awards of £3,000 to fund a period of travel for the research and development for a new body of work.

ELIGIBILITY

- Entrants must be painters.
- Entrants must either be undergraduates graduating from Edinburgh College of Art in summer 2026 or currently studying at postgraduate level at Edinburgh College of Art.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are completed online via Submittable through one application process for both awards.
- Applicants are required to select which awards they wish to be considered for, taking into account the eligibility and entry requirements for each award, and then indicate an order of preference. It is acceptable to apply for both awards (if eligible) and also for the separate RSA John Kinross Scholarship if eligible.
- Applicants are required to enter a Statement of Practice (max. 200 words) and Proposal (max. 200 words) which should indicate intended travel location and how the artist aims to further develop and enhance their practice during this period. Applicants will be assessed on coherency of the proposed project and the potential to further develop and enhance their practice. Should you prefer, you can record and upload your Statement of Practice and Proposal as a single audio file (.mp3, .m4a or .wav), instead of a written response. The audio file (max. 5 minutes) must be uploaded to your Submittable application and be no more than 400MB in size.
- Artists are required to upload visual material in support of the application
- A maximum of 6 JPEG images or up to 3 minutes of video files may be uploaded.
- Please consider that should you wish to submit a mix of video and JPEGs, every 30 seconds of video equates to the value of one JPEG.
- Please avoid using composite or multiple images per slide and do not include captions on the image.
- Please note that a crucial part of the selection process is based on the review of applicants visual material and as such we strongly encourage applicants to submit the highest quality visuals.
- Artists are asked to complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form. These details remain secure and have no bearing on the judging process.
- The application can be re-visited and edited by the applicant until the deadline of Sunday 22 March 2026, 5pm or the application is submitted. It is the artists responsibility to complete and submit the application by the stated deadline. No applications can be accepted after the stated deadline.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Entry conditions and specific criteria for each award must be strictly adhered to or applications may be rejected.
- The decision of the selection panel is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Due to the quantity of applications received, feedback on applications cannot be provided.
- The award funds should not be used as a capital grant.
- The award winners will be announced by end of May 2026.
- The award should be completed by May 2027.
- If submitting a collaborative application, one artist should be nominated as the main contact person for correspondence. A collaborative application must keep to the same guidelines and limits as a single artist application.
- The winners are required to submit a short report to the RSA which will be shared with the Trustees of that award. This report must be submitted within 6 weeks on completion of the award.

- The copyright of all work remains with the artist, but it is a condition of entry that the RSA, and the Trustees of each award, reserve the right of reproduction of all submitted and resultant works for publicity/marketing/educational/reference purposes in connection with each award.
Personal information supplied by applicants on application forms will be held securely by the RSA in accordance with The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Please note we do not have the expertise or specific knowledge to offer tax advice for individuals in receipt of awards and funding. We advise you visit HMRC's website for information about receiving funding, awards, bursaries and grants, or consult with a qualified expert. You may also want to look at the information provided by Art Quest on the subject [here](#)

Applicants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Coherency of proposed project and the potential to further develop and enhance practice.
- Quality of visual materials submitted.*
- * Please note that a crucial part of the selection process is based on the review of applicant's visual material and as such we strongly encourage applicants to submit the highest quality visual material.

Applicants are also welcome to apply to the RSA John Kinross Scholarships (please refer to guidelines for each award to check eligibility).

Application Deadline:
Sunday 22 March 2026, 5pm

Contact:
opportunities@royalscottishacademy.org
The Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL



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