

# UKCP Bursary 2026 guidelines

## A message from the UKCP CEO

I am excited to announce the launch of this year's UKCP Bursary. This fund is designed to provide financial support to those training to become UKCP psychotherapists and psychotherapeutic counsellors.

UKCP practitioners profoundly impact many lives throughout their careers, often assisting hundreds or even thousands of individuals. By supporting more people to enter this profession, we can expand our ability to offer much-needed help to those who seek it.

We recognise that the journey to becoming a psychotherapist or psychotherapeutic counsellor can be financially challenging. Besides tuition, there are costs such as supervision and personal therapy. Students and trainees are vital to the future of psychotherapy, which is why the UKCP Bursary aims to strengthen the profession by supporting those from under-represented groups and enabling individuals from all backgrounds to complete their studies and contribute to the workforce.

If you're in need of financial assistance and meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage you to submit your application.

Kind regards,

Jon Levett

UKCP CEO

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## Introduction

The UKCP Bursary is a fund created to support those studying and training to be psychotherapists and psychotherapeutic counsellors and who may need financial assistance. As part of its commitment to improving equality and diversity within the profession, UKCP is proud to have offered bursaries to support student and trainee members for the past 10 years and is pleased to announce the launch of the UKCP Bursary 2026. We would like to invite all eligible candidates to apply.

Bursaries will be awarded at £750 per successful applicant and will be paid directly to their training organisation. Awards will be based on an assessment of the financial needs and personal circumstances of eligible UKCP students and trainees. Applicants must also demonstrate a genuine commitment to the psychotherapy or psychotherapeutic counselling profession. All applications will be assessed by UKCP's bursary panel.

## Eligibility and requirements

We recommend checking the eligibility flowcharts available on the [UKCP bursary webpage](#) before applying to ensure you are eligible. Alternatively, you can find them in the appendices section of this document.

- [Bursary eligibility flowchart](#)
- [Membership eligibility flowchart](#)

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be a registered UKCP student or trainee member
- be enrolled on a UKCP-accredited course
- ensure that their training organisation provides a statement of support for their application
- ensure that a professional reference is provided (this could be from a supervisor, academic tutor, psychotherapist, counsellor, mentor, current or previous employer, etc)
- demonstrate a genuine commitment to the psychotherapy or psychotherapeutic counselling profession
- not be in receipt of a different bursary for the same course in the same academic year.

We especially welcome applications from UKCP students and trainees who meet the criteria above and who:

- need financial support due to their personal circumstances (for example, being a single parent, low-income household, carer or similar)
- come from groups which are under-represented in the profession, such as people from minoritised ethnic backgrounds, disabled people (as defined by the [Equality Act 2010](#)) or those from the LGBTQ+ community.

The award of £750 is a contribution towards training fees and is paid directly to the training organisation.

Those who have completed all parts of their training are not eligible to apply.

## Timeline

- Thursday, 4 June 2026, 10am: applications open
- Thursday, 2 July 2026, 12 (noon): applications close
- Thursday, 9 July 2026, 12 (noon): deadline to submit statements of support and professional references
- July 2026: bursary panel to make final decisions
- Applicants will be notified whether they have been successful or not during week commencing by Monday, 3 August 2026

## Application terms and conditions

The application process for the UKCP Bursary 2026 is managed by UKCP. By submitting a bursary application, candidates agree to the terms and conditions of the UKCP Bursary 2026 as set out in this document.

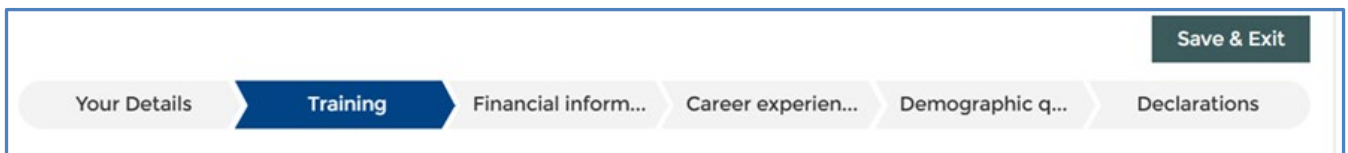
Unfortunately, not all bursary applications are successful due to the volume of applications and the funds available. The decisions of the bursary panel are final and not subject to appeal. The panel is unable to provide feedback.

UKCP student and trainee members will not be able to claim a refund of their membership fees if they cancel their membership following an unsuccessful bursary application.

If successful, the award will be paid directly to the applicant's training organisation. No payments will be made to applicants.

## Application form

The application process is online. The application form will be available in the [members area](#) of the UKCP website when applications open on Thursday, 4 June 2026.



The screenshot shows a horizontal progress bar with six steps: 'Your Details', 'Training', 'Financial inform...', 'Career experien...', 'Demographic q...', and 'Declarations'. The 'Training' step is highlighted in dark blue. A 'Save & Exit' button is located at the top right of the bar.

We aim to minimise unnecessary intrusion into private matters. To determine eligibility, the application form seeks to find out only the necessary personal details, financial circumstances, course information (title, duration, dates, etc) and professional aspirations.

For the bursary application to be considered, applicants must ensure that we receive a statement of support from their training organisation and a professional reference. After the application is submitted through the members area, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing unique links to collect the training organisation's statement of support and the professional reference. These links will lead to forms containing information that their referees will need: the applicant's full name and membership number. **Applicants must ensure that their referees complete and submit the forms before the deadline of Thursday, 9 July 2026 at 12 noon.**

Applicants will receive email confirmations when their training organisation and professional referee complete their submissions. We would advise applicants to keep an eye out for these two confirmation emails, particularly when the deadline approaches, and contact their referees if they are not received.

For any further questions about the application process, please email [bursary@ukcp.org.uk](mailto:bursary@ukcp.org.uk).

## The selection process and UKCP bursary panel assessment

After the deadline for submissions, the UKCP bursary co-ordinator will anonymise all completed applications and send them to the UKCP bursary panel.

The UKCP Board of Trustees has delegated decision-making powers to the UKCP bursary panel. The panel comprises of:

- a nominated UKCP trustee (bursary panel chair)
- a nominated representative of the UKCP Professional Regulatory Committee of the Colleges and Faculties (PRCCF)
- a nominated representative of the UKCP Education, Training and Practice Committee (ETPC)
- a nominated representative of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Intersectionality (EDI-BIIDE) Committee
- a UKCP Honorary Fellow (nominated by the UKCP chair)
- a lay person who is not a UKCP member, not a practitioner and not already on any UKCP committee or board (nominated by the UKCP Board of Trustees).

The UKCP bursary panel will meet online or in person to assess bursary applications. On occasion, it may be necessary for a UKCP bursary co-ordinator to contact an applicant or referee to ensure the information is being correctly interpreted and the assessment is fair.

The UKCP bursary panel will decide which applicants should receive a bursary. The awards will endeavour to reflect UKCP's commitment to diversity and equality and reflect UKCP's cross-modality culture. Please be aware that not all UKCP bursary applications are successful and the decisions of the UKCP bursary panel are final and not subject to appeal or to feedback.

## Award and follow-up

Once the bursary panel has made its decisions, applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by email.

We may ask successful applicants to provide a testimonial, which can be anonymous, to help promote the UKCP Bursary in the future. This could include, for example, an interview for our New Psychotherapist magazine, press releases or written information for our website. Withholding consent will not affect the applicant's chance of success.

## Changes in circumstances

### Withdrawal from training or inability to complete the course

Where the recipient of a bursary withdraws from or ceases to be able to complete their training course, they must notify UKCP by emailing [bursary@ukcp.org.uk](mailto:bursary@ukcp.org.uk) as soon as possible and no later than one month after they have withdrawn from the course. The bursary must be repaid in full if the applicant does not complete the course. Bursaries are not transferable to other individuals or within a training organisation.

### Training organisation not delivering the course

If your training course is cancelled by your training organisation, you must notify UKCP as soon as possible by emailing [bursary@ukcp.org.uk](mailto:bursary@ukcp.org.uk), and no later than one month after the cancellation.

Where UKCP becomes aware that a student or trainee is unable to complete their course due to cancellation, the bursary award may be terminated from a date deemed appropriate by UKCP. The bursary is not transferable.

The UKCP bursary panel will consider the impact on the award on a case-by-case basis.

### Other changes

All other changes of circumstance (for example, illness, injury, maternity) should be reported to UKCP by emailing [bursary@ukcp.org.uk](mailto:bursary@ukcp.org.uk), as soon as possible. The UKCP bursary panel will determine the impact on the bursary award on a case-by-case basis.

## Frequently asked questions

**Q: Am I eligible for a bursary if I am currently on a UKCP-accredited training course but not registered as a UKCP student or trainee member?**

**A: No** – to apply, you must have an active UKCP student or trainee membership. This will allow you to access the application form which is in the members' area of our website.

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**Q: Can I apply for UKCP student or trainee membership at the same time as applying for a UKCP bursary?**

**A: No** – New membership applications must be processed by UKCP and approved by the training organisation before a bursary application can be submitted. We strongly encourage prospective UKCP students and trainees to apply for their memberships as soon as possible so that the bursary application can be completed before the deadline.

**Q: Can my UKCP student/trainee membership application be fast-tracked to meet the deadline for the UKCP Bursary?**

**A: No** – we cannot prioritise any application over others. If you do not have an active UKCP student or trainee membership by the deadline of the UKCP Bursary, you will not be able to access the application form in the UKCP members' area of our website.

**Q: Am I eligible for a bursary if I am a full-clinical member?**

**A: No** – this bursary is designed to support students and trainees. To be eligible, you must be a registered UKCP student or trainee member.

**Q: Can the bursary be paid directly to the applicant?**

**A: No** – payments can only be made to training organisations providing the applicant's UKCP-accredited course.

**Q: Am I still eligible for a bursary if I am in receipt of another source of funding that is not a bursary, such as a grant?**

**A: This will be at the panel's discretion.** All sources of income must be declared on the application form.

**Q: Am I eligible for a bursary if I have finished my training course but I am still registered as a UKCP student or trainee?**

**A: No** – This is not possible as the bursary is paid directly to your training organisation towards the fees for your course.

**Q: Can my bursary application be fast-tracked if there is a deadline for my training course?**

**A: No** – We cannot prioritise any bursary applications over others.

**Q: Can I apply for a bursary award for multiple trainings?**

**A: No** – You can only apply for one UKCP-accredited training at one training organisation per year.

**Q: Is there an approved list of trainings for the UKCP Bursary?**

A: No – applicants on any UKCP-accredited training are eligible to apply for the UKCP Bursary. If you are not sure whether your course is UKCP accredited, please ask your training provider.

**Q: I applied in previous years. Can I apply for a bursary this year again?**

A: Yes – Applicants from previous years can apply this year if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

**Q: I applied and received a bursary award in previous years. Can I apply for a bursary this year again?**

A: Yes – Applicants who were successful in previous years can apply this year if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

**Q: Can I receive feedback if I am unsuccessful?**

A: No – Due to the volume of applications, panel decisions are final and feedback is not provided.

**Q: I need help with my application, who can I contact?**

A: If you need assistance with your application, please email [bursary@ukcp.org.uk](mailto:bursary@ukcp.org.uk).

**Q: Can I save my application form and return to it later?**

A: Yes – You can save your progress and return to your application later before submitting it.

**Q: Is there a place where I can check the status of my application**

A: Yes – You can track the status of your application in your member area, within the section where you submitted your application.

**Q: Who can provide my professional reference?**

A: Your professional reference should be provided by someone who can comment on your suitability, commitment and progress as a student or trainee. This could be a supervisor, academic tutor, psychotherapist, counsellor, mentor, current or previous employer, etc.

The referee will be asked to confirm their professional standing and relationship to you, endorse your UKCP Bursary 2026 application, and provide a supporting statement of up to 300 words outlining your suitability for the bursary

**Q: Who should complete the Training Organisation Statement of Support?**

A: The Training Organisation Statement of Support should be completed by a representative of your training organisation who can confirm your enrolment, standing and progress on your training programme.

They will be asked to confirm that you are a UKCP student or trainee member with their organisation, that you are in good standing, and that they consider you likely to complete your training and become a UKCP-

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registered psychotherapist or psychotherapeutic counsellor. They will also be asked to provide a statement of up to 300 words about your achievements in training to date and any additional comments they wish to share up to 100 words.

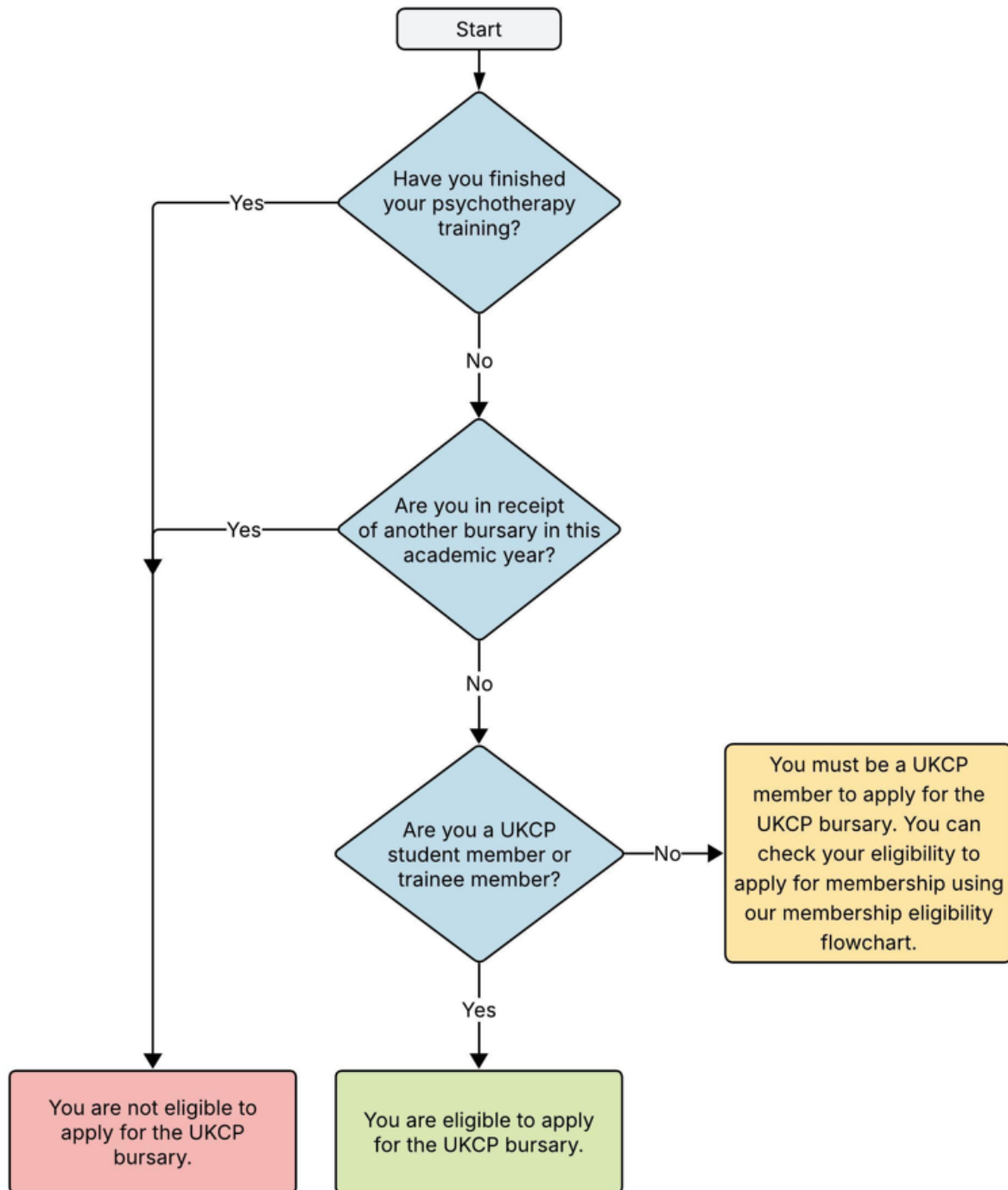
**Q: Can the same person complete both the professional reference and the Training Organisation Statement of Support?**

**A: No** – The professional reference and the Training Organisation Statement of Support must be completed by two different individuals.

After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email containing separate links and instructions for each referee. Your membership number, bursary application number, name and email address will already be pre-populated on both forms.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Bursary eligibility flowchart



Appendix 2 – Membership eligibility flowchart

