

## Margaret Parkinson Scholarship Scheme

### Information and eligibility

#### 1. Background

The RCN Foundation is offering scholarships to support graduates to take up nursing degrees. The Margaret Parkinson Scholarship awards up to £2,500 per year for the duration of the course.

#### 2. Eligibility criteria for this scheme

##### Applicants must:

- be graduates in any academic discipline and have obtained an Upper Second or First class undergraduate degree (or equivalent\*)
- be eligible to apply for a nursing degree or post graduate diploma course, or have already started the course after January 2017.
- Course start dates can fall between **March 2018 and March 2019**
- already have experience of healthcare
- live in the UK and have a firm intent to work in the UK
- be available, if invited, to attend for interview in London in October for which travelling expenses will be refunded
- fully complete the application form
- submit two signed reference letters

##### Please note:

- if honours are not awarded on a degree course, a candidate may still apply but must set out the reasons they do not have an honours degree in a covering letter.
- if the candidate's degree results will not be known by the closing date for applications (e.g. the candidate is still in his/her final year at university or will finish in the middle of the academic year) a candidate may apply but must supply a reference from the university tutor confirming the expected result. If a scholarship is awarded it will be conditional upon the candidate obtaining the predicted result.

\*a Masters' with merit (or above) is not regarded as such "equivalent" for the purposes of this scholarship.

##### Required healthcare experience

Candidates must already have sufficient nursing or healthcare experience relevant to the field they are applying for to demonstrate that they know what nursing involves and have tested their commitment to it. That experience must equate to not less than 500 hours within the past 5 years. This experience may be paid or voluntary or a combination of both.

##### The personal statement

##### Why I want to become a nurse

What skills, knowledge and experience do you have that will help you to become an excellent nurse? Where has your passion and inspiration for nursing come from?

### **What experience I have had that relates to nursing**

What relevant past work or voluntary experience do you have and how long did this last? What did you gain from this?

### **How I think my previous qualifications, especially my degree will help in my nursing career**

What insight will they give you? What knowledge might you use? Will they complement your nurse training? What made you change direction away from your original degree subject?

Please insert a word count at the end. If you exceed the 1500-word limit the excess will not be read or credited. The headings do not count towards your 1500-word limit.

### **Successful applicants will need to:**

- obtain a place on a nursing degree course
- take up, or have taken up, their nursing degree course by 1 April 2018
- submit regular progress reports for the award to be continued each year. Failure to submit the report on time may lead to the award being withdrawn.
- notify the RCN Foundation in the event of withdrawal from the course, in which case at the discretion of the selection committee the candidate may be required to return any funds awarded unless the withdrawal was for bona fide medical reasons

### **Please note:**

- The award of a scholarship is not a guaranteed entry point to nursing.
- Funding is awarded subject to taking up a place and will be paid half yearly subject to confirmation of continued study and prompt receipt of an annual progress report.
- In the final year, £200 will be retained from the final instalment until a final completion report is received.
- Depending on individual circumstances, receipt of a Margaret Parkinson Scholarship might have tax implications and applicants may wish to clarify this with HM Revenue & Customs.

The decision of the selectors is final and detailed feedback will not be available for unsuccessful applicants.

### **3. Timescales**

- **The closing date is strictly 18 October 2018.**
- Applicants shortlisted for interview will be notified by end of October 2018 by email.

- Interviews will take place in October 2018 and all applicants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible after that date.

## **6. How to apply**

Please complete the application form in black ink or type.

All applicants will need to submit 2 references from:

- (1) Current or most recent employer who has knowledge of your experience in a caring role, such as your line manager, employer, or a senior colleague.
- (2) Academic reference.

## **7. How to submit your application**

**Applications must be received by or on 18 October 2018.**

### **By email:**

You can submit your completed application form as an editable pdf via email to [grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk). Please note that by submitting an application by email you are confirming that you have read the Terms and Conditions and agree to abide by them. Please do not include any additional information in the email as this will not be circulated to the selection panel.