

SfP Conductor Support Scheme and Terms and Conditions

What is the SfP Conductor Support Scheme?

The SfP Conductor Support Scheme exists to help participants who find it difficult to meet the full cost of our course fees. We are the largest provider of choral conductor training in the country, and we are pleased to be able to offer a small number of bursaries to help attract and support our participants. Bursary allocations are both limited and highly competitive; indeed, we receive far more applications than we can currently support.

Who is the bursary support scheme for?

Anyone who is applying for one of our conducting courses, for whom the financial cost is prohibitive, and who falls into one of the categories laid out in the next question. Each case is assessed individually. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Who can apply?

We are delighted that our qualifying criteria covers a broad range of choral activity. We are able to support applicants in the following categories:

- (i) **Talent Development:** young people up to the age of 26, supported by a referee
- (ii) **Teachers/Education:** those who work in the education sector who would like to develop singing in their schools, settings, hubs, choirs etc.
- (iii) **Community:** those who work within community or church settings
- (iv) **Singing for Health:** those practitioners who work in the field of Social Prescribing, health sector settings etc.

We will consider requests from new and previously successful applicants. The management reserve the right to cap the number of times one person may receive a bursary. Each application is assessed on an individual basis and in the strictest confidence by members of the SfP Management Team (MT). Decisions will be made at the discretion of the MT.



When is the Conductor Support scheme open for applications?

Our bursary support scheme is open for an 8-week period in the run up to courses, with a nominated deadline for submissions for each event. The Dates for Autumn 2024–Summer 2025 are as follows:

Manchester Weekend for Singers, Conductors & Vocal Leaders (1–2 November 2025)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: **Monday 25 August**

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: **Sunday 19 October (11.59pm)**

London Weekend for Singers, Conductors & Vocal Leaders (14–15 February 2026)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: **Monday 8 December**

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: **Sunday 1 February (11.59pm)**

4-day Courses for Conductors (TBC)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: TBC

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: TBC

Inverness Weekend for Singers, Conductors & Vocal Leaders (25-26 April 2026)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: **Monday 26 January**

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: **Sunday 29 March (11.59pm)**

Bromsgrove Weekend for Singers, Conductors & Vocal Leaders (30 May–31 May 2026)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: **Monday 23 March**

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: **Sunday 17 May (11.59pm)**

Summer School for Singers, Conductors and Vocal Leaders (7–15 August 2026)

Conductor Support Scheme applications open: **Monday 1 June**

Conductor Support Scheme applications close: **Sunday 12 July (11.59pm)**

What is a bursary worth?

Bursaries are offered on our weekend, 4-day and summer school courses, equating to approximately one third of the weekend fee and just over half of the cost for summer school or our 4-day courses.

What do I need to apply? Some guidance...

1. Complete the application form here:
<https://singforpleasure.org.uk/bursariesscholarships/>

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2. As part of the application process, we want to determine the impact and reach of your work as an individual and how you might use this bursary and learning opportunity to extend this further.
3. In your application, please provide a supporting statement as to:
 - How does your work/study and your role within the organisation you work for benefit others?
 - How will this course develop your skills to achieve your goals in the field of choral leadership? How will this benefit others?
 - Have you applied for a bursary before? What was the impact of the course you attended and why should we consider your application this time?
4. We will require written evidence that you have sought funding from elsewhere. This could take the form of email exchanges, letters, application forms, details of other funders etc. This needs to be as detailed as possible.
5. Students and young people under 26 must provide a brief reference from a music teacher, lecturer, choir conductor, singing teacher or other music professional, outlining why and how this would benefit your future musical progress.

What do I need to do in return for my bursary?

1. In return for this bursary, there may be some simple duties to perform during the course (for example, helping out whenever possible with practicalities such as chair moving, distributing music etc.).
2. All successful applicants will be expected to provide detailed feedback reports in two stages:
 - a) They will complete the feedback form immediately after the event.
 - b) They will be asked for further feedback six months after the event for which the bursary was granted, in order to clarify the overall impact of the training, how it's been applied, and what are the next steps etc.

This feedback is helpful to us because:

- (i) Measuring impact and sustaining support is critical if we are to succeed in continuing to offer more bursaries in the future.

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- (ii) It helps us to maintain a strong working relationship with our participants and gives us the potential to improve our offer.

Terms and Conditions

In addition to the specifications above, please note the following:

Conflict of Interest: In order that we comply with the Charities Commission Guidelines, a trustee/member of the Management Team, or person or organisation connected to them, should declare this interest asap, so that their application can be assessed independently and with due process.

SfP Young Conducting Scholars – if you have been in receipt of a YCS scholarship in the past, then you may not be eligible to apply. There may be other avenues here, so please get in touch.

Cancellation policy: A reminder that all bursary recipients are subject to our event terms and conditions. <https://singforpleasure.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/EventTsCs2024.pdf>

Sing for Pleasure Management Team, August 2025

