



The Mercers' Fine Art and Conservation Award Application Form

Deadline 1 August 2026

How to complete this form

You can use this application form to apply for The Mercers' Fine Art and Conservation Award, supported by the Mercers' Charitable Foundation

- Read the full application criteria and terms for the award before completing this application form. These are detailed on [Student Funding | West Dean](#)
- Complete all sections of this form, paying particular attention to the personal statement and how you meet the criteria.
- Please attach a business plan demonstrating how you would propose to use the award.
- Please include a reference from your current tutor, which should address why you are a suitable candidate for the award.

West Dean's Grants Committee will consider all relevant applications. Names, specialism, location of recipients and the personal statement will be shared with the Mercers' Company for their records. Applicants should note that students will be required to sign terms and conditions if awarded a grant.

Deadline and application submission

Applications must be made by 1 August 2026 - 5pm and, if successful, applicants will be notified between August and September. We are unable to provide an exact decision date, but we will inform you as soon as a decision has been made. Please note unsuccessful applicants are unable to request feedback from the Grants Committee.

You can apply by returning your completed application form by email to College@westdean.ac.uk
Your application must be typed – hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Remember to include a business plan with your application demonstrating how you would propose to use the award and include a reference from your current tutor, which should address why you are a suitable candidate for the award.

Your application will not be considered if the reference or business plan are not included or if your application is incomplete.

AWARD CRITERIA

Please tick the confirmation box below, complete all section of this form and enclose a personal statement and business plan.

Bursary	Criteria	Value	Tick
The Mercers' Fine Art and Conservation Award	<p>The purpose of this award is to provide support to students who are <i>finishing</i> their MFA, MFA Blended- delivery, MFA Craft Practices or MA Conservation Studies programme and who will be entering the first year of their professional career within the Arts or Crafts sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students of any age or nationality are eligible to apply for the awards • Must be <i>finishing</i> their studies on the MFA, MFA Blended-delivery, MFA Craft Practices, MA Conservation Studies - all specialisms by the end of September 2026 • Precedence shall be given to people from underrepresented groups* (particularly those who face socio-economic disadvantage, have a disability or are from an ethnic minority background) • Must be set on living and working in London or the South East or England** i.e. successful awardees must base themselves there and establish their professional careers there for the duration of the award. <p>We would particularly welcome applications from students who meet the above criteria and whose skills contribute to enriching and diversifying culture and society, for instance, this could be through application of a rare craft skill, such as those on the Red List of Endangered Crafts, or through a commitment to outreach activities that deliver the Arts to diverse audiences.</p> <p>The award can be used by the successful awardees for any costs associated with starting their professional career <i>within their first year</i> including studio rental/workshop space, tools of the trade purchases, living costs, further tuition and training fees, developing their own body of work, advertising and promotion and other related necessities.</p>	£10,000 each to two graduands	

*As defined by the Office for Students

- Students from areas of low higher education participation, low household income or low socioeconomic status; Black, Asian and minority ethnic students; mature students; disabled students; care leavers; carers; people estranged from their families; people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; refugees; children from military families

** We use the Government Office Regions to determine boundaries - the South East includes up to Milton Keynes and down to the Isle of Wight, the outskirts of Salisbury to Margate.

Queries - Applicants should not contact the awarding organisation directly with queries relating to the award as this is being administered by The Edward James Foundation. If you have any queries, please contact College@westdean.ac.uk

1.PERSONALDETAILS	
Firstname(s):	
Surname:	
Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy):	
Nationality:	

CONTACT DETAILS	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone:	
Mobile:	

CURRENT ADDRESS	
Street Address:	
City and County/State:	
Postcode/Zip Code:	
Country:	

ADDRESS FOR DURATION OF THE AWARD (whilst studying at West Dean) This must be in London or the South East of England for the duration of the award. We use the Government Office Regions to determine boundaries - the South East includes up to Milton Keynes and down to the Isle of Wight, the outskirts of Salisbury to Margate. This is the location we will share with the funder.	
Street Address:	
City and County:	
Postcode:	

Programme studying/completing:	
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For office use only
Date received:
Application
reference:

DETAILS OF EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

School/University	Course attended	Qualification	Dates attended

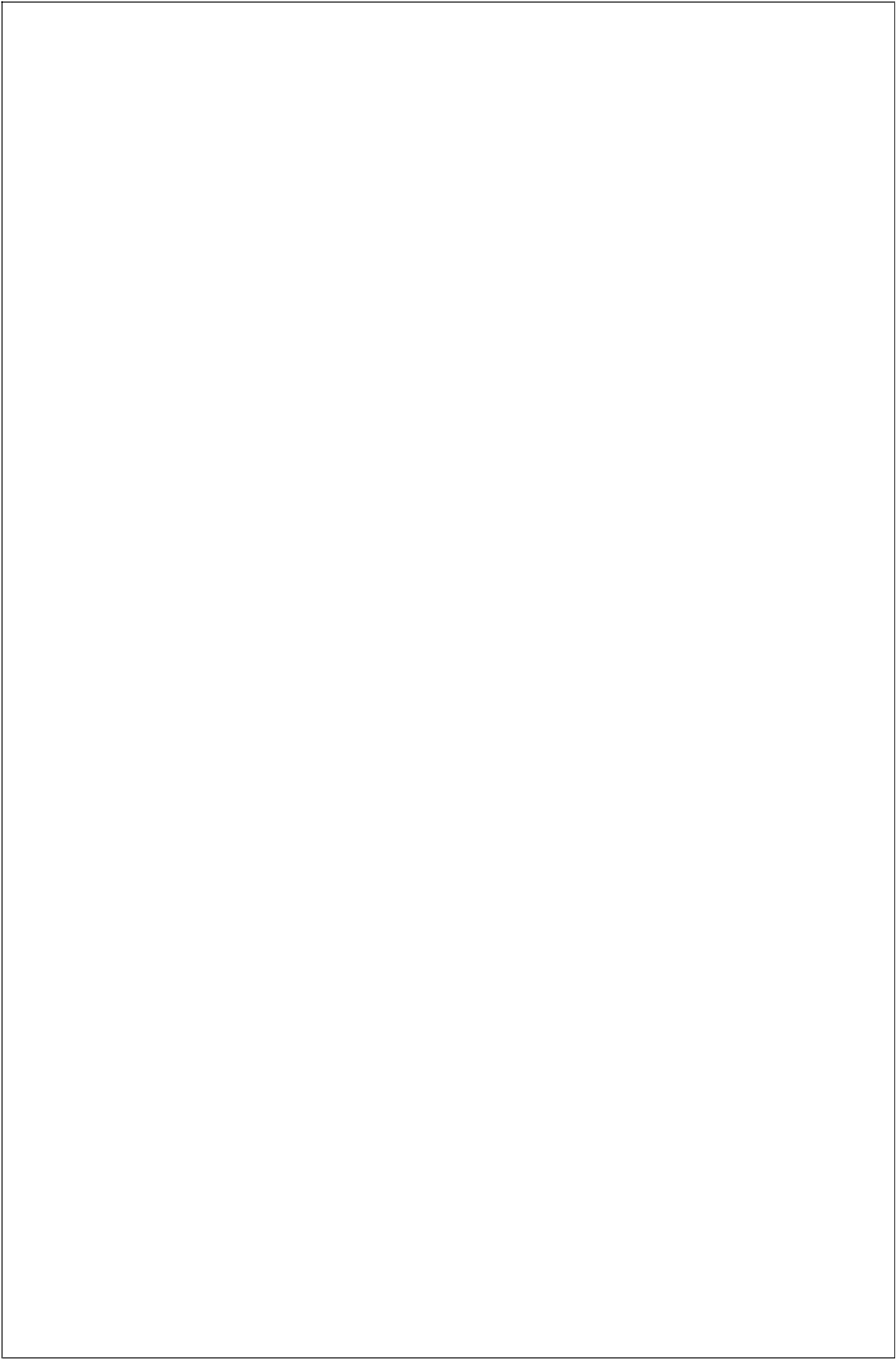
DETAILS OF RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT AND EXPERIENCE

Occupation	Name of employer	Skills used	Date

Please carefully check the criteria for the award and state how you match these.

The criteria for this award is listed on page 2 of this form.

The word count for this section should be no more than 1,000 words.



4. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Do you have any dependants? Yes No

ANNUAL INCOME

	Current situation	First year after finishing studies (this should match what you put in your business plan)
Personal income (i.e. salary)	£	£
Spouse's/partner's salary	£	£
Parental contribution	£	£
Savings/ISAs	£	£
Rent from tenants or lodgers	£	£
Interest from capital	£	£
Child benefit	£	£
Tax credits	£	£
Student Loan (tuition fees, maintenance)	£	£
Career Development Loan	£	£
Other, including any grants/scholarships	£	£
Total income	£	£

EXPENDITURE FOR THE DURATION OF THE COURSE (in addition to tuition fees)

	Current situation	First year after finishing studies (this should match what you put in your business plan)
Rent, mortgage or accommodation fees	£	£
Water rates/council tax	£	£
Lighting and heating	£	£
Telephone	£	£
Food & clothing	£	£
Household miscellaneous	£	£
Incidental e.g. insurance, TV licence	£	£
Travel expenses	£	£
Other expenses (books, etc)	£	£
Total expenditure	£	£

DECLARATION

Please carefully read the following statements and sign below to indicate acceptance of these terms.

- I consent to my application data being shared with West Dean's Grants Committee, the Student Recruitment and External Engagement Department, programme tutors and the awarding body, if applicable.

- If offered an award, I agree:
- That I will be living and working in London or the South East of England for the duration of my award (12 months from funding being received) i.e. that I will base myself there and establish my professional career there for the duration of the award.
- That I will use the funds awarded and additional provisions within 12 months after finishing my studies. Funds awarded may be spent on any costs associated with starting my professional career including studio rental/workshop space, tools of the trade purchases, living costs, further tuition and training fees, developing my own body of work, advertising and promotion and other related necessities.
- To produce three reports at intervals during the year being funded which will help inform an end of year report which will be shared with the Mercers Company/Foundation and Mercers' Arts Awards. This report should include career progress, activities, networks formed, responsibilities, setting up a workshop/studio and other areas to inform outcomes reporting.
- To keep basic records of expenditure to account for the award.
- To accept two visits a year from a Head of School or nominated second to talk about progress made, achievements etc.
- For my details to be used in articles, promotional material and press releases. This may include photographs.
- That reports in keeping with the funder's requirements can be shared with the funders for two years following completion of the award timeframe.
- To inform West Dean if my circumstances change and I am no longer able to meet the terms and conditions of the award.

Please also check West Dean's Data Protection Statement on the website.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

If you are emailing your application, please tick this box to indicate your acceptance of the above terms: