



## The Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme



## What is a Charles de Gaulle Bursary?

The Charles de Gaulle Bursary offers students from the UK with the unique opportunity of spending a 4-week period in France to undertake a study project. Bursaries will be awarded to students in the 17-19 age range who can demonstrate competent linguistic skills in French and who are able to submit a detailed and well-presented work plan outlining their intended course of study and the research methodology to be used.

The project can relate to *any* aspect of the French language or culture. This enables applicants to choose a subject matter that is not necessarily academic but that is of interest to them. The possible topic area is vast and could be anything from a study of French wines or Parisian fashion to a comparison of the UK/French education systems. Some of the projects which have been funded in recent years include:

- The Similarities and Differences between Irish Music and Breton Music
- Women Filmmakers – their changing role
- Marketing ‘Les Parcs’
- Le Corbusier’s Architectural Legacy to the City of Paris
- Proust’s Way – A study of Proust’s Literary Techniques and their effect on French Cinema.

As this is a bilateral programme, bursaries are also awarded to students in France to enable them to carry out a study project in the UK. On average there are 10 of these prestigious bursaries awarded each year – 5 on the UK side and 5 on the French side. This figure can vary according to the standard and quality of applications received.

## Who is eligible?

To apply for a Charles de Gaulle Bursary, applicants must:

- at the time of undertaking the project (by September in the year of application) be aged between 17 or 19\*
- have a competent level of linguistic ability in French. Evidence must be provided of a minimum of 3-4 years of study
- have a UK/European Union passport
- have completed at least 5 years of their secondary education in the UK

\* *Applicants who are 19 at the time of application (January) but who will have turned 20 by the time*

*they undertake the proposed project (by end of September) are ineligible.*

*Applicants who are 16 at the time of application (January) but who will not have turned 17 by the time they undertake the proposed project (by end of September) are ineligible.*

## Application Procedure

Applications submitted must include:

- a detailed proposal outlining what project work will be undertaken and how it will be carried out during a 4-week stay in France. This should take the form of a detailed weekly breakdown of anticipated activities.
- careful planning, organisation and structure. The specific aims for the period of the stay should cover educational objectives as well as personal development.
- details of the research methodology to be used.
- evidence of previous study undertaken in the same field or interest in the subject area.
- a clear indication of how the period of residence in France is necessary for the undertaking of the project.
- a reference from the applicant’s school or college. This reference should be on the institution’s headed paper and should indicate the institution’s support of the applicant’s eligibility and suitability for the Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme. Comment should be made on the applicant’s level of competence in French.
- information relating to any previous knowledge and/or experience of France.

## Points to Note

- 1 Project proposals should be the applicant’s own work;
- 2 The proposal should consist of between 1000 and 1500 words and should be typewritten/word-processed;
- 3 A quarter (circa 250 words) of the proposal should be written in French;
- 4 Joint/group applications will not be considered;
- 5 The bursary must be used solely for the purpose of carrying out research on an approved topic area;



- 6 The bursary may not be used by successful participants to fund attendance at a language course;
- 7 The study visit should last for a 4-week period and it should be undertaken before the end of September in the year of application;
- 8 Applicants should choose a topic that can be researched during the summer months.

### Selection Procedure

Received applications will be assessed against the eligibility and application criteria outlined above. Short-listed candidates will be invited to attend an interview at the British Council's office in London. These interviews will be held in March/April and will be conducted by a bilingual jury.

Candidates selected for interview will be expected to present and discuss their proposed project in detail, outlining their interest in the topic, the way they anticipate carrying out their research, and the expected outcome. Part of the interview will be conducted in French to ascertain that the candidate has a competent level of linguistic skills to carry out the project.

Candidates attending interview will be reimbursed for their travel expenses. This will be based on second class travel/Apex airfares.

It should be noted that it will not be possible to reschedule an interview for those unable to attend on the specified date.

### The Bursaries

The Bursary will provide successful applicants with the opportunity to undertake a 4-week study visit to France, preferably based on family accommodation and with an organised programme of research or activity based on the individual project submitted. The bursary will be to the value of £1000. An obligatory deduction will be taken to cover insurance (approximately £50) and this will be organised for each successful candidate by the British Council. The remainder of the award should be offset against travel to and from France, accommodation costs, subsistence and entrance fees. Candidates are expected to make all of their own arrangements (travel, accommodation, setting up meetings etc).

A full report on the project undertaken and a reconciliation of expenses will be required on completion of the visit. The final report should consist of no more than 3000 words and where possible, should be

word-processed/typewritten and accompanied by photographs, illustrations as appropriate. A quarter of the final report (circa 750 words) should be written in French. All final reporting documentation should be submitted to the British Council in Northern Ireland by 31 October in the same year.

### Timetable for Applications

Applications should be submitted to the British Council Northern Ireland at the following address by 31 January. Late applications cannot be considered.

Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme  
British Council  
7 Fountain Street, Belfast, BT1 5EG  
Tel: 028 90 248220  
Email: [charlesdegaulle@britishcouncil.org](mailto:charlesdegaulle@britishcouncil.org)  
Website: [www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland)

Short-listing will be undertaken in February and interviews for those selected will be held in March/April.

Those selected for the bursaries will be expected to undertake their study visit to France before the end of September in the year of application.

### Background

The Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme was originally derived from an initiative headed by Lady Soames DBE, daughter and only surviving child of Sir Winston Churchill, both to erect a statue of Charles de Gaulle in Carlton Gardens, opposite his war-time headquarters, and to create a bursary fund enabling young people from the UK and France to visit the other country in order to undertake a project of their own choice. The statue of Charles de Gaulle was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 23 June 1993. The first annual bursaries were awarded in the summer of 1995. In 1998, administration of the scheme became the responsibility of the Education & Training Group of the British Council.

The **British Council** connects people world-wide with learning opportunities and creative ideas, and builds lasting relationships between the UK and other countries. In education and training, we aim to raise standards through promoting international opportunities for mobility, linking and exchange, partnerships, and vocational and in-service training. For more information on our range of programmes visit: [www.britishcouncil.org/learning](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning)

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational and cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



## THE CHARLES DE GAULLE BURSARY SCHEME

### PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

All applicants should complete Part 1 and 2 of this form and ensure that it is signed by their parent/guardian.

#### Part I: Details of Applicant – to be attached to the application proposal

- 1 Name of applicant (in full) ..... Male/Female
- 2 Home address .....  
.....  
Postcode ..... Tel. No. .... Mobile .....
- 3 Correspondence address (if different from above) .....  
.....  
Postcode ..... Tel. No. ....  
Email address .....
- 4 Date of birth .....
- 5 Nationality .....
- 6 Name and full address of educational establishment .....  
.....  
Tel. No. .... Fax No. ....  
  
Please tick type of institution:  
Local Education Authority/Education & Library Board/Local Authority   
Independent   
City Technical College/Further Education College
- 7 Name and address of parent or guardian .....  
..... Tel. No. ....
- 8 Present course of study .....
- 9 Knowledge of the language of the country to be visited:    fluent/good/fair/poor    Delete as appropriate
- 10 Previous travel abroad .....  
.....  
.....
- 11 How did you hear about the Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme? .....  
.....



## THE CHARLES DE GAULLE BURSARY SCHEME

### Part II: Detailed Application Proposal

#### Details of project to be undertaken during study visit

Applicants are invited to submit a detailed outline of the project to be undertaken. In assessing applications particular attention will be paid to the quality of the project proposed, personal initiative and the extent to which a bursary may enable the applicant to gain experience related to future career and life plans.

The application should be between 1000 to 1500 words in length, of which one quarter must be in French. The application must address the headings given below. All applicants are required to submit a 4-week work plan detailing planned activities. Additional supporting documentation can also be included, although applicants are requested to keep this to a minimum. Documentation submitted will not be returned.

**Name of applicant** .....

**Title of project** .....

**Background:** this section should cover the following:

- your reason for choosing this project or topic
- a description of previous study and evidence of successful achievement in this field
- an indication of why it is important for you to carry out further study in France
- why you are applying for a Charles de Gaulle Bursary

#### Project/Study Visit Aims:

This section should indicate your specific aims and what you hope to achieve as a result of making a 4 week visit to France. You should demonstrate here how the project fits into your future career and life plans and in what way it could contribute to your ambitions in the future.

#### Content of the Study Visit: Work Plan

In this section, you should outline in detail the way in which you would wish to spend a 4 week period in France. You should indicate the kind of activities you envisage undertaking (eg: visits, workshops, research, interviews, sport etc). You should mention any specific follow-up or outcomes you may have in mind. You should also indicate if you have any contacts in France which you intend to use in connection with the project; and whether or not you plan to arrange for a family stay, youth hostel or guest house accommodation.

Signature of applicant ..... Date .....

Signature of parent/guardian ..... Date .....

A school/college reference should be attached in a sealed envelope.

## Comments from previous Bursary holders.....



### Rosie McKerr

*'For my project for the Charles de Gaulle Bursary, I travelled to Brittany in the north west of France to study the similarities and differences between Irish music and Breton music. The Charles de Gaulle Bursary gave me a great opportunity to further this interest and to discover how the styles differ within celtic music.'*

*'Breton music is very much alive and playing a large part in celtic culture. I really enjoyed learning about it and found it was a great experience which has raised my awareness of celtic music. I feel that my playing has improved greatly due to this trip and I have learnt many new skills and techniques which have been very useful to me since my return.'*

*'Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Brittany and the music, and I hope to continue to learn more about it and other forms of celtic music.'*

### Stella Moss

*'Upon returning to Manchester, I took part in a film-making course at the Cornerhouse Cinema where as a group of 4 we invented, filmed edited and added a sound-track to a short 1 minute file. It was a wonderful experience inspired by my fantastic period in Paris and I will be sure to go on making more films in years to come.'*

*'What a great opportunity the Charles de Gaulle Bursary provides for youth to pursue and develop their own individual interests. Thank you very much.'*

### Nuala Rogers

*'The aim of my Charles de Gaulle Bursary Project 2003 was to investigate the Marketing Strategies used to attract tourists to the Poitou-Charentes region of France.'*

*'The 2003 Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme provided me with a unique and exciting opportunity to investigate Tourism in the Poitou-Charentes region of France.'*

*'My project was interesting, informative and enjoyable and I have no doubt it will be of immense benefit as I begin my university Travel and Tourism studies.'*



*'I should like to thank the Administrators of the 2003 Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme for the opportunity to undertake this Project during the summer of 2003.'*

*'To experience French life and culture for 4 weeks whilst conducting an interesting and enjoyable educational project was an amazing experience which increased my self-confidence and, undoubtedly, helped me improve my French language skills.'*

*'I look forward to using the knowledge, understanding and skills gained with this project in my university studies and, hopefully, in my future career in the world of Travel and Tourism.'*