

THE SELKIRK EDUCATION FUND - GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS - Draft

1. Background

Lord 'Geordie' Selkirk was the Commanding Officer of No 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force in the run up to World War Two. Lord Geordie, the 10th Earl of Selkirk KT GCMG GBE AFC AE PC QC and brother of the Duke of Hamilton, served as Fighter Command's Chief Intelligence Officer and the Personal Assistant to Air Chief Marshal the Lord Dowding, Architect of Deliverance, in the Battle of Britain. The Selkirk Education Fund was instigated in 2021 by a donation made in the winding up of a charity set up by Lord Geordie before his death in 1994.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Selkirk Education Fund is embedded within the Veterans' Housing Scotland (VHS) Charity whose objects include the provision of affordable housing for disabled veterans.
- 2.2 The Fund is set up to provide tenants of VHS, their spouses, partners with financial support to assist successful applicants with assistance to fund or partly fund further education, training courses, tuition fees or sponsorship to achieve further qualifications.
- 2.3 Applicants should normally be unable to secure support from other statutory or charitable organisations and should be able to demonstrate that they do not have the resources to provide the item, service, training or facility themselves.

3. Eligibility

Veteran tenants of VHS and their spouses, partners living in a VHS home are eligible for assistance through the fund.

4. What can the fund be used for?

The fund can be used for the assistance with the cost of courses, certification, education, and qualifications to facilitate lifelong learning and employment opportunities.

5. Process

- 5.1 Applicants for grants will normally be visited by a member of staff of VHS in the first instance to validate the request and the information provided.
- 5.2 The Staff member will advise and assist with the completion of the application form. Proof of income, benefits and pensions should be included with the application to enable Staff and Trustees to process the application timeously.
- 5.3 Monetary grants will not normally be made direct to an applicant. The Fund will either provide the required amount or a contribution towards the costs as described in a brochure or estimate and will pay the supplier direct.
- 5.4 In signing the application form the applicant agrees to take responsibility for completing the course and may be subject to repaying the grant if the course is not completed.

- 5.5 The Fund is intended for the provision of short courses. Should more substantial assistance be requested, consideration will be given to making a part contribution, in which case help may be sought from other charitable sources for the balance required.
- 5.6 Completed application forms should be handed to a member of VHS Staff, emailed to the e-mail address below, or posted direct to VHS at the following address:

The Support Services Manager
Veterans' Housing Scotland
525 Ferry Road
Edinburgh
EH5 2FF

E-mail: support@vhscot.org.uk
Tel: 07483 404926

- 5.7 Applications will be considered by a panel decided by the Trustees of VHS. There will be no right of appeal against the Trustees decision.
- 5.8 VHS Trustees will review the Fund annually and will consider making donations to it depending on financial performance.