The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

Guidance for completing applications for Iolanthe Student Awards

Introduction to the Student Awards (also for Return to Practice Midwives)

The Iolanthe Student Awards help pre-registration midwifery students with the costs of attending study days or taking up elective placements. These awards are also available for midwives who are returning to practice to help cover the costs involved, including travel and books.

Iolanthe Student Awards at a glance

Amount Granted	Maximum £1,000 (multiple awards)
When to Apply	Applications open on 1 Dec 2026 and **close on 1 February 2027**. The award winners will be announced in early June 2027.
Eligibility Criteria	For midwifery students on a UK pre-registration course. Also for return to practice midwives who have been accepted on an NMC approved RtP course and who have the support of an NHS Trust or Board for practice hours.
Timing	For projects starting after 1 January 2027 and completed by May 2028.

You cannot normally apply for more than one Iolanthe award in any one year. However, an exception is if you are applying for a Student Award, and are eligible and wish to apply for a Dora Opoku Student Midwives Diversity and Equity Award, which the Student Award form will offer you the option to do if relevant.

If you have previously received an individual Iolanthe Award, you must wait two years before applying again. For example, a 2026 Award winner could next apply for a 2028 Award. The Jean Davies Award is the only Iolanthe Award that may be applied for by a team and is therefore the exception. If you have previously been part of a team who was given the Jean Davies Award, you may apply for a Student Award with no specific time needing to pass.

What type of projects and research are suitable?

- **Courses** to gain skills or knowledge relevant to your student midwifery practice.
- Travel and attendance at relevant **study days or conferences**.
- **Small research projects to improve local maternity services**. In this case it is important to have the written support of an academic supervisor, mentor or NHS midwifery manager who can confirm that you have the capability and/or opportunity to achieve this.
- **Elective midwifery placements.** These awards provide an opportunity for students who wish to experience a model of care different to that available in the area in which they study.

- **Return to Practice midwives** can also apply for a Student Award for associated costs. To be eligible, they need to have been accepted on an NMC approved RtP course and have the support of an NHS Trust or Board for practice hours.

Travel and location of award work

The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust does consider projects involving international travel. Consideration will be given to overseas placements where there are clear learning objectives which demonstrate a view to maintaining ongoing partnership and collaborative working which is mutually beneficial. However applicants should be aware of the following stipulations:

- Priority will be given to projects taking place in the four nations of the UK;
- Student midwives are encouraged to seek elective placements in a part of the UK that presents a contrast to (or builds upon) their prior experience, for example in urban areas, rural areas or within specific communities.
- We do not fund placements with commercial travel organisations such as 'Work the World';
- Where overseas work is funded, the charity would be looking for applications that:
    - Demonstrate a consideration of the ethical issues that may arise from overseas award activity;
    - Identify specific career development goals that will be met by the overseas award activity;
    - Demonstrate cultural familiarity and an ongoing relationship with the intended location, or detailed plans to develop this;
    - Show how the award activity would fall within any university or organisational travel restrictions;
    - Demonstrate an intention to meaningfully engage, learn and develop during the overseas award activity. Longer placements are more likely to be funded than shorter 'observation' placements.
    - Demonstrate how learning from the award activity will be disseminated to other midwives, student midwives or health practitioners in the UK.

Conference attendance

The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust is able to fund conference attendance. However applicants should be aware of the following stipulations:

- Priority will be given to conferences taking place within the four nations of the UK;
- Priority will be given to those presenting their work at a conference rather than attending the conference as a delegate;
- Applicants need to give a rationale for choosing a particular conference and the specific career development goals that will be met by attending;

- Applicants need to demonstrate how others will also benefit from their attendance at the intended conference. This might include clear plans to disseminate the learning to other midwives, student midwives or health practitioners.

A Guide to Writing a Good Application

	What goes wrong?	How to improve your chances of getting funding
The purpose of the application	Too little information about the proposed course, project or elective visit	Clearly justify your choice of project or placement and tell us what makes it worthwhile or innovative. For UK electives, make sure you have identified an institution or person to visit and made contact with them. A supporting letter from the host institution also benefits the application. Identify how this will benefit the wellbeing of mothers/parents and/or babies – in the case of electives, consider this both locally and where the elective will take place. Projects which address health inequalities for ethnic communities or target vulnerable groups are also viewed more positively. For Return to Practice midwives, the application will make clear why you are returning to practice.
Benefits from the funding	Not giving enough thought about how you, your fellow students, future employers, the midwifery profession, maternity services and women/families will benefit.	Spell out the benefits of your project to yourself and others (parents and babies, other students, and the profession and/or current or future employer). Explain how you will share your experience or the knowledge that you gain. Give details of what you hope to learn as a result and how that can be achieved with the planned project. For return to practice midwives, you will have thought about any wider implications.
Costs	Including excessive, irrelevant or personal costs Not being clear in your project description about what the money will be spent on	Give detailed well-researched costs with a brief justification for why these are included. Include precise details on what the money will be spent on in the section describing your project. Don't include personal costs which you are not expecting to get funded (e.g. holiday excursion). Provide evidence of other fundraising – we view this positively as a sign of commitment.
The overall quality of the application	Missing out sections and applications which are too long and unfocused.	Make sure your application is complete, well presented and readable. Use the word counts to help focus the information.

	Applications which don't convey conviction or interest.	Reference your application with research or policy if appropriate but not excessively. Write with feeling and persuasion.
Support and commitment.	Not enough evidence of support to do the project.	Please ensure you give those people providing a supporting letter enough notice. **Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline**. A supporting letter from your educational institution is included. If possible, ask for a personal reference rather than a standard letter. Other support or funding is acknowledged. Provide evidence that you are committed to undertaking the course, project or elective. A supporting letter from the elective site is included, if applicable. For return to practice midwives, a letter confirming your clinical practice placement is required.

See below for your Guide to Completing the Online Application Form

Guide to Completing the Online Application Form

We have designed the form to be as easy as possible to fill in. If you have any difficulties understanding what is required please contact awards@iolanthe.org and we will be able to help you.

If you do use AI to help you draft your application, please make sure it's a realistic and honest reflection of your proposal. When you apply to us we want to learn about you and what you want to do. The writing style or grammar doesn't matter to us. What we are interested in is what you're trying to achieve and how you're going to do it.

You can apply for the award at https://www.iolanthe.org/student-award. Below are some further explanations to help you fill in the form.

Once you start completing an application form, your data will be stored, even if you haven't submitted it. Please see https://www.iolanthe.org/privacy-policy for more details on how your data will be stored and processed.

Before you start, please ensure that you have asked for supporting letters (tutors/confirmation of placements). **Supporting information cannot be added after the application deadline**.

***indicates essential reading**

Field	Explanation
***Data protection**	Applying for an award will require you to go to our online application system on an external website based in the USA. By entering data into the application form, you are agreeing to have your data stored and processed within and outside of the UK and the EU as well as by Iolanthe Midwifery Trust. Further details about what this means and the rights you have over the data can be found in our Privacy Policy
***Saving the application**	You can save the application at any time by clicking on Save at the end of the form. You can then continue entering data or choose to resume later. If you want to come back later, you will be given a link (or choose to have the link sent to you in an email) so you can return to the form at another time. **Please note**: The form does not save automatically if you use the back button or close the browser tab or window. Save regularly to ensure you don't lose your work.
1. Applicant's Details	
Educational institution	This should be where you are undertaking your pre-registration course or, for return to practice midwives, where you have been accepted on a RtP course approved by the NMC.
Email addresses	We request two email addresses in case your preferred email address is linked to your place of study which expires when you finish your course. This is particularly difficult if it happens in the course of the award administration.
Address	This should be your permanent home address, not your term-time address.
2. Details of support requested	
Start and end date	Projects are only eligible for an award if they start on or after 1 January 2027 and are due to finish by 30 May 2028. (You will hear if you have been successful in early June 2027.)
Reason for the request	Please give only a brief overview here of your project and keep to the word count.
Contact institution	If you are planning an elective placement please give whatever details you can here about where you will be visiting on your elective and who is managing the visit at the site.
3. Cost of the project	The total cost requested should be £1,000 maximum. Please provide detailed costs with justification, and be aware that receipts or other documentary proof

	must be provided for any costs that are later claimed. Remember, the reviewers have access to travel costs etc. Include likely maximum costs as we are unable to adjust your award upwards after it has been granted but indicate this in the justification section. Please do not include personal costs which are not eligible for funding e.g. “scuba diving excursion’
4. Further details about the support requested	This is where you should set out the main description of your project. Read the above information about what makes a good application. The maximum word count is 1000 words including references. The text should be referenced where relevant (but not excessively referenced). You can make this box bigger by dragging on the bottom right hand corner. If you are applying for Return to Practice funding, please give details here about your circumstances including why you left practice and how your registration lapsed. Also give details about why you are returning to practice now, and confirm that you have a clinical practice placement (supporting letter required in Section 7)
7. Additional documents	Please upload supporting statements from your educational institution (tutor or lecturer). This should be personal to you rather than a standard supporting statement. Additional supporting statements should be provided where relevant for conference presentations or elective placements. For return to practice midwives, please also include a letter from an NHS Trust or Board confirming your clinical practice placement. Supporting documents cannot be added to an application after the deadline.
Save/Submit	You can save this application and return to it later. You will be given or sent a link to find it again. We advise against having multiple applications on multiple tabs open simultaneously as this has previously caused problems. When you are ready to submit your application, click on Submit. You will be able to download a pdf of your application. You should receive an email acknowledgment of your submission. If you do not receive this, please contact awards@iolanthe.org **before** the closing date so we can confirm if your application has been received. Only submitted applications will be judged. It is strongly advised that you submit your application with plenty of time to spare to resolve any problems with submission. No applications will be accepted after the closing date regardless of circumstances. Saved but unsubmitted awards will be deleted shortly after the closing date. By entering data into the application form, even if you do not save or submit the form, you are accepting that your data will be stored and processed electronically within and outside the UK and the EU for the purpose of awards administration and judging. More details about how your data will stored and processed see our Privacy Policy
On submission, applications will be required to agree to the following statements	I have not won an individual Iolanthe Award in the last two years; I am applying for charitable funding to support midwifery practice, provision, education, training or research;

I understand that any project activity must adhere to professional midwifery standards and the best available evidence ;

I confirm that this application is my own original work and that the ideas, proposals and plans within it are my own. I understand that plagiarism will result in my application being rejected;

I have declared, and will declare, any project work that has been developed jointly with colleagues;

I agree to acknowledge Iolanthe Midwifery Trust funding in any outputs resulting from this award (for example publications and conference presentations) ;

I will undertake to complete the proposed activity as fully as I can within the award period, unless exceptional circumstances arise. In this case I will communicate this promptly to The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust;

I will keep and provide receipts or other documentary proof for any costs I claim; I understand that The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust will expect any unused charitable funds to be returned if award activity has not been completed within the agreed award period ;

I understand that the decisions of the Board of Trustees of The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust are final and binding.

The closing date/time for this award is 1 February 2027 5pm