

EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund

Information about grants for education and training courses or apprenticeships

Are you....

- Living in Contin; Garve and District; Lochbroom; Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon; or Strathpeffer Community Council Areas?
- Doing an education or training course or apprenticeship to boost your skills or thinking about applying for one?
- Keen for some financial support towards attending that course?

Then please take a few minutes to read this information about a charitable fund that may be able to help you...

What is the Fund?

The **EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund** represents 20% of the overall EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Community Fund, provided by EDF Renewables and linked to its wind farm at Corriemoillie, near Garve. Its focus is to support local people with education and training opportunities and contribute to creating job opportunities in the local area. The Education & Training Fund will make awards throughout the operating life time of the Corriemoillie wind farm which is likely to be 25 years.

How much is available?

The Education & Training Fund will initially receive £48,450 per year. This amount will be reviewed after the Fund has been operating for three years, and will rise each year in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

Who can apply?

Applicants for training and education bursaries must be individuals:

- Taking an education or training course (including apprenticeship) to improve /gain new skills linked to employability (including re-training for a new role or retaining your current role), or thinking about applying for one;
- Living within one of the five Community Council areas listed above;
- Requiring some financial support to help you attend and /or study (although applications will not be means tested and personal circumstances will only be taken into account in the event of high demand on the Fund and once applications had been assessed against other Fund criteria).

You may apply before you have had a formal offer of a place on the education/training course. You will need to supply evidence of acceptance on the course as a condition of any award made.

Do I have to be studying a specific course or training or undertaking an apprenticeship in a particular sector?

You can be studying or training for any subject that may improve your chances of getting or retaining a job but priority is given to learning relating to the following industry sectors:

- Renewables and energy industry related;
- Engineering, construction and related trades (e.g. electrical, plumbing, joinery), health & safety, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Digital);
- Other industries which will benefit job retention in the area, including tourism, forestry and timber technologies, rural development, agriculture (including crofting), environmental conservation, estates management, aquaculture / fisheries management, equestrian, other land based industries, food & drink, health and social care, creative industries, life sciences, finance and business services, haulage, education and other sectors benefiting the local community;
- Other education courses that enhance employability and the success of micro (1-10 employees) and small (11-50 employees) sized businesses, including ability to set up and grow your own business. Examples are: marketing & sales, IT & web development, managing staff, accounts / financial management, entrepreneurship and business sustainability.

What can I use the money for?

Bursaries can assist individuals to undertake an education or training course or apprenticeship by covering some of the following costs:

- Travel, e.g. bus, train or petrol;
- Subsistence: meals, etc.;
- Childcare;
- Driving lessons and driving theory test (where the course is distant from the individual's residence and public transport not viable);
- Study aids (e.g. laptop, software, stationery);
- Technical aids / equipment (e.g. specialist clothing related to the course, tools, other specialist equipment);
- Course fees not already being paid for from elsewhere, or;
- Accommodation costs.

You cannot get retrospective funding (i.e. payment for costs incurred before a decision on your application to the Fund, including the repayment of loans or debts).

How much can I apply for?

The level of grant will depend on the course you want to do and your own situation. Eligible costs of study aids or equipment may comprise up to £700 per year within the maximum figure below.

Maximum grant levels are as follows:

Short courses	£1,500
Year 1 of award	£1,500
Year 2 of award	£1,000
Year 3 of award	£300
Year 4 of award	£300

The level of grant will depend on which course you are attending and any bursary that may be available from the Scottish Government (via Skills Development Scotland).

Does it matter what type of course I will undertake?

Participation in a wide range of courses can be funded (full or part-time), including Modern Apprenticeships, Foundation Apprenticeships, NC, HNC, HND, undergraduate degrees, post-graduate qualifications (though not PhDs), and short vocational costs. Those leading to formal / recognised qualifications (and with SVQ ratings) will be favoured, however other courses will also be considered where the applicant can demonstrate how the skills and knowledge gained will realistically support them in securing or retaining a job or in setting up their own business.

Am I eligible if I go to university?

Yes, but priority is given to education and training in the sectors listed above.

Am I eligible if I am still at High School but attending a college course perhaps one day a week?

Yes, but only if this is for costs that are not covered through your school, the college or Highland Council. The Fund cannot cover private tuition costs related to the school curriculum.

How will I get the money?

The money will be paid to you by Foundation Scotland, a charity that is administering the EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Community Fund. Funds will be paid direct into an account,

once an award has been made. We request that you send us an original recent bank statement or pay-in slip to verify your bank details. We will return any original bank statements. For further or higher education courses or apprenticeships, the money will be paid in instalments. You will need to complete a form at the end of each term signed by someone from your college confirming you have been attending regularly.

My family is able to support me. Can I still apply?

Yes, the Fund does not apply a personal 'means test'.

I receive other support. Can I still apply?

Yes, but we do ask for details of other grants, bursaries, etc. If we receive more applications than the Fund can support we may use this information to help us make the fairest decision.

Can I apply part-way through a course or training?

Yes, but not for costs which you have already incurred, or which you will have incurred prior to a decision on your application being made.

What's the catch?

By providing these grants EDF Renewables aims to encourage and support local people to improve their skills and life chances. We believe that providing funding in this way can help local people gain the skills and confidence required to enter into or retain employment in the sectors above.

If you do receive a bursary we will ask you to keep us informed about how you are getting on with your course and how the grant is helping you. You will be expected to provide a written summary of the skills and knowledge you have gained as a result, and possibly a presentation back to the community on this. If you are undertaking a formal (including accredited) course then we will ask for a copy of your qualification certificate.

We may invite you contribute to other initiatives linked to the wider EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Fund. We will also ask you to promote this specific Education & Training Fund in your community so others get to hear about it.

How do I apply?

You can download an application form at the web-page for this Fund, or apply online, or phone Foundation Scotland at the number below to receive a paper copy. Just complete the application form and make sure you send it to Foundation Scotland along with any supporting documentation required.

The Fund webpage is: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training>

There will be two rounds of awards each year, and application deadlines are on the Fund web-page: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/> Decisions will be made by a Panel of local people, education bodies and business representatives.

Foundation Scotland will be in touch by telephone to review your application before the Panel makes a decision. If you are successful, Foundation Scotland will require you to complete and return a signed Grant Acceptance form.

What if I want help for a course arranged at short notice?

You still need to complete an application form, and Foundation Scotland will be in touch by telephone to review your application in the usual way. The Fund Panel will make a decision on your application by e-mail. This procedure should only be used for genuine short notice cases where an application could not have been made in the previous round of applications.

What if I've got some more questions or need some help completing the application form?

Your tutor or teacher may be able to help you with the form, so do talk to them about your application. You can also call Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 and they will be able to answer your questions.

Where can I find out more?

For more information please call Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 or e-mail to communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk