



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

**The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum
BURSARIES FOR EARLY MUSIC STUDIES 2026**

**The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum
invite**

**Students of Early Music or Organology
to apply for their Bursary scheme in 2026.**

Bursaries can be used for expenses associated with any form of organological study, for the academic study of early music, or historically informed performance. The sums awarded vary; as a guide, it may be useful to know that last year three bursaries were awarded, two for £600 and one for £480 – more details of previous years' projects are available on our website:

www.friendsofstceciliashall.com

**Bursaries are available from mid-June 2026;
the closing date for applications is Friday 29th May 2026.**

**Pre-application information is available by emailing
stceciliachair@gmail.com**

When applying, please type: 'Bursary Enquiry for Chair' in the subject line of the email. Please read the accompanying Regulations and Guidelines before submitting your application.

March 2026

**THE FRIENDS OF ST CECILIA'S HALL BURSARY AWARDS
FOR PROJECTS RELATING TO MUSIC PRE-1815**

NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS 2026

If you wish to apply you should provide the committee with the following information in a document, emailed to the address below:

- Your name and stage of musical education (eg whether undergraduate or post graduate, and year of study).
- Your major or specialised areas(s) of study to which the bursary would have relevance.
- The names of two referees who know your work and would be prepared to support your application (e.g. supervisor, tutor, lecturer, academic advisor, teacher, coach).
- Details of the specific purpose for which you would use a bursary - including an estimate of overall costs involved, and the proportion of costs which you hope the bursary might cover.
- A personal statement about why you wish to engage in that project and how it will benefit your future development.
- The time of year when you would wish to have bursary money made available. (The committee can release funds from mid-June.)

Past applicants have used the bursary for a variety of pursuits. For example, to contribute to registration or travel costs associated with participation in conferences or master-classes or summer schools in the UK or abroad; or to aid with costs of visiting distant museums, libraries, academic institutions etc for research; or for specialised, advanced instrumental or vocal tuition to enable them to take advantage of semi-professional or professional opportunities in the early music field.

Please note, however that the bursary is not intended to contribute to costs of ongoing, regular tuition or training. Apart from this exclusion, any serious project will be sympathetically considered.

The committee is particularly keen to encourage candidates to extend their understanding of early music composition and theory, their awareness of repertoire and context, their competence in historically informed performance practice, and their knowledge about the evolution, construction, and conservation of early musical instruments.

If you require further advice or information, please e-mail the Chair informally on stceciliachair@gmail.com, writing “Bursary Enquiry - for Chairman” in the Subject line in the top panel.

Please send your full application to the [same e-mail address](#), writing: “Bursary Application - for Chair” in the Subject line in the top panel

Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum

Bursary: Regulations.

1. The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum offer annual student music awards known as St Cecilia's Bursaries. Awards will be offered, in order, to students of Edinburgh University, students of other Scottish institutions, or students registered elsewhere.
2. The Bursary awards are open to post-graduate and under-graduate students of music and related subjects to assist with expenses in connection with projects involving early music and early music technology. **"Early Music" in this context is defined as covering any period up to c.1815.**
3. The award may be used for personal travel and other expenses for **special projects**, but not for regular classes or tuition unless in exceptional circumstances.
4. Applications for bursaries will normally be invited early in the Spring of each year and awarded in time for use during the summer vacation. Applications, [by e-mail](#), should be addressed to the Chair of the Committee. For advice on information to include, see separate document.
5. **Bursary winners are required to provide the committee with an informal written report on the use of their award monies within six months of completion of the funded activity. The committee may publish this report in *Soundboard* or any other journal or newsletter produced by The Friends in hard copy or online. The copyright of such report will remain with the author.**
6. The Committee of The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum administers the Bursary Fund. It has absolute discretion as to the appropriateness of projects for which applications are made, the number of bursaries to be awarded each year, and their amount. It may consider the current state of the bursary fund, the number and value of bursaries recently awarded, and other relevant factors. From time to time, the committee may indicate preferred areas for study or may exclude approaches which have been previously over-represented.
7. The Committee may delegate responsibility for dealing with the applications to a sub-committee which will report to the full committee. The Committee's decision on all bursary matters is final.
8. If the Committee believes that there is no longer any need for bursaries, or there is no likelihood of bursaries being awarded in the foreseeable future, it may apply any remaining bursary funds to other purposes sanctioned by the constitution of The Friends of St Cecilia's Hall and Museum.

March 2026