

Seekers of Knowledge Application & Selection Procedure Guidance Notes

“Seekers of Knowledge” is a fund that provides financial support for students studying religious sciences.

The following document outlines the types of financial support provided by SOK and details the application and selection procedure.

Types of Financial Support Provided by SOK

Seekers of Knowledge provide the following types of financial support to students:

7. Long Term Grant

The student is provided with financial support throughout the duration of his/her studies. There are two types of Long Term Grant:

- 8. Single Person’s Grant - £1,500.00 pa**
- 9. Married Person’s Grant - £3,500.00 pa**

10. Emergency Fund

These are one off payments made to students to help them in an emergency. The amount paid is dependant upon the nature of the circumstances, but will not exceed more than £1,000.00 in a year. The authorisation to provide such payments exceeding £1,000.00 is at the discretion of the director.

Source of Funding

SOK’s income is through charitable donations. Standing order forms/donation forms are available on the WLSIS website, and are also made available at conferences and functions. Those who provide contact details are also sent information regarding SOK’s work and requests for donations.

Application & Selection Procedure

Forms to apply for a Long Term Grant or Emergency Fund can be downloaded from the WLSIS website, or obtained by contacting WLSIS. Contact details are also on the website.

The application is assessed by the selection board and a decision is made whether or not it is possible to provide the applicant with financial support.

The SOK panel will consist of at least 3 individuals, chosen by the SOK trustees. The panel may or may not be trustees of SOK, and will usually be Islamic scholars/academics who can make informed decisions about the applications, eg Shaykh Akram al-Nadwi. The panel will normally proceed on unanimous decisions, but in the exceptional occasion that they cannot come to an agreement on any matter, it shall be referred to the SOK trustees for ultimate decision. (SOK trustees are identical to WLSIS trustees).

Whilst the application is being processed the applicant is sent a letter informing them that their application was received and is currently being looked into.

Criteria for Application

- 11. Sunni Muslim**
- 12. If applying for Long Term Grant, must be undergoing total period of study not less than 8 years if a non-Arabic speaker, and not less than 5 years if Arabic speaker.**
- 13. Must be able to provide details of institutions and/or scholars with whom study will take place.**
- 14. Must not be member or affiliate of any political or sectarian group or party.**
- 15. Must be an upright person who abstains from major sins.**
- 16. Must be able to provide at least two independent referees, who are respected members of the British Muslim community.**
- 17. Must be able to articulate clear intentions for proposed study which correspond to the ideals and objectives of SOK.**

Once a decision is made a letter is sent to the applicant informing them whether their application was successful or not. If the application was successful the student is required to provide their personal details.

If the application was not successful details are provided to the applicant as to why they were unsuccessful. The details of the applicant are however kept on file, should the circumstances change in the future and they are able to provide financial support to the unsuccessful applicant.

IMP DISCLAIMER: SOK board of trustees reserve the right to approve or disapprove any application received according to a decision reached by the board in accord with the normal proceedings of the charity. SOK may also suspend or cancel any grant awarded to a student at any time that may be deemed necessary by the board of trustees.

Students' grants shall be subject to an annual review, at which point students will be expected to submit details of the previous year's study, including details of courses/texts completed, texts memorised, authorisations received, and other relevant accomplishments, predicated upon which the board shall decide whether to authorise continuation of the grant or not.