

BLA Hardship Fund

A BLA hardship fund has been established in order to enable BLA members who are faced with financial constraints at their institution to apply to attend our annual conference.

What is available?

Up to three hardship fund conference places will be available each year. Where part of the conference cost can be afforded an application can be made for BLA to fund the difference. Normally no funding is available to cover travel to and from the conference venue, but if members let BLA know when they apply if the travel costs are likely to be very high, then the BLA committee will consider this as part of their application.

Who is eligible?

BLA members are only able to apply for a hardship fund place if their institution is experiencing serious financial problems such that the department's training/staff development budget cannot afford to fund their attendance. Only one application can be made by any one institution, and only if that institution is not already funding another place. To be clear, the BLA hardship fund will not be used to pay for a second conference attendee from any institution. A member who has received funding for a hardship place will not be eligible to apply again for 2 years (e.g. a member who attended in this way in 2010, would not be eligible to apply again until 2012)

Who makes the decision?

The BLA Hon Treasurer will select from the applications received 'out of a hat' after the date for applications has passed (see below). A response will be given in time for the applicant to make arrangements for attending. Usually this will be at the latest by the end of April for the conference in early July.

Payment / Repayment

No repayment is expected but should training funds be made available by an institution after a hardship place is granted the member concerned should ask their institution if they can reimburse BLA wholly or in part for the conference fee.

How to apply

Confidential applications should be made to the Hon Treasurer (d.clare@wlv.ac.uk) between Monday 15 March and Friday 26th March (this is a month after regular booking opened, to allow time for individuals to attempt to seek funding from within their institution before resorting to the BLA hardship fund). Initially a request by email is sufficient, followed up by the completion of a form after the Hon Treasurer responds. The fact that a member has received hardship funding will remain confidential between them and the BLA committee.

Documentation required

Copies of the applicant's request to their institution for funding and the subsequent institutional response should be forwarded to the Hon Treasurer.