



FfWG
Funds for Women Graduates



FfWG is the trading name of the BFWG Charitable Foundation which is a subsidiary of:



British Federation of Women Graduates

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About FfWG

Funds for Women Graduates, which is now the registered Trading Name of the British Federation of Women Graduates Charitable Foundation, is a small educational charity whose objects seek to promote:

‘The advancement of education and the promotion of higher education and wider learning of women graduates’

Incorporated in 1925 as the Crosby Hall Association Limited, the name was changed to Crosby Hall Limited when it took charitable status in 1972 and again to Crosby Hall in 1975. Following the sale of Crosby Hall in 1992, the Charity took up residence at 28 Great James Street in London and became the BFWG Charitable Foundation in 1993.

For purposes of registration both as a limited company in England (No. 206171) and as a charity under the Charities Act 1960 (No. 312903), the name BFWG Charitable Foundation has been retained.

However, in order to distinguish its work more clearly from that of its parent company, **FfWG** was registered as the Charity’s Trading Name in 2006.

The Charity is a subsidiary of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) with which its history is richly entwined. BFWG itself also promotes research by women graduates in the final year of a PhD, or completing post-doctoral research, by the provision of scholarships.

What the Funds Do

Foundation Grants

FfWG offers Foundation Grants to help women graduates with their living expenses (not fees) while registered for study or research at an approved institution of higher education in Great Britain. The criteria are the proven needs of the applicant and her academic calibre. Foundation Grants will only be given for the final year of a PhD or D.Phil. The closing date for applications is 14th May and the grants are awarded in July for the following academic year.

Emergency Grants

FfWG offers Emergency Grants to graduate women who face an unforeseen financial crisis (not with their fees) whilst engaged in study or research at an approved institution of higher education in Great Britain. These grants are offered three times a year, in March, June and November.

Theodora Bosanquet Bursary (TBB)

This Bursary is offered annually to women graduates whose research in History or English Literature requires a short residence in London in the summer. It provides accommodation in a hall of residence for up to 4 weeks between mid June and mid September. The closing date for applications is 31st October of the preceding year.

For current application dates and value of the grants offered refer to the FfWG website: www.ffwg.org.uk



Eligibility

The criteria for awarding Grants are the proven needs of the applicant and her academic calibre. Competition is very great so not all qualifying applicants will receive a Grant. Grants are offered on a needs basis therefore not all grants will be for the maximum sum quoted for the grant.

Foundation Grants:

Terms on which Grants are given

- Women graduates from Great Britain and overseas are eligible to apply.
- They must be studying or intend to study in Great Britain and in their final fee paying or writing up year at postgraduate or post doctoral level.
- Any subject or field of study will be considered.
- There is no upper age limit.
- A grant will only be given for the final year of a PhD or DPhil.
- Evidence of ability to pay fees is required.
- Students reading for a part-time PhD or DPhil will be eligible to apply from their third year onwards.
- The Grants will be a contribution towards living expenses for one year's academic study or research.
- The amount of the Foundation Grant awarded will be decided by F/WG, but normally will not exceed the amount quoted on our website: www.ffwg.org.uk
- Grant holders must submit a written report at the end of the academic year for which the grant was awarded.

Emergency Grants:

Terms on which Grants are given

- Women Graduates from Great Britain and overseas are eligible to apply.
- There is no upper age limit.
- Evidence of ability to pay fees is required.
- An **Emergency** grant is not a 'top up' award; most students are short of money.
- These are one-off payments to assist with completion of an academic year's work.
- No grant is likely to exceed the amount quoted on our website: www.ffwg.org.uk

Theodora Bosanquet Bursary:

Founded in memory of Theodora Bosanquet, MBE, BSc (London), (1881 – 1961), the writer and administrator, this Bursary is offered annually to women postgraduate students whose research in HISTORY or ENGLISH LITERATURE requires a short residence in London in the summer.

- It provides ACCOMMODATION (only) in a hall of residence for up to 4 weeks between mid June and mid September
- Women postgraduate students from Great Britain and overseas are eligible to apply.
- There is no upper age limit.
- Only two bursaries are awarded per year. →



Eligibility continued

→ F/WG does NOT provide funds for:-

- Undergraduate degrees
- A second first degree
- University or college fees
- Students looking to start a course in the next academic year
- Fieldwork outside Great Britain
- Conferences, exhibitions or seminars either overseas or within Great Britain
- Travel costs outside Great Britain
- Students who have not completed two months of their course at the time of application

F/WG Grants Committee

The F/WG Grants Committee is composed of 10 members, the majority of whom are active academics who are experts in their own field. The chairman of the committee endeavours to ensure a balance of disciplines between the Arts and the Sciences among its members.

All members of the committee are approved by the Board of Governors. Members are invited to serve a term of 3 years in the first instance and may be invited to serve a second term.

The committee meets twice a year, in July for the Foundation Grants and in November for the last round in the calendar year of Emergency Grants.

The earlier two rounds of Emergency Grants in March and June and the Theodora Bosanquet Bursaries are assessed electronically. For such purposes close communications are maintained between the various members of the committee. The decisions taken are approved by the Chairman of the Grants Committee.

In all cases, the decision of F/WG is final. It will not enter into any subsequent correspondence.



Contact Us

See our website: www.ffwg.org.uk

Or contact the Grants Administrator,

Mrs Jean Collett-Flatt
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Aylesford
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ME20 6RU

Telephone: 01732 321139

E-mail: jean.c@blueyonder.co.uk

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Mrs Val Considine
20 Fern Road
Storrington
Pulborough
West Sussex
RH20 4LW

Telephone: 01903 746723

E-mail: valconsidine@toucansurf.com

History of FfWG's Grant Making

The origins of FfWG are entwined with the history of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) founded in 1907. After the First World War, the British Federation of University Women, as it was known then, supported by the members of the International Federation (IFUW), created a residence for women graduates, Crosby Hall in Chelsea, London. It provided accommodation for women scholars from all over the world, between 1927 and 1992. The Crosby Hall Association Ltd which managed Crosby Hall was incorporated in 1925 and took Charitable Status in 1971.

The Charity vacated Crosby Hall on the sale of the lease in 1992 and took up residence at 28 Great James Street, London in 1993. The Charity changed its name from Crosby Hall to the BFWG Charitable Foundation, the name under which the company and its charitable status are registered today.

The sale of the 500 year lease on Crosby Hall and, in 2007, of 28 Great James Street, provided the Charity with capital whose investment income provides grants to women graduate scholars from Britain and overseas engaged in study or research at an institute of higher education in Great Britain.

The first 50 Emergency Grants were awarded for the academic year 1993/94. The first 42 Foundation Grants were awarded for the academic year 1994/95. Grants of nearly £1.5 million have already been awarded to approximately 1,500 applicants.



Value of F/WG's Grants

Value of F/WG's Grants to the recipient

The Charity recognises that it is the responsibility of all grant giving charities that they should assess the value of their grant making activity to the recipient. This is especially important when grants are awarded to individuals rather than to an established organisation whose activities can normally be adequately monitored.

F/WG decided from the outset that it would not interview its short-listed candidates, preferring to use the financial savings so derived to increase the number of grants it could award to postgraduate women students in need. Since F/WG began its grant making activity in 1993, almost £1.5 million has been awarded in grants to individual postgraduate women registered for study or research in Great Britain.

The immediate value of each grant in helping the postgraduate achieve her goal is based on a written report from the grant holder at the end of her academic year's work. An appreciative covering letter sometimes gives an indication of the true value of the grant to the recipient, firstly in meeting their need, secondly helping to encourage additional funding from other sources and thirdly more often than not giving a much needed morale boost during a period of distress or self doubt.

The long term efficacy of F/WG's grants may only be judged retrospectively. To this end, a detailed review of the first five years (1993 – 1998) was undertaken to find out whether or not the grant making process of F/WG had identified those who, when helped, had completed their research and gone on to a successful career within or outside academia.

The feedback from past grant holders, which personalised what is essentially a paper exercise for the Grants Committee, was heart warming. The results of this survey were most encouraging. With very few exceptions, all those who were awarded grants successfully completed their postgraduate degrees. A very high percentage of those within the period of the survey chose to remain in academia with some reaching senior academic levels, including a few who have already attained professorial status.

It is not the aim of F/WG to support applicants whom it hopes will continue in academia but to fulfil its objects to promote:

'The advancement of education and the promotion of higher education and wider learning of women graduates.'

F/WG is pleased therefore to find among its past grant holders those who have found success outside academia as teachers, lawyers, bankers, businesswomen, information technologists, journalists, translators, curators, artists and musicians.

F/WG cannot claim any recognition for the successful careers of its past grant holders. It does, however, take enormous satisfaction from the encouragement its modest grants gave to these students when some additional financial help was needed.

The following pages give an indication of the value of our grants to some of the recipients. All have given their written permission for publication in this booklet.



Feedback

Dr Iris Möller 1994/95 Department of Geography, University of Cambridge

“The award of a Foundation grant meant a lot at the time, as it enabled me to complete my PhD research, which was only part-funded. Even though I had completed my undergraduate degree course in the UK, I did not, as a German national, qualify for a full Natural Environment Research Council research grant. The Foundation grant was instrumental in enabling me to complete my academic studies! It was essential for my academic career. Without it I would not have been able to successfully apply for a research job with Wallingford Ltd in 1966 nor my subsequent post-doctoral position as deputy Director of the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit at the University of Cambridge in 1997.”

Dr Stephanie Baldwin 1997/98. Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge

“At the time my grant gave me the freedom to focus on my studies. It meant I could concentrate on finishing my research and writing up my results without fretting too much over how big my overdraft was! The completion of my PhD was essential for my career and my first job as a geoscientist with Shell International in the Hague.”

Dr Natasha Erlank 1997/98 History, University of Cambridge

“The grant I received was extremely necessary. It went towards funding my Cambridge subsistence. My major funding at the time was from South Africa and the Rand had devalued strongly making it difficult for me to make ends meet. Without the grant I would have had to finish my thesis back home, which would not have made life very easy. I was always very fond of my grant for what it represented (I am a gender studies scholar) and because it allowed me to eat!”

Dr Jenny Macleod 1997/98 History, University of Cambridge

“The award of a Foundation Grant was tremendously important to me. I self-funded my PhD, largely through the generosity of my parents, but I supplemented this through part-time work in the college bar and some teaching, and applied to each and every source of funding I could identify. The Foundation Grant was one of a number of awards I received in my third year. As well as the obvious assistance it provided, I took it as a vote of confidence in my abilities and potential at a time of considerable anxiety and self-doubt.”

Dr Audrey Tan Hayes 1996/97 DPMMS, University of Cambridge

“I received my Foundation Grant as I neared the completion of my PhD. It was extremely helpful to me as I was able to complete my thesis within my desired time frame. After completing my PhD, I enjoyed six years working in Cambridge’s thriving IT industry. Although few pure mathematicians can claim to have used their research outside of academia, I was delighted to be given the opportunity to work for Spatial Technology Ltd. I continue to work for them as a contractor back home in New Zealand.”

Dr Xiangqun Chang 1997/98 Sociology, City University, London

Her grant permitted her to shift her academic career from sociology to anthropology eventually leading to a PhD based on two projects in 2004. Dr Chang is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Asia Research Centre, LSE →



Feedback continued

→ Dr Zoe Opacic 1996/97 Courtauld Institute of Art

“The grant was essential. I was very short of money and at that stage was not eligible to apply for grants for UK/EU nationals. I was close to abandoning my studies. It made an enormous difference and it eventually helped me to become a lecturer in History of Art at Birkbeck College.

Dr Anna Verges 1995/97 Law, University of Edinburgh

“I have to say very honestly that I am not sure I could have made it without it. I do particularly remember that period as one of serious economic hardship and in many ways character forming. The funding meant, to start with not having to work and simply manage with occasional jobs but in addition, I felt the funding was a strong infusion of trust.”

Dr Naomi Hamilton 1995/96 Archaeology, University of Edinburgh

“I am happy to tell you that I did indeed complete my PhD and that your grant was most definitely a significant factor in that achievement. Not only did it help financially, it showed that someone else believed in me and this made me stick to an extremely difficult task when my health failed repeatedly and also persuaded others to make minor grants for travel relevant to my thesis.”

Dr Angela McCahill 1995/96 Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh

“The award of a Foundation grant meant I was able to continue my research in the lab for some time after my studentship funding had expired. This was important to me as I was able to take my research to a point where I could draw some interesting conclusions in my PhD thesis and have my findings published as two research papers in peer reviewed journals. This in turn helped me get my first post-doctoral research position and subsequently my second.”

Dr Natalya Todd 1994/95 German, University of Edinburgh

“The award meant a huge amount to me at the time. Although I had secured funding to pay my fees I was struggling to meet my living expenses. It was a very anxious time. The grant played an important role in the completion of my PhD in less than four years. This impressed my first employers in Germany and the building up of valuable experience there helped me to secure my present position as a translator for the European Union in Brussels.”

Dr Marion Leonard 1995/96, Popular Music, University of Liverpool

She was most grateful for her award. Her thesis is being revised in preparation for a book on Gender in the Music industry.

Dr Diana Newton 1994/95 History, University of Liverpool

“The award was crucial in enabling me to complete my PhD thesis after the University of Liverpool Research Development Fund, Postgraduate Studentship expired. My PhD was published for the Royal Society’s Studies in History”

Dr Laura Empson 1996/97 London Business School

“It is fair to say that the award did not make much difference to me as the amount was very small and I also went on to receive funding from the ESRC and the Arthur Anderson Foundation. However, I appreciate the honour and the encouragement that the award represented.” →



Feedback continued

→ Dr Marcia Balisciano 1997/98 Economics, London School of Economics

“It was a godsend – everything was going towards my studies and it gave me much needed breathing room. Having a PhD has given greater credibility to my career – it was a great exercise in thinking and the application of skills.”

Dr Marcella Simoni 1997/98 History, University College London

“The award of a Foundation Grant at the time was indeed very helpful as it contributed to the living expenses and – I would say “survival” of a foreign student in London. As a result it was very helpful in the completion of my studies. Even more so, as, if I am not mistaken, I was awarded a grant twice!”

Dr Siew Peng Lee 1997/98 Anthropology & Sociology, SOAS

“The award of a Foundation Grant meant not only monetary support at a time when I needed it most, it also gave me a sense of moral support. It was helpful in the completion of my study in that I didn’t have to interrupt research in order to raise funds and I believe it also played a part in my securing a subsequent research grant from the Sino-British Fellowship Trust. I am also indebted to the Charity for my award of an Emergency Grant.”

Dr Sally Lark 1997/98 Psychology, Manchester Metropolitan University

“The grant was a significant help in allowing me to continue My PhD full-time. The financial burden of not earning for three years and trying to survive on a bursary allowance set below the poverty line was always very stressful. There was a real possibility that I would have to suspend my studies and go part-time in order to get enough funds to both live and buy necessary texts etc.

Dr Patricia Barker 1997/98 Archaeology, University of Newcastle

“I was very grateful to receive a grant from the Foundation as it enabled me to complete my PhD when I had very little money to do so having been a foreign student. I would have been forced to return home on account of financial constraints. Because I was able to complete my PhD with your support, I was offered a permanent lectureship in Classics and Anthropology at the University of Kent.

Dr Christina Raschka 1994/95 Linguistics, University of Newcastle

“I submitted my PhD in 1996 after spending 10 months at the University of Michigan as a Visiting Research Scholar. Without your help the previous year I would not have been able to concentrate as much on my studies and to advance them to the extent that it enabled me to visit such a prestigious university.”

Dr Valerie Durow 1996/97 English Studies, University of Nottingham

“I am sure that without the grant I would not have been able to complete my PhD. My husband was out of work at the time, my children were relatively young and our financial situation was desperate. The award thus helped towards my living expenses and thus enabled me to continue with my studies at a stage when I was seriously considering abandoning them.” →



Feedback continued

→ Dr Olga Popovic Larsen 1995/96 Architecture, University of Nottingham

“I was most grateful to be awarded a grant because it enabled me to complete my PhD. As I originally come from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia there were very few grants for which I was eligible to apply. You were one of the few. For the last eight years I have been coordinating the only dually accredited degree in Architecture and Structural Engineering in the UK.

Dr Rebecca Sweetman 1995/96 Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Nottingham

“The Charitable Foundation was the first awarding body to offer financial support and give me the encouragement to continue with my work. Following the award, I was successful in a number of funding applications and this in part may have been due to the initial support provided by the Foundation.”

Dr Anita Milicic 1995/96 & 1996/97 Genetics/Immunology University of Oxford

“As an overseas student from Yugoslavia the university fees were prohibitively expensive for me. Apart from the help from my parents, the grant played a significant and very important role in helping me to complete my thesis. Although I also received help from the Retinitis Pigmentosa Society without your help I would have needed to find other sources of funding and or work.

Professor An Ran 1997/98 University of Reading

“The award motivated me to finish my PhD as soon as possible. After my PhD I became a lecturer in the National Language Centre for Language and Literacy at the University of Reading. In 2004 I was recruited as the Executive Director of the School of International Relations, South China University of Technology after fierce competition. I consider that I owe all my success to your grant.”

Lisa Oestreicher BA MSc AA Post Dip (Cons) 1995/96 Royal College of Art

“The award of a grant tipped the balance between feeling that I would be able to survive financially during my studies and deciding not to proceed. The grant enabled me to pursue my field of Architectural Paint research which has now become a valuable tool in the investigation of historic buildings.”

Eleanor Meynell PG Dip 1997/98 Royal Northern College of Music

Miss Meynell was awarded a grant for her postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music on a postgraduate singing course. Since graduation she has sung with the BBC Singers, Pavilion Opera, the National Opera Studio, radio 3 BBC Concert Orchestra among others. She has commissioned 6 composers of standing to write new songs for her set to W.H. Auden’s poems to celebrate the Centenary of his birth. The song recital will tour the UK.

Dr Lyla Mehta 1997/98 Development Studies, University of Sussex

“When I applied for a grant I was in the final throes of writing up my thesis. It was a difficult time for me emotionally and financially. I was fortunate to have a job offer a year before the completion of my PhD. All I needed was the financial security to complete my studies.”



Links

BFWG **The British Federation of Women Graduates**

Founded in 1907, BFWG works to promote women's opportunities in education and public life, to foster local, national and international friendship and to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide.

BFWG works through local associations, regional groups and the national Federation. Internationally it works through the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and the University Women of Europe (UWE). The former has consultative status with UN agencies and the latter with the Council of Europe.

A partner of the Women's National Commission and a member of the Six-O Group involving large women's organizations, BFWG is the voice for women graduates in Britain.

National Awards: BFWG Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence to women of any nationality who are studying in Great Britain and entering their final year of doctoral research. Further information: awards@bfgw.org.uk

International Awards: The criteria for grants and fellowships from the International Federation and from other national affiliates vary. Further information:
Website: www.ifuw.org or
E-mail: info@ifuw.org

Membership of BFWG is open to women graduates who are resident in Great Britain irrespective of nationality, age or discipline. It provides information, support and friendship at local, regional and international levels.

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Fax: 020 7498 5213

E-mail: info@bfgw.org.uk
Website: www.bfgw.org.uk

Sybil Campbell Library

The Collection, built up over seventy years by the British Federation of Women Graduates, contains about 8,000 items, including material relating to women's writing and women's history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, women's education and their personal libraries, biography and autobiography, and women in wartime. There are reports and publications of the British and International Federations of University Women, the Women's National Commission, theses and abstracts of BFWG Award and Grant Holders.

The general material includes philosophy, literature, literary criticism, travel, the arts and works on the London Borough of Chelsea. Material was donated by significant figures of the 1920s and 1930s such as Theodora Bosanquet, Sybil Campbell, Ivy Davison, John Galsworthy, Alys Russell, Caroline Spurgeon, Beatrice Webb and Virginia Woolf.

The Collection was formerly the BFUW Crosby Hall Library at Chelsea, opened in 1928. It became the BFUW Sybil Campbell Library (still at Crosby Hall) in 1959, named after Sybil Campbell who spearheaded the fundraising campaign to establish Crosby Hall. This was an

international hall of residence for women post-graduates, opened in 1927 by Queen Mary, as part of the effort to foster international understanding and to build peace in the future.

In 1992 the Library was moved to 28 Great James Street in Bloomsbury, housed and managed by the BFWG Charitable Foundation. Urgent cataloguing and conservation work was carried out from 2001 to 2006, thanks to generous grants from the Pilgrim Trust and the Charitable Foundation, donations from BFWG members and many hours of dedicated work by volunteers. The catalogue was put on line in March 2005. In 2006 the Collection was moved on long term loan to the University of Winchester, West Hill, Winchester SO22 4NR

The Library is wholly owned by BFWG and supported by the small BFWG Sybil Campbell Library Trust Fund. For more information see monograph number 7 on the web site: "The story of the Sybil Campbell Collection and the principles that determined its content."

E-mail: libenquiries@winchester.ac.uk
Website: <http://sybilcampbelllibrary.org.uk>





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www.ffwg.org.uk