

The Sustainable Agriculture Bursary application pack

2019/2020 academic year



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND



Dear Student,

We're dedicated to caring for nature and the environment and we can only do that with the support of passionate people who share this vision and want to get into sustainable farming and agriculture. This is why we are launching a bursary at the University of Reading and the Royal Agricultural University.

Thank you for your interest in the Sustainable Agriculture Bursary, funded and delivered by Jordans and The Prince's Countryside Fund.

The bursary will consist of a £3,000 contribution in the first year of your undergraduate course and is designed to support you in your studies and research into sustainable farming and agriculture. We appreciate the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in the future of British food production and want to encourage the next generation to explore the full potential of sustainability.

£1,000 will be contributed by the Royal Agricultural University and the University of Reading in both the second and third years of your course so that you can continue to explore your interest in this field.

We wish you the best of luck with your application.

Jordans and The Prince's Countryside Fund





Eligibility for the bursary

This bursary is for students at either the Royal Agricultural University or the University of Reading. Applications from any other schools or universities will not be accepted.

Please only apply if you:

- ✓ Have been offered a conditional or unconditional place at either the Royal Agricultural University or the University of Reading starting in September 2019 (we are unable to consider applications from anyone taking a gap year)
- ✓ If applying to the University of Reading, are applying for a course in the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development
- ✓ If applying to the Royal Agricultural University, are applying for an agriculture course
- ✓ Have selected either the Royal Agricultural University or The University of Reading as your first choice university
- ✓ Are under the age of 35 years
- ✓ Have a genuine interest in a career in farming, agriculture or a related field
- ✓ Are interested in sustainability in agriculture and farming



The application process

Part 1 – Fill in the application form, and submit your supporting video – upload this to YouTube, Vimeo, Dropbox or a similar platform, pasting the video link in to your application form.

Maximum length for the video is two minutes, and if you password protect the film, please include this in your application form.

If you cannot upload your video, please contact Ellie.Jesson@bitc.org.uk.

Part 2 – if shortlisted, you will be invited to provide two references (one character and one academic) and will be asked to be available for a 30 minute telephone interview with the selection panel.

Part 3 – you will be notified up to one week after your A Level results day whether you have been successful. To be successful, you will need to have been accepted onto the course by securing the grades as outlined by the university*

*If you have an unconditional offer because you have already completed your A Levels or equivalent, you may be notified of your success prior to results day.



Structure of The Bursary

Year One:

In your first year you will receive a £3,000 cash award. The funds are intended to facilitate your studies and development in sustainable agriculture. More information on use of funds is available later in this pack.

You will be expected to attend an introductory meeting and to participate in some marketing activity - these are described in more detail later in this pack.

Year Two and Three

In your second and third year you will receive further payments of £1,000 per year.

In these years you will also have access to a mentor to support your career development and skills. We will work with you in year one to select an appropriate mentor from amongst our farmer associates or from within the Jordans business.

The other criteria remain as for year one regarding the kick off event and marketing activity.



How to use your bursary

As part of the application form, you will be asked how you will use the £3,000 which will be given to you in the first year of your course.

Suggested expenditure includes:

- ✓ Textbooks and journal subscriptions
- ✓ Field trips related to sustainability
- ✓ Additional courses, events, conferences and seminars relating to sustainability
- ✓ Accommodation or travel to facilitate you attending a course or event relevant to sustainable agriculture
- ✓ Purchase of essential IT equipment and software
- ✓ Professional qualifications



What do we expect from you?

If successful, you would be expected to:

- Submit an end of year report including:
 - A report on how you spent the bursary
 - Your plans for your following year(s) of study, or post-degree
 - An update on what you have learned about sustainability
- Actively participate in marketing the bursary – commitment to three pieces of content per year (to be decided on mutually with Jordans/The Fund)
- Attend meetings with your mentor in year 2 and 3 (at least two sessions per year)
- Attend the introductory events each year (September/October)
- Keep us up to date via email/general correspondence
- Commit to attending some open days and attend some agricultural fairs



What can you expect from
us?

In addition to the £5,000 financial support over 3 years there are numerous other benefits to taking part in this bursary

- Access to the networks of The Prince's Countryside Fund and The Jordans Dorset & Ryvita Company
- Involvement in alumni activity
- Support and open communication throughout the programme
- A highly skilled mentor from a farming business or from Jordans- this can be tailored to you
- Training on social media use for marketing
- A point of differentiation on your CV

Additional information

Contact details and support

The application form you need to fill out should be available to download from each university's website. If you are having difficulty finding, or downloading this form, or you have any questions relating to the application or the video upload, please contact:

- Helen Joyner scholarships@rau.ac.uk at the Royal Agricultural University
- Dr Gillian Rose g.rose@reading.ac.uk at the University of Reading

