
BLCS STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND

PURPOSE OF THE FUND

The BLCS Student Hardship Fund aims to support PhD students near the end of their studies whose project has been delayed by Covid-19 and who have run out or are about to run out of funding. The fund is to be considered as a last resort, to be used if no other funding support, e.g. from research councils, is available. The fund is time limited. Applications will not be possible after the end of October 2021, but the fund may be extended should the need arise.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Applicants must be registered for a PhD in a UK University and must be within 6 months of the end of their funding at the time of their application or have run out of funding after 1 April 2020.
- 2) Applicants must be members of the BLCS and their project must be in liquid crystals or related areas.
- 3) This fund cannot be cumulated with other Covid-19 support funds put in place by the applicant's home University or the funding agencies that pay the student's bursary, e.g. EPSRC Doctoral Training Grants, Leverhulme Trust, University Scholarships.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Any single request may not be for more than £500 and only one application is allowed per individual. The BLCS Student Hardship Fund is limited to no more than £3,000 in total.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

The fund is to be used to cover the student's living expenses. The funds requested must be justified in the application procedure. Support from the BLCS should be acknowledged in the thesis, if possible.

APPLICATION, APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- 1) This is an open call. Applications will be considered monthly, with the aim of informing the applicants within four weeks of submission.
- 2) The application must be made by email to the Secretary of the Society (Dr Mamatha Nagaraj, m.nagaraj@leeds.ac.uk). The application should fit on one side of A4 and contain the following information:
 - a) Applicant's contact details and funding source.
 - b) Project research area.
 - c) Justification of the funding requested: the nature and effect of the delay, what remedial actions the student and supervisory team have taken to deal with Covid-19 related restrictions and how the

funding will help the student achieve their PhD.

- d) Statement that no additional Covid-19 support funding is available to the student.
 - e) Date by which the funding is required. This should be at least four weeks after the submission of the application.
- 3) The application must be endorsed by the supervisor who must confirm that no additional Covid-19 support funding is available to the student.
- 4) Funding will be decided by a panel formed by the Chair, vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the BLCS or co-opted members of the steering committee in case of conflicts of interest. All non-confidential information will be reported to the BLCS Steering Committee. A summary will be presented by the treasurer at the AGM.