**AHSS BOOST YOUR SKILLS (UK/IRE) AWARDS 2024 – 2025**

The AHSS BOOST award will support you in being able to take part in a domestic activity during the 24/25 academic year that will enrich your degree and support your skill development or future employment. *Previously known as the Local Skills Development Award.*

An award of £250 to support taking part in an activity inside the UK/IRE (including Northern Ireland) is available to current students studying within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Funding subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply.

We expect a high level of interest for this this award and as such we have developed a competitive application process.

Please only apply for this award if you have already confirmed/booked your skill building activity.

To apply, please complete the application form providing details of your proposed activity, three clear objectives and how this activity will be of benefit to your degree and improve future employment opportunities. **Supporting evidence must be uploaded at the time of application.**

**Terms & Conditions**

1. This award is exclusively for current students studying a degree at Queen’s University Belfast within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.
2. The activity must take place inside of the UK/IRE (including Northern Ireland) between 1st June 2024 and 31st August 2025 (the outbound date must be within these dates).
3. Travel must be undertaken before graduation.
4. Applications will only be reviewed and scored if you have already confirmed/booked your skill building activity.
5. Applications will only be reviewed/ assessed if supporting documentation is uploaded at time of application with an academic approval letter. Supporting documentation must be one of the following to confirm your activity booking:

* Email from organisation offering activity
* Exchange confirmation
* Course acceptance form
* Flight booking form

*Plus, an academic approval letter.*

1. You are responsible for applying for the required travel approval dependent on the activity you intend to do. Please refer to [Covid19 Update | Stu](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/careers/GlobalOpportunities/Covid19Update/)dent Guidance Centre | Queen's University Belfast (qub.ac.uk) for full details.
2. The award will be made to activities that directly relate to the development of academic and employability skills. This includes:
   * Non-compulsory and compulsory domestic work experience/placements
   * Short course

* Conferences
* Voluntary work experience

1. You must not be in receipt of any other subsidy/bursary for this activity to be eligible. This includes, but is not restricted to, Erasmus/Turing funding and Travel scholarships that are awarded by the University's [Student Scholarships and Awards Group](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/AcademicGovernanceCommittees/). Checks will be made, and applications will be withdrawn if you have been in receipt of any other subsidy/ bursary relating to this activity.
2. Where a School is subsidising other aspects of the proposed activity funding will not be awarded. It is your responsibility to ensure that information submitted is accurate and neither false nor untrue. Checks will be made, and applications will be withdrawn if the activity is found to be subsidised by a School.
3. Awards will be allocated on a competitive basis. The application score criteria can be found below.
4. Applications will be assessed at four points during the academic year. These dates will be published on the [Global Mobility webpage](https://www.qub.ac.uk/about/Leadership-and-structure/Faculties-and-Schools/Arts-Humanities-and-Social-Sciences/AHSSSkillsDevelopment/GlobalMobility/).
5. Applications will be deemed successful if they score 20 points and above and all relevant paperwork is included with application.
6. Successful applicants will be notified within a 6-week period of the assessment date.
7. We are committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of personal circumstances or background should have an equal opportunity to participate in Higher Education, therefore successful applicants who are in receipt of a full Student Finance NI maintenance grant/ care leavers/care experienced students known to the Widening Participation Unit may be eligible for an additional £50 award. Maintenance grant letter must be uploaded at time of application as evidence.
8. Payment of the award will be made via QSIS. You will be required to update your bank details on your QSIS account. Please note that this must be a UK bank account.
9. All recipients of this award must supply either a report of their trip or a video blog within four weeks of their return. Photographs of the trip will be welcomed and can include selfies along with photographs of work undertaken. A selection of travel reports/video blogs may be used as publicity material; however, the relevant authors will be asked in advance for permission.
10. You are responsible for declaring any award received as income to H&M Revenue and Customs and to pay income tax and national insurance contributions and other applicable deductions required under applicable law. It is your responsibility to ensure you remain within the law. The University accepts no liability for such matters.
11. Data held by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Office will be processed in accordance with the University’s Data Protection Policy and your rights under Data Protection Legislation. It will be used to process your application; and to communicate with you prior, during and after the award. You can view the Student Privacy Notice for more information
12. If you provide the University with incorrect or incomplete information, or if you fail to complete the activity, or you do not meet the eligibility criteria for the award, or you otherwise do anything which might bring the University into disrepute, without prejudice to its other rights and remedies the University, may terminate its agreement with you pursuant to these Terms with immediate effect and will not pay any money to you and/or may require you to return any money already paid to you pursuant to these Terms.
13. The University takes no responsibility for undertaking health and safety or any other risk assessments of placement organisations unrelated to course requirements. Students participating in placement as part of this Scheme are expected to undertake their own assessments and familiarise themselves with the relevant organisation’s processes to ensure their personal safety and wellbeing.

**Assessment Criteria**

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| Criteria | Scoring Criteria |  |
| Type of activity | Work experience – 10 marks  Volunteering – 8 Marks  Short course/Training/Workshops – 6 Marks  Conference – 4 Marks  Other – 2 Marks (an employability related activity)  0 Marks if activity if activity is not deemed to be employability related |  |
| By taking part in this activity the student can clearly evidence three key objectives they will aim to achieve by participating in this activity | Three objectives clearly defined and excellent evidence – 10 marks  Three objectives clearly defined and very good evidence – 8 marks  Three objectives defined and good evidence – 6 marks  Three objectives and some evidence – 4 marks  Basic objectives defined – 2 marks  No objectives defined – 0 marks |  |
| Will participating in this activity add value to their degree | Excellent evidence – 10 marks  Very good evidence – 8 marks  Good evidence – 6 marks  Some evidence outcomes – 4 marks  Basic evidence – 2 marks  No evidence – 0 marks |  |
| This activity will support the students anticipated career path and will improve their cv which will lead to impressing future employers and make them stand out from their peers? | Excellent evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path, detailing skills and achievements to note on a CV or job application – 10 marks  Very good evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path, detailing skills and achievements to note on a CV or job application – 8 marks  Good evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path, detailing skills and achievements to note on a CV or job application – 6 marks  Some evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path, detailing skills and achievements to note on a CV or job application – 4 marks  Basic evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path with little to no evidence of skills and achievements to note on a CV or job application – 2 marks  No evidence of relevancy to anticipated career path – 0 marks |  |