

**We give heart, hope and opportunity to the people of Manchester, when they need it most**

# Manchester's Rising Stars Fund

We Love MCR Charity aims to improve the lives and life chances of individuals and communities across Manchester. In our thriving city, many people are unable to enjoy the benefits of rapid growth. We provide resources to make real changes for local people.

The Manchester's Rising Stars Fund (created with the generosity of the Sir Howard Bernstein Endowment Fund) supports ambitious young Mancunians who might need a helping hand - the potential rising stars who will help to shape Manchester and become the next generation of achievers.

The Manchester's Rising Stars Fund aims to give young people financial support to allow them to take opportunities that may otherwise be out of their reach. With 4 in 10 of Manchester's children growing up in poverty, many of our young people face disadvantages as they try to succeed. Many agencies and organisations in our city offer practical support and assistance. But sometimes, a financial grant to pay for something which will help a young person to take a step forward towards their goal is what it takes to enable progress.

**We recognise that a little financial support, at the right time, can make a big difference when starting out on or progressing a career, self-employment or learning path.**

We welcome requests for grants to purchase equipment, to fund courses and accreditations, and to support other costs relating to moving into employment, training or entrepreneurship. We will only consider requests which come from young people whose financial or family circumstances put them at a disadvantage, and who are unable to meet the costs of the items or support they are requesting. We welcome applications from ambitious young people who have a clear plan for themselves, and where any award from the Fund will make a sustainable difference rather than a fleeting benefit.

By providing this practical support to access opportunities, we aim to make Manchester a fairer and more prosperous place to live, work and succeed, for all our young people.

To read some pilot case studies of young people we have supported with the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund, click here: <https://www.welovemcrcharity.org/rising-stars-fund> or check out our twitter @mcr\_charity every Thursday, where we celebrate news from our Rising Stars Fund.

We Love MCR Charity supports Manchester's mission to ensure that children and young people have the right skills to be able to grow up happy, healthy, safe and successful. Manchester aims to achieve this by promoting a common language and developing quick and easy to use resources as well as creating a city-wide movement to embed Skills For Life across Manchester.

For further information about Skills for life <https://hsm.manchester.gov.uk/kb5/manchester/directory/advice.page?id=oO0mtqR948Y> or you can contact [Natalie.dodd@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.dodd@manchester.gov.uk)

## Here are some examples of awards made by the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund



Alyia\* applied to the MRSF to for support with course fees for her Level 3 online Health and Social care course – a vital step towards helping her achieve her dream of going to university. Alyia is an 18 year old care experienced young person. Her dream is to be the first person in her family to go university to study Psychology. She told us she has not had a good start in life but wants to turn things



Samuel is from a single parent with no recourse to public funds. Samuel is an incredibly ambitious and talented young man who has a passion for learning and helping others to achieve their aspirations. Samuel applied to the Manchester's rising stars fund to purchase equipment to develop creative content that addresses issues in his community and supports other young people like him. He aims to set up podcasts and other creative content to support himself and his family. We are so excited to support Samuel on this journey and can't wait to see what he produces!



Abi\* applied for support to purchase vital equipment for her level 3 Nail Technology course at the The Manchester college. Abi is living in supported accommodation on a low income. She is an ambitious young woman who aims to not only finish college but to start up her own business when she finishes! The kit funded by the MRSF will enable her to do this, it could be the key to unlocking her future in her own business.



Ella is a care experienced young person who has recently graduated from the University of Liverpool with a 2.1 in Law with Criminology. Ella is an ambitious young person who has now been offered a scholarship at MMU to study Social Work which entails travel to multiple sites and a placement. With no family support, Ella has supported her studies by working in care homes. Ella applied to the MRSF for support with travel costs – with our help to buy a reduced cost student bus pass to support both her work and studies, she can carry on succeeding!



# Grant Criteria



- **Be aged 16-24**
- **OR be aged up to 30 if you have personal experience of homelessness**
- **Live in the City of Manchester**
- **Have a professional referee willing to support your application**
- **Be in employment (including self-employment), education or training**
- **OR Have an offer of employment, education or training**
- **OR Have a clear goal and plan to move into an opportunity of employment, education or training**
- **Request a Grant of a value between £200 and £5,000 (in exceptional circumstances trustees will consider a grant a higher value – please contact us to discuss this)**
- **Your personal or family circumstances must mean you are unable to access the items or support you need yourself.**

**Applying for a Manchester's Rising Stars grant is straightforward. We have provided some guidance notes here to support you.**



**We are happy to discuss applications before you submit them so please feel free to contact us if you have questions by emailing [welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk)**

**All information will be treated confidentially and will not be shared outside the Charity. To avoid delays in your application, please ensure that all parts of the application are filled in.**





# Guidance for filling in Application form

NB we will only consider applications completed digitally. We will not accept hand-written applications. You may supplement your application with other materials (eg video statement) if you would like to.

## Applicant details

**This needs to be filled in, so we know who you are, and how to contact you about your application.**

**1**

### Section 1 – Applicant details

This needs to be filled in, so we know who you are, and how to contact you about your application.

**2**

### Section 2 – Personal Statement

The more information you give us here, the better. This is to give us some background on why you're applying for the grant, so we can understand your situation. In this section we would like you to tell us a bit about your ambitions, how an award will help you achieve this ambition and information about why your personal circumstances mean you are unable to access what you are asking for. Please tell us how a grant would help you in the short term and what impact this could have in the longer term.

**3**

### Section 3 – Grant information

This lets us know exactly what you're applying for, and how much it will cost. We need the amount requested to be specific, so before applying you should find out exactly what the cost of what you need is. For example, if you need a camera to assist your progress into a Photography Apprenticeship, you should research exactly which one you want to buy, and where from, before applying for the grant. It is important to show that you have researched the item, you are applying only for what you need, and that you have sourced a good quality item that is value for money. Please include quotes in this section – links to websites are fine. Please include the total cost of your items including VAT and postage and packaging if relevant. If you have applied for funding from other sources, please also give details this in this section. (We are very happy to co-fund an item with another funder).

**4**

### Section 4 – Referee's Supporting Statement

A Referee is a professional person who can confirm who you are and vouch for your application and provide a supporting statement. This can be a teacher, manager, or tutor on your course eg if you're on an Apprenticeship. It could also be a social worker, leaving-care worker or support worker e.g. from a homelessness team.

**5**

### Section 5 – Declaration

Please sign to declare that everything you have written is accurate and true. If information is found to be false, we reserve the right to recall funds. Please also tell us where you found out about the grant.

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Monitoring form:

We ask that you fill in our monitoring form. We try to be inclusive. We need to understand the background of applicants to make sure we succeed in this, so we would like to ask you some questions about you. These questions are optional, you do not have to answer, and they will not impact on your application in any way.



# Application Process



When you are ready, please complete the Application Form by downloading an application form and typing in your answers (We will not accept handwritten applications) Please ensure that you complete all sections of the application form, as incomplete applications will not be considered. Once completed Email applications to [welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk) and we will acknowledge receipt.

**We know that receiving the money quickly may be essential, if you have a particular deadline to meet (course fees needing to be paid for example) then please tell us and we will aim to accommodate.**

## After the Committee meeting:

If your application has been either successful or unsuccessful you will receive notification within 2 days of the committee meeting.

If you are successful, we will ask you to provide a picture of yourself and a few words of thanks to We Love MCR saying what a difference the grant will make to you that we can share on our social media. Even better you can send us a video saying thank you – we love those! If you wish to remain anonymous due to personal or safeguarding issues, that is fine, we can anonymise any quotes.

If you do not wish to give us a picture of yourself we will ask you to send us a picture of the items we have supported with the award.

Once we have received the above you will receive the grant in the form of vouchers (usually issued to your referee) or we will purchase items directly to be delivered to you.

## Evaluation

Within 6 weeks of receiving your grant, we will send you and your referee an online evaluation form asking you to give us some feedback on the impact of receiving the grant.

Completing and returning this is a condition of receiving a grant from us to promote the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund to benefit as many young Mancunians as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about any aspect of the grant at [welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk)



# Good luck!