

# TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS BURSARY SCHEME

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PO box 1179 Tring HP23 6WR

Dear Potential Placement Provider,

## **Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme for England and Wales: Potential Placement Providers**

Thank you for your interest in the Traditional Building Skills Bursary Scheme.

The project aims to boost the numbers of skilled workers in the built heritage sector through the provision of bursaries for work-based training.

Led by a strong partnership of organisations committed to ensuring we maintain heritage building skills and the preservation of the historic environment, the Scheme welcomes and values your support.

In June 2005, the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) published the first-ever skills need analysis report of the built heritage sector in England. *Traditional Building Craft Skills: Assessing the Need, Meeting the Challenge.* This report provided a regional breakdown of supply, demand and training for traditional building skills. The report showed that skill shortages and skills gaps affected the main trades, such as carpentry and joinery, as well as the smaller, more threatened trades of dry stone walling, thatching, flint-work and earth building. An updated report was published in 2007 and parallel reports on skills needs in Wales (2007) and Northern Ireland (2009)

The recent research also confirms that our sector of the industry believes it is vital to train future craftspeople appropriately and provide the opportunities they need to gain the correct knowledge and skills to conserve, repair and maintain our historic buildings. Furthermore, it is essential to attract and train new craftspeople for this sector and retain and up-skill the existing workforce to provide the right skills and knowledge to work on our precious built heritage.

The construction industry has been actively involved in developing the new National Occupational Standards for the new NVQ Level 3 in Heritage Skills, which includes pathways for the majority of traditional building crafts. With the increasing demand for an appropriately qualified workforce and the requirement of a growing number of contractors for a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – carded workforce, this Scheme will provide craftspeople with the opportunity to gain work experience and/or all or some of the work-based evidence they need to achieve their NVQ qualification.

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As a company working in the built heritage sector, you will be aware of the issues that arise in sourcing skilled and experienced individuals to carry out highly skilled and sometimes specialised work. You may also recognise that there is a need to provide practical, on-the-job training for enthusiastic and skilled individuals.

The Scheme provides such training by giving bursaries to trainees in work experience placements with approved Placement Providers. These trainees will be skilled to NVQ level 3 in a relevant building craft to the Placement and will have demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm to work in the heritage sector. Therefore, these individuals should be an overall benefit to your productivity rather than a drain.

If you are interested in participating in the Scheme, then please read the enclosed Placement Provider's Pack and complete and return the Placement Provider's Registration and Placement Notification forms. Completion of the Registration form is not a firm commitment by you to provide a Placement, or by the Scheme to place a Trainee with your organisation. Should we accept your application to be registered as a Placement Provider, you will need to sign an agreement to confirm that you will abide by the Placement Provider's Terms and Conditions.

Please take a look at the website for further details and do not hesitate to contact me to if you have any questions or queries.

Many thanks for your support and interest.

Yours sincerely

Clara Willett  
Bursary Scheme Manager

Email: [clara@buildingbursaries.org.uk](mailto:clara@buildingbursaries.org.uk)  
Tel: 01442 890 756  
Mobile: 07889 808 180

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