

Institute of Medical Ethics Elective Bursaries 2025/2026 Guidelines for applicants

Bursary Award

Bursaries of up to £1000 each will be awarded to current UK medical students to support Medical Student Electives, in the UK or overseas, which involve a project related to medical ethics.

Exceptionally a bursary may be awarded for a project which is part of a Special Study Module.

Research Requirements

The project may be empirical research, a literature review or a focused reflection on the experience you expect to gain from your elective. You are strongly advised to consult the paper *'Research methods in medical ethics: IME guidance for Elective Bursary Projects'* available to download on the IME website.

Completion of Elective

Your elective must be completed within 12 months of receiving the award. If you are experiencing any problems, please contact us as soon as possible.

Assessment of Application

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- a) The degree to which your project focuses on medical ethics.
- b) The question you hope to answer and the background of the project.
- c) Academic references should be included. (Please note that news websites and Wikipedia – for example – are not academic references.)
- d) The methodology you intend to use.
- e) The feasibility of your project.
- f) The possible relevance of your findings to health care, the medical ethics debate, and your future career.
- g) Your justification for your bursary application.
- h) Medical students must apply jointly with their Medical School Ethics lead or a designated member of staff who must approve the project and confirm whether or not ethical approval is required (see Support from Ethics Lead and Project Supervisor below).

Support from Ethics Lead and Project Supervisor

Your form must be completed and signed by your Medical School Ethics Lead or a designated member of staff who is responsible for medical ethics teaching and include the official university email.

You should discuss the need to obtain ethical approval for your project with your Medical School Ethics Lead or designated member of staff. If your project involves the use of questionnaires and/or interviews, it is very likely that you will require ethical approval; you should aim to apply for this before submitting your bursary application. If you are successful, we will require confirmation of the approval.

Occasionally, the award of a bursary may be provisional depending on, for example, the confirmation of the applicant obtaining ethical approval for their project. In this case, the requirement stated in the letter to the applicant must be satisfied *before* the start date of the applicant's elective. If this is not done, the bursary award will be withdrawn.

Please note: that only applications which strictly adhere to these guidelines will be considered.

Completion of Application

Please complete the application form with a detailed outline of your project where indicated and as instructed. Please note that no other documentation, including CVs is required. We are unable to accept handwritten applications.

Submitting Your Application

Once you have completed the form and obtained your project supervisor's endorsement, forward the form to your Medical School Ethics Lead for them to complete and submit the form to:

contact@ime-uk.org and copy in philg@ime-uk.org

Once we have received your application, we will send you a confirmation email – if you do not receive a confirmation email within one week, please email us at contact@ime-uk.org and copy in philg@ime-uk.org to check your application has been received.

Closing Date

The closing date is now **23:59 Tuesday 9th December 2025**. No applications will be accepted after that date.

You will be notified of the outcome by **Wednesday 14th January 2026**.

Successful Applications

If your application is successful, we will email to advise you if there are any conditions attached to bursary and request your bank details so that an electronic bank transfer for the amount awarded can be sent to you.

Complimentary Student Membership

Successful applicants will also be given a year's complimentary student membership for the IME.

The Mark Brennan Poster Prize

If you are awarded an elective bursary, you will automatically be invited to present a poster of your project at the next IME Student Conference. The winner of the elective bursary poster category will be awarded The Mark Brennan Prize.

Once you have completed your Elective

A report summarizing your elective and detailing your findings, in no more than 1000 words, must be sent to the IME within 3 months of the end of your elective. *Please ensure that confidentiality is maintained in your report.*

Please email your report to contact@ime-uk.org and copy in philg@ime-uk.org.

Certificate of Recognition

On receipt of your report you will be sent a certificate in recognition of your award for inclusion in your portfolio.

***Please note:** that submission of a report is a condition of the award and we are unable to issue a certificate unless we have received this and may also affect any future financial support that may be available to you.*

If you have any other questions, please email:

contact@ime-uk.org and copy in philg@ime-uk.org and we will respond asap.