

Art and Design Global Challenges Scholarship 2025-26

The University of Sunderland is the recipient of a generous donation from eminent architect Mike Davies CBE to support students studying art and design subjects. In the School of Art and Design, we believe that our students' creativity can make the world a better place. This scholarship supports you to undertake a project or opportunity to develop your creative practice for the potential benefit of others and/or to explore how your creative work or subject can shape society for the better.

The term '**Global Challenges**' relates to several themes including poverty; good health and well-being; gender equality; affordable and clean energy; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; and peace and justice.

Each year we expect to award up to **five scholarships of up to £1,000**. Scholarships are available to full or part time students on campus studying:

- BA (Hons) Artist Designer Maker: Glass and Ceramics (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Fine Art (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Photography Video and Digital Imaging (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Graphic Design (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Illustration and Design (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Animation and Games Art (Stage 2 and 3)
 - BA (Hons) Fashion Design and Promotion (Stage 2 and 3)
 - MA Design
 - MA Visual Practice
 - PhDs* in the School of Art and Design
- (Includes Integrated Foundation routes for the above subject areas Level 2/3)*

The kinds of projects this scholarship could fund include:

- Exploring more sustainable use of materials or ways of working
- Visiting a studio, workshop or business that makes sustainable products/designs
- Researching 'ethical designers'
- Visiting exhibitions that tackle global issues
- Supporting a local project to improve a community
- Developing artworks or designs to raise the profile of an important issue
- Exploring how creative practice can tell stories to highlight inequality
- Undertaking a project to improve the environment
- Undertaking an internship with a social enterprise or charity
- Attending classes or workshops in the UK or abroad to help you to make more innovative and impactful creative work
- Undertaking a study visit to explore how creativity is shaping society

This list is not exhaustive, and we encourage you to develop your own take on 'global challenges.' In your project it is perfectly acceptable for you to explore these global issues on a local or even personal scale.

The application deadline is noon on Friday 3rd April 26 and successful applicants will be notified in April 2026.

Applicants must complete the scholarship application form outlining their project proposal and include a detailed budget of what they need to complete their project. Scholarship funding can support travel, subsistence, conference or workshop fees, materials, equipment, and other reasonable costs. We expect most scholarships will be up to £1000. Shortlisted applications will be considered by an awarding Committee and academic reference may be requested at that point. Incomplete applications will not be shortlisted for Committee consideration.

Applications will be assessed, and selection will be based upon the following criteria:

- Clarity of proposal and benefit to the student in terms of their creativity, learning and future career.
- How the project might benefit others and/or explore how the applicant's creative work or subject can shape society.
- Students should indicate what 'global challenge' their project relates to with reference to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These, "are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice." <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> Please note that these global issues can be considered on a local or even personal scale.
- Clarity of budget

****The project can be part of module work but please note that specific support for final degree show project work is not supported by this fund. We are unlikely to fund materials or equipment that already available in the university. This fund does not fund research students to present their work at conferences.***

Projects should be completed by an agreed date, within a year of the award, and successful candidates will be expected to produce an illustrated report on their project and supply images for publicity purposes.

For further information or for an informal discussion please contact: Professor Kevin Petrie, Head of the School of Art & Design kevin.petrie@sunderland.ac.uk

For information on the application process please contact the University's Development team on development.office@sunderland.ac.uk

The University's Development Trust reserves the right to request full repayment of scholarship funding in the event of a project not being fully completed. However, we do recognise that projects might evolve so please keep in touch and let us know if you want changes your plans.

You can tell us about your project in several ways:

1. Write a statement of up 700 words or
2. Send us a video or sound recording of up to 5mins
3. We may also be able to arrange for you to present your ideas to a panel with questions (for this option we will need some bullet points notes in advance about your project)

Whatever option you chose please cover the follow areas:

- Please give a brief overview of your Art and Design Global Challenge idea? What do you want to do and why? Imagine you are in an elevator with somebody and must explain your idea in just a few sentences. This kind of 'elevator pitch' could be a useful skill to develop for your professional life so perhaps test it out on a few people first to see if it is clear.
- Now give us some details about how your project might benefit others and/or develop your creative work.
- How will this project help your future career?
- Tell us which of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals your 'global challenge' project most relates to and why. Please remember that your project can explore an issue from a local or personal perspective. We do not expect you to solve the global challenge on your own through this one project! You can find the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals here:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- How much money in total are you applying for?
- Now write a list which breaks down the above total into individual items that you need for your project and how much they cost. Please try to make this as accurate as possible and explain why each thing is important.
- It could be helpful for the panel to see something visual that relates to your idea. This could be your own work or some images that illustrate your project. If you wish to send some visuals, please add them to a PowerPoint presentation with captions.