

The Douglas Clasper Award: School of Media and Creative Industries

The University is the recipient of a generous donation in memory of Douglas Clasper, the father of Mike Clasper an Honorary Graduate of the University who was born and brought up in Sunderland.

Mike has dedicated these scholarships to his father's memory as he was passionate about the role of education and training in enabling students from all backgrounds to realise their full potential. He was also highly appreciative of those with outstanding abilities and the awards will hopefully provide such students a little extra help to nurture their talent.

This programme has been funded for five years and will provide one new scholarship each year for a School of Media and Creative Industries (FESCI) 2nd or 3rd Year Undergraduate student.

Criteria:

This annual scholarship will provide one talented scholar with £3,000 to undertake a career-enhancing project, initiative or opportunity that will enrich their student experience and further enable them to stand out in a competitive environment – the aim of the opportunity is to enhance their CV or portfolio.

- The scholarship will provide financial support for a short-term opportunity of between 4 weeks to 3 months.
- 2nd or Final Year Full/PT Home/EU FAcI undergraduate students are eligible to apply (IFY and BA)
- Opportunity must be undertaken during the summer of 2026 or prior to graduation if you are a final year student.
- The development opportunity must fall into one of the following:
 - An individual project within a business *
 - work shadowing
 - work placement *
 - an internship (providing evidence that this scholarship is needed additionally to finance the opportunity) *

Where the opportunity would classify the scholar as a worker, volunteer or employee, we will need confirmation that national minimum wage will apply and be paid in line with employment rights. We cannot support scholars undertaking unpaid internships or placements where employment rights apply. For further details please see: <https://www.gov.uk/employment-rights-for-interns>

- An academic referee will be asked for input as to the value of your opportunity. Please provide details of a nominated Academic who can discuss your application further with the awarding Committee.

Applications are considered at Committee Level in May 2026. Priority will be given to applications which cover the programme criteria and demonstrate clarity of proposal and benefit to the student. Although the award will be made on merit of the student and their



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academic progress and achievement, and the potential of the development opportunity; other consideration will be given to applicants who would possibly not have the disposable income to fund such an opportunity without this financial assistance

Application Process:

Applications can be made by the E-vision portal for students meeting the above eligibility criteria. A word document submission is required which outlines details of your proposal, opportunity secured, timeline and clear costings that you need financial support to cover.

Further advice on what to include can be discussed with the Development Office team at Development.office@sunderland.ac.uk and we advise applicants to seek advice and guidance prior to submitting an application.

Applications close on Friday 1st May 2026. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to discuss their proposal further and provide additional evidence as requested by the Development Office/Faculty.

Successful candidates will be expected as a condition of the award to provide an illustrated impact report and participate in promotional activity and stewardship events with the donor.