

UKELA Student Vocational Bursary Guidance 2026

The UKELA Vocational Bursary Fund is intended to enable student members who otherwise may not be able to undertake a period of vocational placement (such as an internship or externship) in the field of environmental law. Placements may be with a public body (e.g. a government department, local authority, regulatory agency), with a non-for-profit organisation such as a non-governmental organisation, with a university department, in private practice (legal or otherwise), or any other vocational placement which would further the charitable objects of UKELA.

Internship Proposal Background Information – guidance

Please provide *Internship Proposal Background Information* not exceeding 1000 words and must include:

1. Brief information about the placement organisation.
2. The amount of financial support you are seeking.
3. A short personal statement addressing:
 - a. What you will be doing and/or what project(s) will you be working on during your internship
 - b. Why you want to work in this particular area and/or with this particular organisation
 - c. How your academic studies, work, and personal experiences have prepared you for this placement
 - d. How you expect the placement to relate to your academic, extracurricular, and/or career path
 - e. How this placement relates to UKELA's charitable objective: "To promote for the benefit of the public generally the enhancement and conservation of the environment in the United Kingdom and in particular to advance the education of the public in all matters relating to the development, teaching, application and practice of law relating to the environment."

UKELA Student Vocational Bursary Fund Criteria

1. Awards may be made to any postgraduate student, or any undergraduate student who has completed at least one year of study. Preference will be given to students in their final year of study. The Fund is open to non-UK nationals.
2. Placements may be undertaken in the UK by any student, or anywhere by students from a UK institution of higher education, so long as the placement contributes to UKELA's objects.
3. Applicants are required to carry out a specific programme of work, agreed in advance with the placement organisation. The Fund does not support mini-pupillages or vacation placements with solicitors' firms.
4. The placement should normally engage the student full-time.
5. It is a condition of the award that successful applicants will make a short report to UKELA when the work has been completed.

6. Applicants from any relevant academic discipline are eligible.

7. The Fund is intended to support students who would otherwise have difficulty supporting themselves financially and is not intended to compete with industrial or labour employment.

Awards

Awards will be made on the basis of a maximum six-week placement. Shorter periods will also be considered.

The support given is not 'pay' and will be given at the following maximum rates:

Living at home:	£100 per week
Living away from home:	£130 per week
Living abroad:	£170 per week

Awards are at the discretion of UKELA, which will in particular take into account UKELA's charitable objectives, the quality of the proposal and the anticipated output from the placement period, the benefit to the student, to the placement organisation and to the wider community, and the desirability of maximising the number of awards that can be made.

A decision by UKELA on an application is final.