

BOOST YOUR SKILLS

AHSS BOOST YOUR SKILLS (UK/IRE) AWARDS 2025 – 2026

The AHSS BOOST Award (formerly the Local Skills Development Award) offers £250 to support domestic activities in the UK/ROI during the 2025/26 academic year that enhance your degree, skills, and future employability.

Funding is limited and allocated through a competitive process. Applications are only accepted if your activity is already confirmed/booked, and must include supporting evidence, three clear objectives, and details of how the activity benefits your degree and career.

Eligibility & Application Guidelines: AHSS Student Award Scheme

- 1. Who can apply:** Open to current QUB AHSS students in the following Schools:
 - Arts, English & Languages
 - Law
 - Social Sciences, Education & Social Work
 - ** Students from the school of History, Anthropology, Philosophy & Politics please contact happexperience@qub.ac.uk to discuss how you can avail of this award
- 2. Activity requirements:**
 - Must take place in the UK or ROI between 1 Oct 2025 – 30 Jun 2026, and before graduation.
 - Only confirmed/booked activities are eligible. Application must include:
 - a. Academic approval letter
 - b. Proof of booking (e.g. email, letter, flight details)
- 3. Eligible activities:** Placements, short courses, conferences, or voluntary work that support academic/employability skills.
- 4. Restrictions:**
 - Not eligible if receiving other funding (e.g. Erasmus, Turing, travel scholarships, School funds)
 - Travel approval is the student's responsibility (if required)
 - Past recipients may reapply, but preference may be given to new applicants
- 5. Application process:**
 - Competitive and scored against set criteria (min. 25 points required)
 - Incomplete applications will not be accepted
 - Limited funding – once budget is used, no further applications accepted
 - Applications will open on 1st January 2026, reviewed 3 times per year; decisions issued within 4 weeks
- 6. Funding:**
 - £175 on approval
 - £75 after completion and submission of completed academic approval (section b)
 - Paid via QSIS (UK bank account required)
- 7. Important notes:**
 - You must declare any award as income and comply with tax laws

BOOST YOUR SKILLS UK/IRE

- The University is not liable for your tax obligations or the safety/risk assessment of external placements
- Misleading information or failure to meet terms may result in withdrawal of funds
- Your data will be handled in line with the University's Data Protection Policy. For full details, refer to the Student Privacy Notice and University Terms.

	Deadline/ Payment Dates		
	February 2026	April 2026	June 2026
Applications Close	Sunday 1 st February	Sunday 1 st April	Friday 1 st June
Notification of award	Monday 17 th February	Monday 20 th April	Monday 15 th June
Payment	Friday 27 th February	Thursday 30 th April	Friday 26 th June

AHSS Boost Awards Scoring Matrix

Criteria	High (8–10 pts)	Medium (4–6 pts)	Low (0–2 pts)
Type of Activity (Max 10)	Unpaid work experience (10) / Volunteering (8)	Short course, training, workshop (6) / Conference (4)	Other employability (2) / Paid or not employability-related (0)
Objectives (x3) (Max 10)	Clear, well-defined, excellent evidence (10–8)	Defined with good/some evidence (6–4)	Basic or no objectives (2–0)
Value to Degree (Max 10)	Strong evidence of significant academic benefit (10–8)	Some/good evidence of benefit (6–4)	Minimal or no evidence (2–0)
Career Relevance / CV Impact (Max 10)	Directly relevant to career path, strong CV skills (10–8)	Some relevance, some CV value (6–4)	Minimal/none (2–0)
Previous Award (Max 10)	No – 10	—	Yes – 5

Total Possible Score: 50