**AGIP Bursary scheme guidelines**

**Introduction**

Our bursary scheme has been established in accord with our ethos of inclusivity and our commitment to offering opportunities for training to all members of the community.

In the field of psychotherapy and counselling the figures that are available suggest the numbers of individuals from ethnic minorities as therapists is disproportionately low; for instance (according to UKCP monitoring in 2008) 98% of UKCP members are white. In England and Wales 88% of the general population are white; 69% of the population of London are white. About X% of all AGIP students are white and X% come from BAME backgrounds.

Training to be a psychotherapist is expensive and lengthy and often cannot be funded through student grants/loans. It is therefore likely that one of the most significant barriers, to access to training at the AGIP and elsewhere for under-represented groups is the cost of training.

**Eligibility and requirements**

To be eligible, applicants must either:

1. Be part of a minority ethnic group, identified as significantly underrepresented in the mental health professions (Office of National Statistics, 2018) as follows:
* Arab
* Asian – Bangladeshi
* Asian – Chinese
* Asian – Indian
* Asian – Other
* Asian – Pakistani
* Black – African
* Black – Caribbean
* Black – Other
* Gypsy or Traveller
* Mixed - White/Black Caribbean
* Mixed - White/Black African
* Mixed - White and Asian
* Mixed – Other
* Other - Any other Black or Minority Ethnic Group
1. Or, need financial support due to their personal economic circumstances (for example, being a single parent, low-income household, carer or similar).

There are 4 bursary awards offered by AGIP:

* Foundation Course: Two £500 bursaries for the Foundation course. One available to students of ethnic minority backgrounds and one offered to students based on a means tested economic assessment.
* Clinical Course: Two £1,000 bursaries, for each of the three years of the course. One available to students of ethnic minority backgrounds and one offered to students based on a means

tested economic assessment.

Timeline for applications

* Foundation June 2025, applications close
* Clinical July 2025, applications close
* July 2025: bursary panel to make final decisions
* August 2025: applicants notified whether they have been successful or not

**Application process**

To apply for a bursary, you will need to go through the standard course application process first and receive an offer of a place. There is no need to accept your offer until you have received the outcome of your bursary application.

The application process for the AGIP Bursary 2025/2026 is managed by the training committee. By submitting a bursary application, candidates agree to the terms and conditions of the AGIP Bursary 2025/2026 as set out in this document.

Unfortunately, not all bursary applications are successful due to the volume of applications and the funds available. The decisions of the bursary panel are final and not subject to appeal. The panel is unable to provide feedback.

The payment of the bursary will be made in the form a discount on the original course fees rather than a payment to the beneficiary’s account.

**Application form**

The application is online. The application form will be available on the website or from the office via training@agip.org.uk.

Application form link: <https://agip.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AGIP-Bursary-Fund-Application-1.docx>

Please make sure your application form is correct and complete and that it includes all evidence that we require, i.e. proof of income, bank statements etc. Applications cannot be changed after they are submitted. Please check our website for the most up to date information on closing dates.

For any further questions about the application process, please email; training@agip.org.uk

**The selection process and AGIP bursary panel assessment**

After the deadline for submissions, the AGIP bursary co-ordinator will anonymise all completed applications and send them to the training committee.

The training committee will meet online or in person to assess bursary applications. On occasion, it may be necessary for a member of training committee to contact an applicant or referee to ensure the information is being correctly interpreted and the assessment is fair.

The training committee will decide which applicants should receive a bursary. The awards will endeavour to reflect AGIP’s commitment to diversity and equality.

Once the decisions made, applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by email.

**Changes in circumstances**

Repeating a year

The bursary will not normally cover fees for a student to repeat a year or part year

Withdrawal

A student who withdraws prior to completing their course will not normally be requested to repay any bursary up to the point of withdrawal however entitlement to all future funding will cease.

Deferral

Students who defer for one year during the course will have their bursary suspended; it will restart on their return to study. Students who defer for more than a year will have their eligibility for a bursary reviewed on their return to study. Continuation after a deferral will be dependent on the level of funds available for bursaries at that time.

Suspension

Should the student be suspended or subject to disciplinary or Fitness to Practice proceedings for any reason the bursary will be withdrawn and consideration given to reinstatement depending on the result of disciplinary proceedings.