



## **The National Gardens Scheme Elspeth Thompson Bursary**

**Administered by the Royal Horticultural Society**

### **Application Guidance Notes**

#### **Purpose**

The bursary fund is available to provide financial assistance to *amateur* gardeners, either individuals or community groups, to enable them to create a garden or horticultural based project for the benefit of the community, or to enable them to acquire horticultural knowledge and skills and to develop and share their love of gardening.

The nature of eligible projects is not precisely defined, but they must have a clear horticultural focus. The following are just some examples of projects that would be considered:

To assist a community group or individual to create a community garden or community allotment. Funding could cover, for example, the cost of hand tools, the hire or purchase of a rotavator, the purchase of plants, containers and seating.

To assist a charity to provide horticultural training to unemployed people. The funding could cover, for example, tutor's fees, hand tools and safety equipment, plants and materials for training purposes, transport to visit gardens.

Payment of travel and subsistence costs to enable a community gardener or group of gardeners to undertake a work placement and gain horticultural skills at a nationally recognised garden.

No fixed amount is set, and more than one bursary may be awarded in a particular year. For guidance, it is envisaged that the maximum amount awarded would not normally exceed £5,000, but smaller project proposals are equally welcome.

In completing the application it is important to clearly describe the project, state what the anticipated benefits will be to the community or to the individual(s) and say why you think it should be considered for an NGS Elspeth Thompson Bursary.

## **Eligibility**

The Elspeth Thompson Bursary can only be used to support projects based within the UK, and awards cannot be used to fund overseas travel. Individual applicants must be resident within the UK and must not be professional horticulturists.

## **Costs**

In considering a proposal, the awarding panel wish to see that a proposed project has been carefully thought through. In completing the application you are requested to supply a breakdown of the costs that you are seeking funding for. You should also state if you have obtained or are applying for funding from elsewhere, and give the amount and the source. Applications without supporting financial information cannot be considered.

## **Timescales**

Applications for bursaries are considered in February each year. The closing date for consideration at the February panel meeting is 30 November of the preceding year. Applications can be made at any time during the year up to the closing date. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application at the beginning of March.

## **Application**

Applications for the bursary are administered by the Royal Horticultural Society. Please complete the application form and email it to:

[nqsbursary@rhs.org.uk](mailto:nqsbursary@rhs.org.uk)

## Application Form

### The NGS Elspeth Thompson Bursary

*NOTE: Please read the above Application Guidelines carefully before completing the form to ensure that you are eligible within the bursary fund's terms of reference.*

<b>Applicant Name:</b>	
<b>Organisation (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Is the application on behalf of an individual, group or organisation?</b>	
<b>Date and duration of proposed project:</b>	
<b>Project summary</b> Please outline in a maximum 500 words the details of your project and why you think it should be considered for an NGS Elspeth Thompson Bursary.	
<b>Project costs and funding</b> Please outline in as much detail as possible the expected cost of your project and, where relevant, any other potential source of funding. <i>Note: applications without some supporting financial information/estimates cannot be considered.</i>	

Completed forms should be emailed to the Royal Horticultural Society at:

[ngsbursary@rhs.org.uk](mailto:ngsbursary@rhs.org.uk)