



MANCHESTER'S RISING STARS FUND



Frequently Asked Questions

Manchester's Rising Stars Fund offers funding to young, ambitious Mancunians who do not have the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' behind them. Funds are available to help young people to take their next steps to success in Work, Qualifications and Entrepreneurship.

Who can apply?

You can, if you live in the City of Manchester aged 16-24, or up to 30 if you have experience of homelessness. You cannot apply if you live in Greater Manchester rather than Manchester. The Fund is meant for young people who do not already have access to the resources and connections they need to fulfil their ambition.

What can I apply for?

You can apply for funds to cover the costs of your next step to success in your stated ambition. This for example could be for equipment, travel costs, professional support etc. You can apply for any sum from £200 to £5,000.

You must demonstrate that you have a realistic ambition for future success, and that what you are applying for will clearly help you to take steps to success in this ambition.

How do I apply?

You complete the simple application form on the website. Then you get someone who knows/supports you in a professional capacity (like a tutor or mentor) to complete the Referee's supporting statement section in the application form. Then you email it to us.

I'm not sure if my application is suitable. Can I check?

Yes. Check with [the guidance for filling in the form](#) on the website. If you're still unsure, ring our Grants Manager on 07929 823375 or email welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk

How often do you award Grants?

Our Trustees grant awards every month. Deadlines for applications each month appear on our website.

Where do I find the full MRSF info, application process and case studies?

Visit welovemcrcharity.org/rising-stars-fund

Good luck!



Meet our first Rising Star: **Maria**



Maria is a very bright young Mancunian, battling through huge obstacles to fulfil her ambition...

After many disruptions in her education, Maria had to leave her family home and moved into The Contact hostel for homeless young women in Whalley Range. Studying at St Peters RC High School and no longer supported by her family, she relied on donations from her local church and the support of the great people at The Contact. For most teenagers, this would spell the end of their education – but not for her.

Studying full time, Maria took on casual work at KFC to fund her travel and her laptop costs. As a resilient young woman, she went on to get great results in her 9 GCSEs and entered 6th Form College.

To concentrate on her studies, Maria stopped working part-time, and again finances became a big problem. It was at this point that she heard of We Love MCR Charity and our Manchester's Rising Stars Fund. We were delighted to award her a Grant to enable her to pay off her laptop debt and to fund her travel to college and to the library. This eased the financial pressures as she prepared for her final A-Level exams....



She did so well in her exams that she took a place at Leeds University, to study Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies. Now that is a Rising Star!! As a young woman still with no family to support her, we were delighted to award her a second grant, to fund essential items so she could move into a new room in Leeds. She had difficulties at Leeds, but as always is the case with Maria, her independence shone through and she propped herself up in rented housing by working two jobs, one of which was in a care-home throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. These caring qualities run through every fibre of her and, not letting herself be put off by her tribulations in Leeds, she successfully applied to study midwifery at University of Hertfordshire and is settling in brilliantly, making friends in the first week! She has found her vocation.



If we count for even 1% of Maria's success, we're immensely proud of her, and thankful we could help. We welcome her as our first Rising Star Ambassador and cannot wait to see the next chapter of her success unfold...

We Love MCR Charity - join us!

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