

Assisted Berth Scheme Group Applications Guidance Notes

The Assisted Berth Scheme (ABS) is a fund raised by OYT Scotland to help disadvantaged young people afford the fees to take part in a youth voyage. The ABS exists to help those young people who are most in need of financial assistance. The ABS is made up of a number of donations and grants from various public and private bodies. We welcome all genuine applications but we do not require evidence of your financial standing. As a guide your application will be considered if your group meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Your group or their Parent(s)/guardian receive low income benefits.
- Your group or their parent(s)/guardian are not in full time employment.
- Your group receive free School meals.
- Your group are in care or are looked after by a single parent or guardian.
- Your group are students in receipt of financial support.
- Your group are carers looking after siblings or parents/guardians.
- Your group require additional support needs

The above list is not exhaustive and applications will be considered should you feel your circumstances qualify you for a grant. If you are unsure whether you qualify please contact us on 01475 722 722. The following guidelines and rules should be followed by all applicants;

When filling out the form please ensure you complete all details including:

1. Your name, address, date of birth, telephone number and email address.
2. The voyage dates and boat name (this is available from our website or from our office).
3. The full voyage cost and how much financial assistance you wish to apply for. The majority of bursaries are likely to be for 50% or less.
4. Tell us about your group, about their circumstances and why they need financial assistance for their voyage fees.
5. Tell us what your group hope to gain from the voyage. This is your chance to tell us about your group and what the voyage will mean to them.
6. Tell us how your group will get the remainder of the voyage fee. This may be a contribution from a parent or guardian or from fundraising activities.

Rules for applicants:

1. Participants must be aged 12-24 years at the time of the voyage.
2. Applications must be completed on the ABS application form, signed, dated and posted to the OYTS office at or before the time of booking (applications submitted after a deposit has been paid may not be considered).
3. The application will be considered by OYT Scotland ABS Committee. Their decision on funding is final.
4. All applications will be considered on an equal basis.
5. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by phone, email or a letter.
6. The amount awarded will be deducted from the applicants berth fee. No money will be sent to the applicant.
7. Priority will be given to applicants resident in Scotland.
8. Successful applicants are required to complete a report after their voyage so that OYTS can report to ABS funders on how their support is being used.
9. Due to the nature of our vessels we cannot accept wheelchair users or people with severely limited mobility.
10. In the interests of safety, individuals with certain medical conditions may not be able to sail.
11. Completed booking forms will be required for all participants before sailing.