



Bursary Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

These notes will help you to fill in our application form

What can I apply for?

You can apply for help with individual lessons delivered by GAM teachers in one of our centres or in school, for GAM group sessions and for GAM holiday courses.

Who can apply?

Anyone is welcome to apply. There are many reasons why you may need to apply for a bursary, including illness, disability, bereavement, divorce, reduced or low income, being in receipt of benefits, redundancy, unemployment and anything else that is relevant, whether it is temporary or longer term.

Which bursary do I apply for – there are two?

If your family income is less than £29,000 a year (or £32,000 if more than one child is receiving music tuition), we would suggest you look at the MMG Bursary first. You can also apply for a GAM Bursary if you need additional help above the amount MMG can fund.

If your family income is above £29,000 and you don't meet the criteria for the MMG Bursary, then you are welcome to apply for a GAM Bursary.

What information will you need?

We will need to know why you need to apply for a bursary, your financial and other circumstances and about the suitability and musical ability of the student. We will ask you about your household income and expenditure and may ask you to provide evidence in the form of wage slips or other documents.

Why do you need such detailed financial information?

Gloucestershire Academy of Music is a registered charity and, as an organisation in receipt of public funds, is accountable for all of its spending. We need to ensure that bursaries are awarded fairly to those in genuine need.

When can I apply?

Applications can be made at any time of the year, but cannot be back-dated. Please be aware that, if you apply late in the academic year, the bursary funds may have already been allocated to earlier applicants. If this happens, you may be advised to apply the following year.

Can I apply for more than one student?

Yes. Please put the information for all students on the application form. You only need to supply one set of financial evidence, unless different circumstances apply to each student.

What happens if our circumstances change during the year?

If your circumstances (or those of your child) change once you have been awarded a bursary, you must let us know.

What happens if the student stops attending Gloucestershire Academy of Music during the bursary period?

If a student stops attending lessons or activities for which a bursary has been awarded, you may be asked to repay all or part of the grant, depending on the circumstances.

Who will make the decision?

All applications are considered by the bursary committee. This is a group of members of GAM's board of trustees together with the Principal and Operations Director.

How will you ensure that my application is confidential?

All applications remain absolutely confidential and are only looked at by the bursary committee. If we need to talk to a teacher or the Artistic Director to discuss the student's musical aptitude, we don't share any financial information. When a bursary is awarded, the name of the student and the amount they have been awarded is shared with the individual administrator who deals with the billing. No information about your financial circumstances are shared with anybody else in the organisation. Reports to the board mention overall amounts and do not include names of students. Your information will be stored securely and disposed of in line with our privacy policy.

When will I find out if my application has been successful?

The process may take up to a month, but the bursary committee will try to make a decision as quickly as possible. We may need to have a conversation with you if we need more information. You will be informed in writing of our decision. If you have any questions about your application or if you need to discuss your bursary after it has been awarded, then please contact the bursary committee direct. You can do this by emailing bursary@glosacadmusic.org