

HMC PROJECTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

2026-2027



Expenses calculator

Although the full scholarship covers all the tuition, accommodation and food costs and various services provided by the school there will be some unavoidable costs which you will need to consider. Every school is different in the costs that they cover but all will provide tuition, accommodation and food free of charge as part of the scholarship.

Where the cost is entered in the table, the current costs are known. However, there will be other costs listed which you will have to research for yourself.

This form is for **your own use** and **does not need to be submitted** with your application.

Description	Cost (GBP)	Cost (local currency)
Committed Costs:		
Administration fee payable to HMC Projects (Full award scholars only)	£ 750	
Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)	£ 2110	
Visa application fee	£ 558	
Return flights to the UK (max. 6 return flights incl. half-term breaks)		
Transfers from the airport to the school		
Spending money for the student at school (e.g. £100 per term)		
Possible extra overhead costs:		
TB certificate (required for applicants from some countries only*)		
Local UK Visa Application Centre (VAC) fee for courier passport return		
Guardianship costs (if commercial guardianship is required)	@ £1200 p.a.	
Total		

*TB test certificate is required for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Notes:

General background to the school year:

There are three terms: Autumn, Spring and Summer. Schools close between these terms for the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays.

Each term is normally broken up into two halves when there is a short holiday of about one or two weeks in the middle. Almost all schools close over these half-term holidays but a small number may allow international students to remain accommodated and fed at the school but there will be a cost to families if this is offered. Very many prefer to take a flight back home unless invited to the home of a family member or school friend. There could thus be up to six return flights made during the school year.

Some schools also have exeat weekends, normally two per term, when pupils resident in Britain go home. Some schools provide accommodation for international students over these exeat weekends but at a supplementary cost. Not all schools have exeat weekends ... every school is different.

Travel between airports and schools

School staff will normally arrange transfers between the airport and the school by mini-bus or taxi but there is typically a charge for this service. Once familiar with the rail network or express coach services, students can find these to be cost effective particularly if they buy a student travel card.

Guardianship:

If a school is unable to provide continuing accommodation during half-term holidays (and weekend exeats, if scheduled) and it may be impractical for an international student to fly home, schools will insist on knowing where they will be safely accommodated in Britain until the school reopens. A guardian is an approved UK adult resident (or family) that undertakes to accommodate and look after a student during any of these periods and respond in the event of term time emergencies.

With the agreement of the school, a known relative or close family friend, resident in Britain, can be designated as guardian, in which case you will not incur the extra expense of engaging a professional guardianship service. However, the rules around a known relative or close family friend have recently been tightened by the UK authorities. This means the guardian, who must be a British Citizen or settled in the UK, must now provide a 'Letter of Undertaking' with the Child Student's visa application confirming certain information about the proposed UK care arrangements and their contact details. Where a family member or friend is nominated to host a student, they will now need to undergo ID verification and, potentially, a DBS check and home inspection. Most schools will require a 'Nominated Guardian' to be over 25 years of age, and to be available (*i.e. not leave the country*) during term time. A further restriction is that a student cannot be accommodated in properties with paying guests or unrelated lodgers. These tighter rules mean a level of scrutiny many potential guardians (relative or family friend) may find intrusive or burdensome.

Due to the changes in rules, more schools are insisting on the use of professional guardianship services. Given that HMC Projects might place you in a school with that policy, even if you do have a family member or friend able and willing to act as a guardian along the lines described above, it would be **sensible to budget on the assumption** that if offered a HMC Projects scholarship **you will need to use a professional guardianship agency**.

It is difficult to give a precise figure for the cost of a professional guardianship, because the situation for individual students will vary. However, it would be prudent to allow for £1200 per annum. At a later stage in the application process, HMC Projects will provide further details of professional guardianship agencies who have agreed a discounted fee for HMC Projects scholars.

If you need to stay with a commercial guardian there will be an additional cost for accommodation and food which can be around £75 per day.

TB tests:

A TB test certificate is required for students from **Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**. Please note that there will be a single designated TB testing centre in each of these countries which you must attend to obtain the correct certificate. This is submitted with the visa application.

B A Vessey

September 2026