



**Arkwright**  
Engineering Scholarships

## **Arkwright Engineering Scholarships Handbook**

A reference for Teachers, Youth Community Organisations,  
Parents and Students  
who are applying for or are in receipt of an  
Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Academic Year 2025/26

## OUR PURPOSE

The Smallpeice Trust administers Arkwright Engineering Scholarships to identify, inspire, and nurture the outstanding engineers of the future.

We award Arkwright Engineering Scholarships through a rigorous selection process to brilliant, high-potential students\* who apply during year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) and year 12 (Northern Ireland) - typically aged 15-16. These scholarships are the most respected awards of their type in the UK.

Our Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels/Scottish Advanced Highers (or equivalent exams) and encourage them to pursue exciting engineering careers at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship.

## FOREWORD

This handbook has been compiled for:

- Teachers or youth community organisations who wish to submit talented students for consideration for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship
- Current and potential Arkwright Engineering Scholars and their parents/guardians (including home schooled students)

This handbook includes the criteria for affiliating your school/organisation, the scholarship application process, and details of how we administer the Scholarships. We update it to reflect any changes in the curriculum or to Arkwright's processes.

Contact details for each member of our dedicated Arkwright team are listed on the back page.

[www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk](http://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk)

\*For ease of readability, we have used the term students to apply to all young people who are eligible to take part i.e. home educated and nominated by a youth community group, as well as pupils in a formal school setting.

# Contents

1. WHY APPLY TO BE AN ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLAR? .....	4
2. BECOMING AN ARKWRIGHT AFFILIATED ORGANISATION.....	6
3. ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CRITERIA .....	6
3.1. Application criteria .....	6
3.2. Policy for students on GCSE/Scottish National 5 fast track.....	7
3.3. Policy for home educated applicants .....	7
3.4. Policy for applicants from other youth community organisations .....	7
3.5. Policy on Equity and Diversity .....	8
4. ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS.....	8
4.1 Students' application form .....	8
4.2 Application fees.....	9
4.3 Support for students applying for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship .....	9
4.4 Arkwright aptitude exam.....	10
4.5 Interviews .....	11
5. ALLOCATING SCHOLARSHIPS .....	11
6. DURING THE SCHOLARSHIP .....	12
6.1 Scholars' contact with their sponsor (for externally funded scholarships) .....	12
6.2 Scholar welcome and networking event.....	13
6.3 Keeping you safe – Important information for scholars and parents.....	13
6.4 Mentoring .....	14
6.5 STEM enrichment events and activities.....	14
7. MONITORING AND SECOND YEARS PROGRESSION.....	15
7.1 Second year progression criteria .....	15
8. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL AWARDS.....	16
9. PROMOTING ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS .....	17
10. USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION.....	18

# 1. WHY APPLY TO BE AN ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLAR?

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is a coveted 2-year scholarship which is widely respected by academia and industry across the UK.

We administer and partly fund the Scholarships through The Smallpeice Trust, the UK's largest STEM educational charity, alongside our external sponsors. These include a range of industrial and commercial companies, charitable trusts, professional engineering organisations, universities, trade associations, the Armed Services, schools, and generous personal donors.

We now offer 2 exciting scholarship pathways under the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship name:

- A Smallpeice Trust funded virtual scholarship
- An externally sponsored scholarship

By offering these two pathways, we can ensure everyone who passes our rigorous application process can deservedly call themselves an Arkwright Engineering Scholar and access brilliant additional STEM enrichment opportunities.

Please see below for a summary of the differences between the Smallpeice virtual and externally sponsored scholarship:

Scholarship Benefits		
	Smallpeice Virtual Scholarship	Externally Sponsored Scholarship
Attend welcome networking event	✓ (Virtual)	✓ (In-person)
1 to 1 mentor		✓
Access to Group Mentors	✓	
In person Connect Days		✓
Virtual Connect Days	✓	✓
Access to online enrichment resources and events	✓	✓
Networking Opportunities with other scholars	✓	✓
Scholarship financial award - £250 per year		✓
School financial award - £150 in year one only (for state schools)		✓

## What You'll Gain

### Smallpeice Trust funded virtual scholars will:

- Call themselves an Arkwright Engineering Scholar and use this prestigious title for future educational and employment applications
- Access a wide range of engaging virtual enrichment events and opportunities through The Smallpeice Trust
- Network with like-minded Scholars
- Access a pool of expert mentors via our online mentoring platform to support them through their Scholarship

### Externally sponsored scholars will:

- Call themselves an Arkwright Engineering Scholar and use this prestigious title for future educational and employment applications
- Access a wide range of dynamic face-to-face and virtual enrichment events and opportunities through The Smallpeice Trust, including inspiring in-person Connect Days, exciting summer schools and technical lectures
- Receive a dedicated mentor to support them through their Scholarship journey
- Network with like-minded Scholars
- Some sponsors also offer fantastic enrichment opportunities for their Scholars such as day visits, valuable work experience, and fascinating factory and site tours
- Receive an annual financial award during their two years with us to spend on STEM related equipment or activities (£250 per year for 2026-28 scholarships)

## What your organisation gains

### Affiliated organisations who take part in the Arkwright application process will:

- Access to a knowledgeable regional Arkwright Liaison Officer and informative online webinars to guide you through the application process
- Support student development in relation to valuable social skills
- State schools will also receive two complimentary applications per year

### Affiliated organisations who have awarded scholars will additionally:

- Gain the prestige of having student(s) awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, providing excellent marketing opportunities and inspiring other students in STEM
- State schools/youth community organisations will receive a payment in year one for each externally sponsored Scholarship secured (£150 per scholar for 2026-28 scholarships)

## 2. BECOMING AN ARKWRIGHT AFFILIATED ORGANISATION

Affiliating with The Smallpeice Trust is quick, simple, and completely free.

To become affiliated, schools or youth community organisations should have students in year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) or year 12 (Northern Ireland) – typically aged 15-16, who are studying GCSEs, Scottish National 5s or equivalents in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths.

To become affiliated, you can:

- Download our straightforward affiliation form [[https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_AffiliationForm.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_AffiliationForm.pdf)] and return it to [schools@smallpeicetrust.org.uk](mailto:schools@smallpeicetrust.org.uk) (or [scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk](mailto:scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk) for community youth organisations). Once we receive your form, we'll promptly send details of how to submit applicants or
- Contact [scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk](mailto:scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk) to arrange for your local Arkwright Liaison Officer to video call your school to meet the Head Teacher and/or Head of a relevant STEM Department to discuss the exciting Arkwright Engineering Scholarships before you decide to affiliate

Once your organisation is affiliated, all our communications will be sent to the primary contact you've identified as overseeing Arkwright.

## 3. ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CRITERIA

### 3.1. Application criteria

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarship programme is committed to inspiring and nurturing creative and talented young people in Engineering – people who can become outstanding engineers of the future.

To be considered for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship:

- The applicant's school/college must be affiliated with Arkwright Engineering Scholarships (See section 3.3 for home educated applicants and 3.4 for other youth community organisations)
- All applicants must have a permanent UK address
- Applicants must be in year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland), year 12 (Northern Ireland) – typically aged 15-16 – and about to take GCSEs, Scottish National 5s, IB Standards or equivalent. For fast tracked applicants, please see section 3.2
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong practical interest and ability in Engineering. This should be shown through a compelling project proposal submitted at application that students then complete and present if they make it through to interview. Applicants may present a personal project completed at home or school, including GCSE/National 5 projects
- Applicants must be planning to take A levels, BTEC level 3s, Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers, IB Higher and Advanced Higher or equivalent examinations in subjects relevant to a university degree or a higher-level apprenticeship in Engineering. Students should refer to their preferred university or higher-apprenticeship provider for specific entry requirements

- Applicants must be confident that their studies will lead to acceptance by their chosen University or Higher Degree Apprenticeship provider to study Engineering. Therefore, unless studying for a BTEC Level 3 in Engineering, applicants must commit to studying at least one of the following subjects to A level (England, Wales & Northern Ireland), or Higher/Advanced Higher (Scotland):
  - Computer Science
  - Design and Technology
  - Engineering Science
  - Maths
  - Physics
- Applicants must be actively considering a university degree or higher-level/degree apprenticeship in Engineering and an exciting career as a professional Engineer. All traditional forms of engineering are acceptable choices (civil, aeronautical, mechanical, electronic etc.)

### Engineering career choices - What we accept:

Accepted	Not Accepted
Computer and Software Engineering	Aesthetic Architecture
Chemical Engineering	Medicine or Dentistry
Product Design	Law
Biomedical Engineering	Banking or Finance
Medical Physics	Veterinary Science
Medical Engineering	Games Design

**Important:** Arkwright Engineering Scholarships cannot be awarded to students who decide to leave school at the end of year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) and year 12 (Northern Ireland) - typically aged 15-16 - to pursue apprenticeships or other career options. Scholarships are only awarded to students who remain in full-time, school/college-based education to achieve A levels, Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers, IB Highers/Advanced Highers, BTEC level 3s or equivalent examinations.

### 3.2. Policy for students on GCSE/Scottish National 5 fast track

Students who take some GCSEs/Scottish National 5 qualifications in year 10 (England and Wales)/S3 (Scotland)/year 11 (Northern Ireland) and others in year 11/S4/12 should apply for their Arkwright Engineering Scholarship in year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) and year 12 (Northern Ireland).

Students who complete all their GCSEs/Scottish National 5 qualifications a year early should apply to Arkwright in that year.

### 3.3. Policy for home educated applicants

Students who are home educated may apply for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship in the year in which they take their GCSEs, National 5s or equivalent exams. The application's supporting reference (if required) should be completed by the student's main Science/Maths/D&T/Computing tutor (instead of a school teacher).

### 3.4. Policy for applicants from other youth community organisations

Applicants must be in year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland), year 12 (Northern Ireland) and about to take GCSEs, Scottish National 5s, IB Standards or equivalent. The applicant's

nominating organisation must be affiliated with Arkwright Engineering Scholarships/The Smallpeice Trust. The application's supporting reference (if required) should be completed by either the student's main Science/Maths/D&T/Computing teacher/tutor OR a nominated youth lead at the organisation making the referral.

### 3.5. Policy on Equity and Diversity

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships recognises the importance of and is committed to equity and diversity, equal opportunity, and fair treatment for everyone involved in the scholarship programme.

We ensure that all people, irrespective of their disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate.

We're happy to discuss with schools and applicants any adaptations that may be required during the application and assessment process, or for the activities provided during the scholarship itself.

Where we're informed that an applicant or existing scholar is undergoing or has completed gender transition, we'll refer to that student by their preferred gender and name. Where an applicant identifies as non-binary, we'll use non-gender-based pronouns.

All personal data held by The Smallpeice Trust about an Arkwright applicant, Scholar or alumni is confidential and is not shared with any other party without the prior agreement of the individual (or their parents/guardian if they are a minor).

## 4. ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process has three key components: application form, aptitude exam, and interview.

### 4.1 Students' application form

We manage the application form online through this straightforward process:

- **Application launch:** Early autumn each year, running until mid-December (please see timeline on website for exact dates)
- **Teacher nomination:** Teachers (including tutors for home educated students) or the youth community organisation lead\* must nominate the student applicant on our user-friendly web-based portal (we'll provide portal log ins to those making nominations when the application round launches, so please ensure you've affiliated with us to receive the log in)
- **Student invitation:** We'll send applicants' invitations to the portal once the teacher/youth lead has added the applicant's name and email
- **Application completion:** Applicants complete the online form, saving and updating it as they wish
- **Teacher oversight:** Teachers/youth leads can view applicants' applications throughout the process, but cannot make changes
- **Discussion encouraged:** Applicants should discuss their application with the person that nominated them, allowing applicants to make changes before submitting online
- **Final submission:** Once applicants submit their application back to their nominating teacher/youth lead, they can choose to endorse the application (we see much higher take up of students by sponsors where an endorsement has been provided) before fully submitting the application to Arkwright and paying the application fee. At this point no further changes can be made to the application



*\* This is the person who will be taking responsibility for the application and acting instead of the teacher role. For ease, this will be shortened to teacher/youth lead for the remainder of the handbook to make it more readable.*

The students' online application deadline is a few days before the teacher's/youth leads final submission date. It's up to the school/organisation and the student to agree when the student will finalise their application. Arkwright cannot enter discussion with parents/guardians regarding earlier deadlines set by teachers/youth leads.

**Completed applications must be received from the teacher/youth lead by the closing date each year.** We communicate the exact closing date in the launch email at the start of each application round and on the Smallpeice website <https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/>. We cannot accept late applications under any circumstances.

#### 4.2 Application fees

There's a £45.00 fee for each application that enters the Arkwright selection process - this covers the cost of processing and marking applications.

**State schools and youth community organisations who are affiliated with us get two complimentary applications per year. We also waive the fee for home schooled applicants.**

As of Autumn 2024, we require payment for all eligible applications to be made at point of submission rather than invoicing later. We've introduced this due to the large number of non-payments over recent years. At the point of teacher submission, state school teachers can select whether the applicant is one of their two complimentary applications, but after those have been used (or for any submissions for non-state schools) any further submissions will need to be paid for via PayPal checkout, online.

An application is deemed to have been "entered into the Arkwright selection process" if the teacher/youth lead submits a completed student application via our online system, with or without a teacher/youth lead reference, fully or partly completed.

**Any applicant whose fee has not been paid on submission will not have their application for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship considered any further.**

#### 4.3 Support for students applying for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

We provide several helpful resources to support students with their Arkwright application:

1. **What we're looking for in the initial online application -**  
[[https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_ApplicationGuidance.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_ApplicationGuidance.pdf)]
2. **Inspiring project ideas for students**  
Example: Robot: [https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_ExemplarProjectRobot.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_ExemplarProjectRobot.pdf)  
Example: Railway: [https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_ExemplarProjectRailwaySystem.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_ExemplarProjectRailwaySystem.pdf)  
Example: Drone: [https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_ExemplarProjectDrone.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_ExemplarProjectDrone.pdf)  
Example: Computer Science: [https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_ExemplarProjectComputerScience.pdf](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_ExemplarProjectComputerScience.pdf)
3. **Informative online webinars** during the application process

These resources may help enhance the quality of students' applications and improve their chances of success.

#### 4.4 Arkwright aptitude exam

Unless we advise otherwise, all applicants must sit the Aptitude Exam.

As of 2024, the aptitude exam takes place online, removing the need for schools to administer a formal exam on our behalf and allowing more non-school settings to access the programme.

**What the exam tests:** The Exam encourages students to demonstrate their skills across several areas through timed multiple-choice questions. It's broad-based and requires applicants to use the full spectrum of their engineering knowledge. It doesn't test students specifically on the GCSE/Scottish National 5/IB specifications they're learning at school.

**When and where:** The exam will be open for 5 days (please see website for exact dates), enabling students to sit at home in their own time, or in school if they don't have access to a laptop/PC and webcam outside of school.

**How it works:** We host the exam through Test Gorilla, which has built-in anti-cheat mechanisms. This means that even if sat in school, it doesn't require strict national exam conditions.

The exam format requires applicants to complete a series of multiple-choice questions. These are all timed, so there's limited time to answer each one. This lasts approximately 40 minutes (students with additional support needs are given extra time). There's then a creative thinking/design question that will take approximately 60 minutes and requires students to write on paper and upload a photo of their completed answer.

#### What you can and can't use

Allowed	Not Allowed
Calculator, pen, paper etc.	Engineering textbooks
Laptop and webcam or equivalent (tablet)	Use of internet to research
Phone – for accessing the exam if not using laptop/tablet <i>Must not be used for research or to assist with answering questions</i>	

**Special circumstances** Teachers/youth leads should inform us before submitting the application if a student requires any adjustments ahead of taking the exam. We'll share this with our marking group.

Students who cannot sit the exam over the five days or who experience severe technical issues will have an opportunity to sit it the following week. It's the applicant's responsibility to inform us and provide evidence of technical issues. Applicants who cannot sit the Exam within these timescales cannot be considered for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

**Important:** Please advise candidates not to discuss the exam contents on social media because students will be sitting it at different times. At Arkwright's discretion, candidates who discuss the Arkwright Aptitude Exam on social media after sitting it, in sufficient depth to give others unfair advantage, may be withdrawn from further consideration.

We'll shortlist applicants for interview based on a standard marking process, applied nationally, that combines exam marks with application form quality. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their Aptitude Exam and application form grading by email in mid-February. Teachers/youth leads will be informed similarly.

#### 4.5 Interviews

**Format and timing** Interviews are held virtually with an interview panel of two, made up of academics and industry specialists. The interview takes place over our preferred communication platform - we'll provide details to applicants who successfully make it to this stage. Interviews take place during March and April, and applicants can request a date change where it may clash with a mock exam. Applicants are free to attend their interview from whichever location is most convenient - school or home.

Where applicants don't have the technical set-up to join virtually from home, and we're informed in advance, we'll seek alternatives, which may include running a limited number of face-to-face interviews at our head office in Warwickshire.

We'll assume all applicants can attend a virtual interview unless informed otherwise.

Unfortunately, an applicant reaching this stage cannot progress in the Arkwright selection without having an interview.

**What we're looking for** We treat all students equally at interview. We use the interview to assess the applicant's understanding of Engineering, their aspirations regarding further study and a career as a professional Engineer, their leadership potential, and their suitability to be an Ambassador for Arkwright Engineering Scholarships.

The Arkwright interview isn't a formality - it's critically assessed. We score each candidate's performance, and the decision to award a Scholarship is based primarily on this interview.

**Preparing for success** The Arkwright interview will be many applicants' first experience of a formal interview process and is an early opportunity for personal development. We want it to be an experience that applicants will remember and find beneficial, gaining interviewing skills and confidence.

We provide detailed guidance on what applicants should expect from the interview and how to prepare at [\[https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_InterviewGuidance.pdf\]](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_InterviewGuidance.pdf). We'll send this guidance and any additional information to all applicants called for interview. We strongly advise applicants to practise and prepare.

## 5. ALLOCATING SCHOLARSHIPS

We use a standard marking system to mark applicants on their interview performance, then rank them by score. We analyse marks annually to maintain a national standard across interviewers - spotting anomalies and ensuring consistency across interview panels.

#### Timeline:

- **May:** We notify successful applicants that they've been awarded a scholarship, but not whether it's virtual or externally funded, as we then begin securing sponsors based on the successful students
- **September:** Scholars and their teachers/youth leads are told by email at the start of September whether it's a Smallpeice funded virtual scholarship or an externally funded one

**About sponsors** All externally funded Arkwright Engineering Scholarships must be supported by a sponsor. This may be a company, trade association, charitable trust, university, the Armed

Services, a school, a personal donor, or other organisation with an interest in promoting engineering careers and/or supporting education. Sponsors may attach conditions to their funding based on certain criteria, such as geographic location or interest in a specific area of engineering.

**Finding sponsors** Affiliated organisations, parents/guardians, and applicants are welcome to identify suitable organisations that could offer sponsorship for a new Scholarship. Arkwright welcomes 'warm' leads to organisations that may be able to support Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. You should provide our Business Development Team with full contact details of the organisation, point of contact's name, position, phone number and/or email address, and details of any previous contact. Our Business Development Team will then pursue the contact if appropriate.

**Please note:** We cannot guarantee any successful leads will result in a specific student being awarded that sponsorship.

**Important:** Please don't attempt to secure sponsorship from an organisation without discussing it with us first because Arkwright may:

- Already be in receipt of support from the organisation
- Already be in discussions with the organisation
- Be in the final stages of agreeing support for the Scholar with a different organisation

**The Benefactors' Fund** Arkwright maintains a Benefactors' Fund made up of small donations from various sources. All members of the public are encouraged to donate to this Fund. We use this Fund where necessary, and at Arkwright's discretion, as 50% matched funding to help organisations that couldn't otherwise afford to fund an entire Scholarship. This fund also supports the virtual scholarships programme.

We make Scholars' sponsor details known to Scholars in early September each year. Scholars will be expected to contact their sponsors to introduce themselves, thank the Sponsor for their support and prepare for the Welcome and Networking event.

**Arkwright ceases all fundraising for Scholarships in early autumn each year. There's no opportunity beyond this date for any additional funded scholarships to be allocated for that year.**

**Transferring a scholarship between schools:** Students can transfer their scholarship if they move to another school. The school financial award is still made to the nominating school in year one.

## 6. DURING THE SCHOLARSHIP

### 6.1 Scholars' contact with their sponsor (for externally funded scholarships)

The amount of contact between a sponsor and their Scholar varies from sponsor to sponsor. During the two years, we expect you to communicate via our MentorNet platform with your Sponsor as follows (this is the minimum requirement). We'll send you log-on details at the start of your Scholarship. Please don't try to contact them before then.

### Communication Timeline:

- **October 2026:** An introduction, including your GCSE, Scottish National 5s, or equivalent results and thanking your Sponsor for their kind support
- **February 2027:** An update on progress and details of any other achievements since September
- **September 2027:** An update on your progress over the first year of your A levels, Highers or equivalent courses and plans for post-school study/employment
- **February 2028:** An update on progress since September
- **August 2028:** A closing letter when you receive your A Level, Scottish Higher or equivalent results, advising of your grades and plans for the future and thanking your Sponsor for their financial support

Throughout the two years, Scholars should reply promptly (usually within a week) to any correspondence from their sponsor. If you receive any awards, you should proactively let your sponsor know.

How you conduct yourself with your Sponsor not only affects how much they'll help you in the future but will affect their desire to continue supporting Arkwright Engineering Scholarships in future years.

**You should always conduct yourself as an ambassador for your school/youth organisation and for Arkwright.** Show interest and enthusiasm for your Sponsor's support. Throughout the two years you must reply politely and promptly to any correspondence from your Sponsor and fully demonstrate the dynamic, high-calibre student that you are.

### 6.2 Scholar welcome and networking event

We offer a Scholar welcome and networking events for both externally funded and virtual scholars.

**For externally funded scholars:** There will be a southern and northern event, plus an RAF specific event as a sponsor of a large number of scholarships.

This event is just for scholars and their sponsor and takes place in late October/early November. Each event runs 10am to 4pm and includes:

- Opportunities to network with the new cohort of scholars
- Hearing from previous scholars and learning how to get the most from the scholarship
- Meeting a representative of a Scholar's sponsoring organisation where possible
- Meeting the Scholar's mentor in person if possible
- Photo opportunities
- Receiving their Arkwright certificate and lapel badge
- Opportunity to purchase Arkwright merchandise (always popular with new Scholars)

**Virtual scholars** will have a shorter virtual welcome and networking event.

### 6.3 Keeping you safe – Important information for scholars and parents

At The Smallpeice Trust, safety is our number one priority. Arkwright Engineering Scholarships provides a safe environment for Scholars to develop themselves and their knowledge of Engineering.

We safeguard young people accessing the Arkwright programme by monitoring and moderating all communication between Scholars and their sponsor/mentor using

**MentorNet.** (<http://www.sfgmentornet.com/>) You are expressly forbidden from communicating with your sponsor or assigned mentor outside of MentorNet without our prior consent.

Our programmes are supported by a range of policies and procedures (full details can be found on our website here: [URL]). If you wish to see a copy of our safeguarding policies and procedures, or if you have concerns about a young person's safety while involved in our activities, please contact the staff member responsible for organising the project/event or their manager.

**As a Scholar, it's important that you understand that whilst Arkwright will offer enrichment in the form of industry Connect Days and Summer Schools, any work experience or other activities/events organised directly between you and your sponsor are beyond our control.** If your sponsor or mentor can offer work experience or another similar opportunity, we'll require parental consent to be in place before it takes place. If parents or guardians have concerns about any Arkwright related event, they should contact Arkwright immediately.

#### 6.4 Mentoring

Over the course of the Scholarship, externally sponsored Scholars can choose whether they'd like an engineering Mentor to support them as they progress through their sixth form studies. The exception is where having a Mentor is a requirement set by the Sponsor, who will then pair the Scholar with a Mentor from their own organisation.

In situations where this isn't possible—typically where Sponsors don't have the resources or in-house engineering expertise—we'll provide a Mentor through the Arkwright Mentoring Programme, if the Scholar requests one. **We highly recommend Scholars take up this fantastic opportunity, as many report that it's one of the most valuable aspects of their scholarship experience.**

For Smallpeice Virtual Scholarships, we have a dedicated pool of Mentors who provide monthly mentoring sessions and maintain contact with Scholars via online forums.

**All communication between Mentors and Scholars takes place through our secure online platform, MentorNet.** This allows the Arkwright team to monitor interactions and ensure our robust safeguarding practices are always upheld.

Mentors are volunteers who kindly offer their time and experience to Scholars. There's an expectation that if you ask for a mentor, you'll regularly engage with them, particularly if they also come from the organisation that has sponsored the scholarship. **If Scholars don't engage in line with expectations, their scholarship may be at risk.**

#### 6.5 STEM enrichment events and activities

All Scholars can take advantage of Arkwright's online enrichment activities, which occur separately to the Scholar-sponsor relationship. We communicate these opportunities, which may be arranged by Arkwright or offered by third parties, to Scholars through direct emails and via the online mentoring platform.

For example:

- **Virtual Industry and Connect Days** - Hosted by partner organisations, often including alumni speakers, these days provide real world insight into different engineering industry sectors and engineering roles

Externally funded scholars may also be offered additional STEM enrichment, for example:

- In-person Connect Days
- Exclusive Scholar summer schools
- University VIP receptions and Open days

## 7. MONITORING AND SECOND YEARS PROGRESSION

Monitoring of Scholars during their Scholarship backs up the stringent selection process to ensure the quality of the Engineering Scholarships.

We monitor through:

- **A first-year report** completed by each Scholar, submitted online. We review the reports and they are MANDATORY. Where first-year Scholar reports aren't submitted by the requested deadline, Arkwright reserves the right to withdraw second year funding after consultation with the Sponsor
- **Ad hoc progress reports** submitted through our online communication platform, MentorNet
- **Final year report** completed by the Scholar. Final year reports are vital to show the Sponsor the positive outcome of each Scholarship

We send final year report forms to Scholars towards the end of the academic year.

First and Second year reports must be completed and returned by a set deadline (usually in August each year - we'll communicate the exact date when we send end-of-year reports to Scholars).

### 7.1 Second year progression criteria

The award of the second year of the Scholarship and release of second-year monies depends on Arkwright being satisfied with the first-year reports. Satisfactory reports depend on, amongst other things, at Arkwright's discretion: the Scholar and school maintaining eligible status; Scholars maintaining satisfactory contact with their Sponsor; the Sponsor giving satisfactory feedback about the Scholar; and the Scholar maintaining their high reputation as an Ambassador of the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships.

Where, at the end of the first year, a Scholar is no longer actively considering further study and/or a career in Engineering, or otherwise ceases to fulfil the Scholarship eligibility criteria, we'll consult the Scholar's Sponsor as to whether the Scholarship should continue into a second year.

After careful consideration of the Scholar's first-year reports, consulting with the Sponsor where necessary, the outcome for each Scholar will be one of the following:

- **Scholar authorised for progression** to second year of their Scholarship; Scholar second-year financial awards paid in November that year
- **Scholar not authorised to progress** to the second year of the Scholarship; Scholarship ceases, and no further payments made to Scholar (this occurs where the first-year report and/or other evidence clearly shows that the student is no longer suitable to be an Arkwright Engineering Scholar). In this case the student may continue to state on their CV that they were awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship and completed the first year



Where a Scholar leaves A level, Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher or equivalent studies at school/college to take up an apprenticeship, university place or other training/employment at the end of the first year, the Scholarship will cease.

Second year payments for successful first-year Scholars will be made to Scholars in November.

### Policy for Students Leaving Full-time Education or Changing Career Aspirations

If students leave full-time school/college-based education, change career aspiration away from engineering, or elect to drop one of the required subjects listed in section 3.1 after they've been awarded a Scholarship, **they must immediately notify Arkwright in writing (email is sufficient), explaining the reasons and stating their proposed career route.**

We'll review each case individually. Possible outcomes of such reviews, made at Arkwright's discretion, are:

- **The Scholarship is withdrawn completely**, and the student cannot call themselves an Arkwright Scholar (though the student may still state that they passed the Arkwright selection process)
- **In some circumstances**, the student may continue as an Arkwright Engineering Scholar and the school and Scholar will continue to receive their financial awards

### Removal of Arkwright scholar status

Where the behaviour and/or actions of a Scholar are such that they bring the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships and/or the Sponsor into disrepute, or where the behaviour/actions are clearly counter to those of a future leader in Engineering, **Arkwright reserves the right, at its discretion, to remove a Scholarship from a Scholar by way of a written letter.** Such withdrawal will have immediate effect, and the student loses the right to state that they were ever an Arkwright Engineering Scholar. We may take such action at any point during a Scholarship.

## 8. SCHOLARSHIP FINANCIAL AWARDS

Externally sponsored Scholars receive an annual financial award to enhance their STEM studies or widen their knowledge and experience of Engineering. Further details can be found at [\[https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES\\_YourFinancialAward.pdf\]](https://smallpeicetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/AES_YourFinancialAward.pdf).

Scholars are welcome to use their award for:

- Purchasing laptops to support their studies
- Travel to Arkwright enrichment activities

However, it shouldn't be used for:

- Recreational activities
- Purchase of leisure equipment
- Savings to support activities post A2 or Advanced Highers

The Scholar should include a summary of their financial award expenditure when they complete their first-year report and their final-year report.

Schools should consider using their financial award to support the teaching of STEM within the school, to nurture future engineers.



## 9. PROMOTING ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

We hope each affiliated school or youth community organisation will promote the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships in their school's prospectus, website etc. You can obtain suitable text and an Arkwright logo from [marketing@smallpeicetrust.org.uk](mailto:marketing@smallpeicetrust.org.uk)

**Once you've become successfully affiliated, you'll receive a School Affiliation Certificate.**

We ask affiliated schools to display these in a prominent position on school premises to promote your link with Arkwright.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are a prestigious accolade for outstanding students. We hope teachers and Scholars in affiliated schools will be proud of their achievements. For this reason, **we encourage Head Teachers to allow their Scholars to wear a visible sign of their Scholarship (the Arkwright lapel badge) as part of their school uniform.**

We forward a standard press release to affiliated organisations in early autumn and encourage you to seek coverage of your Scholars in local newspapers. **It can be productive for schools to write to their local MP suggesting a school visit to congratulate the Scholars.**

Please forward copies of any press coverage to [scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk](mailto:scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk)

## 10. USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Position	Main Responsibilities	Email Address
<b>Chris Byrne</b>	Head of Community Programmes	Overall management of the Scholarship Programme, Designated Safeguarding Officer	chris.bryne@smallpeicetrust.org.uk
<b>Chloe Fensome</b>	Scholar and Alumni Coordinator	Main scholar and applicant contact Student application process inc interviews, exam etc	scholarships@smallpeicetrust.org.uk or chloe.fensome@smallpeicetrust.org.uk
<b>Katie Taylor</b>	Mentoring Coordinator	Scholar mentor allocation, monitoring, MentorNet management	mentoring@smallpeicetrust.org.uk katie.taylor@smallpeicetrust.org.uk
<b>Rachel Jenkinson</b>	Community Programmes Manager	Management of Arkwright in person and virtual STEM enrichment activity	rachel.jenkinson@smallpeicetrust.org.uk
<b>Georgia Blenkinsop</b>	Events Administrator	Connect Days, Summer Schools, Events, student interviews, and interviewer coordination	georgia.blenkinsop@smallpeicetrust.org.uk
<b>Liaison Officers</b>	-	Can visit schools to talk about the Arkwright programme and support teachers and students through the application process. Support with marking applications and interviews	Our Team - Arkwright Scholarships Trust
<b>Schools Recruitment Team</b>	-	Answers queries from schools about the programme. Process new schools onto the programme. Updates school records when teachers change	schools@smallpeicetrust.org.uk

**The Smallpeice Trust**  
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