

# SHACKLETON FOUNDATION



## Grant Making Guidelines

### **Introduction**

Founded in 2007 by descendants of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions in the early part of the 20th century, the Shackleton Foundation seeks to help disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people. Shackleton helped others to overcome their doubts and fears in the face of true adversity. We are looking for individuals who display those same characteristics of courage and resilience, who have a big idea to help others (we call it your 'Antarctic') and are prepared to take the risk to turn it into reality. We do this by supporting aspiring individuals (we call them Leaders) and social entrepreneurs who exemplify the spirit of Shackleton with seed-funding to help them start their venture. In particular the Trustees are looking for examples of leadership, innovation, enterprise, inspiration, ambition, endurance and courage in the applications they review. Successful applicants can expect to receive assistance with the practical aspects of starting up a social venture. These include:

- Seed-funding
- Membership of the Shackleton Leaders' Forum
- Advice on maximising impact and building a sustainable business model
- Awareness building for your venture
- Introductions to potential second stage funders

### **General Information**

Funding is generally made by means of a single grant of £10,000 to provide the funding needed to get an idea started. Grants are made to individual Leaders and not to teams or organisations.

Trustees have a preference for Leaders to be running charities, social enterprises or not-for-profit organisations.

Trustees are looking for:

- Leaders with entrepreneurial ideas/inspirational projects capable of making a difference
- Opportunities to support Leaders setting up their own social ventures with financially sustainable projects with the potential to provide solutions to the problems faced by disadvantaged young people in the UK
- Early-stage 'social enterprises' (not more than 12 months old)
- Leaders that they believe have the potential to make their ideas work
- Leadership qualities sought by Trustees include:
  - Innovation
  - Enterprise
  - Inspiration
  - Ambition
  - Endurance
  - Courage
  - Passion
  - Energy
  - Dedication

Particular aspects that the Trustees will want to understand about the project include:

- How will the Shackleton Award enable you to deliver the project?
- How will disadvantaged young people benefit?

- Approximately how many disadvantaged young people do you expect to benefit directly in the first three years (broken down by year) from this Shackleton Award?
- Where do you see yourself, and your idea, in five years' time?
- How you will measure success/know that you are succeeding?

As a rule, the Shackleton Foundation does not involve itself in directly financing projects for which substantial government funding and/or grants from a number of trusts or charities are available.

### **Grant-making Procedure**

All applicants to the Shackleton Foundation must submit a completed application form online.

All applications receive the fullest and most careful consideration and are judged on merit and substance. Clarity of presentation and the provision of detailed factual information are of the utmost importance to the Trustees.

The Trustees review all funding applications and invite the most outstanding potential Leaders to present to them in person in London. These meetings are held quarterly, in late January, early May, mid September and late November. If you are invited to present to the Trustees, you will be provided with interview guidelines.

All travel expenses (but not accommodation) will be reimbursed to applicants who are asked to travel to Central London to present to the Trustees. Receipts must be provided.

Unsuccessful applications will be notified following the Trustees' regular meetings. The Foundation's decisions are final and feedback will not be provided.

Unfortunately the Foundation is not able to enter into any further communication with unsuccessful applicants. Subsequent applications for the same project are not encouraged.

### **Successful Applicants**

Successful applicants will be asked to prepare a Shackleton Leaders' Agreement (SLA), which outlines the key ways in which the project will be managed and what Leaders will share with the Shackleton Foundation in exchange for their Award (a draft SLA is available for successful applicants).