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# ARLIS UK & Ireland - Global Majority Art Librarianship Scholarship 2025

Guidelines  
  
ARLIS UK & Ireland (The Art Libraries Society) is pleased to continue its Global Majority Scholarship for 2025/26 entry. As a small first step towards addressing the ongoing under-representation of Black library workers and library workers of colour within art librarianship, ARLIS welcomes applications for the ‘UK home fees only’ scholarship by people from Black, Asian or minority ethnic / Global Majority backgrounds. The scholarship is now in its fourth year and will be awarded annually (subject to financial stability).

We acknowledge that art librarianship in the UK and Ireland continues to be overwhelmingly white: the 2015 UK information sector workforce survey published by CILIP/ARA found that the profession was 96.7% white. This reinforces the urgency and importance of steps to increase Global Majority access to qualifications which often remain a prerequisite for entry to the profession and progression to senior roles. While we do not uncritically support the need for a qualification to perform valuable work in libraries, we do believe that university fees are a significant barrier to entry for many. The scholarship is a key recommendation of the ARLIS Equity Steering Group, whose work we are grateful for.

Please share widely with your networks and any eligible individuals who may be interested in this scholarship.

## Eligibility

## We welcome applicants from Black, Asian or minority ethnic / Global Majority backgrounds. Students applying to any UK postgraduate (MA, MSc, PgDip, PgCert) course accredited by CILIP are eligible, but courses which include modules or studies relevant to art librarianship (such as placements at a member institution) may strengthen an application. Students applying for full-time, part-time or modular courses are eligible, as are distance learning options. The successful applicant should be eligible for UK home fees, and applications received for overseas (international) fees will not be considered. Fees will be paid directly to the successful applicant’s university.

## Selection and evaluation criteria Selection will be based on the strength of the application. Evaluation criteria include how the award will benefit the individual, the interest and relevance of the study or research that will result from undertaking the qualification, and any wider benefits to libraries, librarianship, communities and society.

Priority will be given to applications for Library and Information Studies programmes over Archives and Records Management qualifications, although the award is open to both. Please note that the award is primarily intended to support those undertaking a first postgraduate or Master’s degree, rather than those who already hold an equivalent-level qualification.

In addition to the fees award, ARLIS is keen to explore options to enhance the scholarship, such as offering mentorship or a student placement at a relevant institution; we would be happy to discuss this with the successful applicant. We would also encourage and support the successful applicant to consider contributing to *Art Libraries Journal* or presenting at the ARLIS UK and Ireland Annual Conference. While the amount of financial support offered is strictly limited to covering home fees up to a maximum of £13,500 (as of the 2025/6 academic year), we recognise that difficulties in circumstances may arise and where possible would seek to assist the successful candidate find additional opportunities if they struggled to continue their studies.

Value  
  
Home fees only award for a [CILIP-accredited UK postgraduate course](https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/Qualifications) (up to £13,500). Fees will be paid directly to the university.

## Application and enquiries

Please carefully read the guidance, then complete <https://arlis.net/careers/awards/>. Email your completed application to: [info@arlis.net](mailto:info@arlis.net)**Deadline for applications: 23:59 on Sunday 22nd June 2025**  
  
The successful applicant will be notified no later than Friday 25th July 2025.  
  
Enquiries can be directed to [info@arlis.net](mailto:info@arlis.net).

**Guidelines**

1. Membership of ARLIS UK & Ireland is not a requirement, but evidence of engagement with art libraries and archives will benefit your application.
2. Employment or working experience in art libraries and archives is not required.
3. Current officers and Council members of ARLIS UK & Ireland are eligible to apply; however, Grant Panel members are not eligible.
4. Applications for this round of the scholarship must be for a course starting in 2025. The scholarship will be advertised again next year for entry in the 2026/27 academic year.
5. Within six months of commencing the course, the recipient of the scholarship will present a written reflection of 1,000-1,500 words to ARLIS UK & Ireland Council, for publication on the ARLIS UK and Ireland website.
6. If an application is not successful, it may be resubmitted the following year.
7. The Grants Panel may request further information or request clarification of details included in the application.
8. The decisions of the Grants Panel and ARLIS UK & Ireland Council will be final, and no correspondence regarding them will be entered into.
9. If the successful scholarship applicant is not awarded a place on a university course or does not take it up, ARLIS UK & Ireland Council may offer the award to the runner-up candidate. The original successful candidate can reapply the following year.
10. ARLIS UK & Ireland Council reserves the right to make no award if no suitable application is received.