



HAMISH OGSTON  
FOUNDATION

## APPLICANT GUIDELINES

*Welcome to the Hamish Ogston Foundation. The Hamish Ogston Foundation takes a venture philanthropy approach by applying business experience, commercial acumen and robust analysis as it seeks to 'invest' in effective charities. Grants/investments are from £1.5M.*

*This guide offers an overview of which causes the Foundation is best placed to support, and how we can help. We hope that your cause aligns with our guiding strategy and meets the criteria for our donations. Please be aware that all decisions in relation to funding are made by the Trustees.*

### Where do we work?

At the Hamish Ogston Foundation, we seek to support good causes in three main areas: Health, Heritage and Music. Charitable requests must support one or more of these areas, in the UK and abroad.

- **Health:** We help those working towards eliminating the disparities in both access to medical treatment and health awareness amongst the disadvantaged sections of our society
- **Heritage:** We help those preserving buildings and craftsmanship, many of which house our most historic traditions.
- **Music:** We help those supporting the UK's great musical traditions, together with their associated training programmes both in and outside of the UK.

### How can we help?

Think you might gain from working with the Foundation? We can:

- **Donate £1.5m as a minimum** per charitable request for good causes.
- **Offer advice.** Drawing on the commercial acumen and experience of our founder and advisers, we can offer strategic counsel for projects.
- **Think laterally.** We consider funding requests strategically, in order to reach solutions that other donors might not consider.
- **Look at the bigger picture.** We see whether a broadening of your activities in your chosen field to other areas could result in benefits – both to you and to those you help.
- **Present a united front.** We can gather an alliance of substantial co-donors in order to pool financial resources and broaden our involvement – continuing to support you and generate impact over time. We will also consider projects where other private donor organisations can bring experience to enhance the overall project.

## What guides us?

When identifying which projects to support, the Hamish Ogston Foundation follows four key underlying principles. We want to:

- **Encourage an entrepreneurial mind-set.** We look to secure the long-term sustainability of those initiatives we support – constantly striving to create a ‘best in class’ philanthropy for all our chosen projects. Where appropriate, we seek to promote sustainable apprenticeships and employment
- **Maximise the benefit.** When agreeing your projects’ objectives and goals, we offer commercially minded input from the outset to ensure that no money is wasted. We want to ensure that our donations are used cost-effectively – aiming to achieve the best possible chance for a transformational outcome from our donation.
- **Address the North-South Divide.** In our own small way, we aspire to help rebalance the economic divide between the South of England and the rest of the UK. Efforts will be more focused on projects north of the line – from the Severn to The Wash.
- **Easy to Measure Outcomes.** Having measurable outcomes that are easily monitored will ensure your project has a visible and lasting difference.

## What should potential applicants bear in mind?

Before applying to the Foundation, please note that we will:

- **Do our due diligence.** Before committing to donating, we will do our research and make a critical review of your project. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our work – so please be prepared to demonstrate a high degree of responsibility and accountability in using a donation to good effect.
- **Check your standards.** Your project must account for international standards on research, financial probity and ethics.
- **Look for local impact.** We are keen to support projects that promote and make use of local input and know-how, as well as sourcing local materials.

## Keen to apply? – visit our website for more details

- **Meet our criteria.** All potential donations must demonstrate sufficient evidence of a robust process for running your project, outlining your:
  - Background
  - Objectives
  - Scope
  - Key requirements
  - Deliverables
  - Milestones
- **Be realistic.** Your project will be evaluated according to the ‘SMART’ principles – it must be:
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Realistic
  - Timely
- **Show commitment.** You must be able to demonstrate a plan to hand over to local teams to carry on momentum and ensure long-term success.
- **Demonstrate success.** Preference will be given to small or pilot projects which can be expanded having achieved or reached pre-determined milestones. Can you demonstrate using donations effectively? If so, show us evidence through case studies.

*At the Hamish Ogston Foundation, we are passionate about what we do, and endeavour to enjoy the process of giving.*