

St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust

Grant Application Guide

Saturday 15th March 2025
Oxford

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Trustees of the St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust are delighted to invite applications for grants. We are accepting applications on a rolling basis. The deadline for the current round of grant applications is Thursday 27th March 2025.

This document, and further information regarding the Trust may be found on our website: sfds.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Smith
Chair of Trustees

1. Summary

- The St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust (“the Trust”, hereafter) was founded in 2021 to provide funds to pro-life and Catholic organisations, causes or individuals. It is actively seeking to make grants to eligible organisations and individuals.
- We wish to make the grant application process as simple as possible. Accordingly, the application form requires only brief answers.
- Funds can be allocated to any “Purpose”, not just “Projects”, and use for staff hours is encouraged.

2. About St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust

The Trust was founded in 2021 to provide funds to pro-life and Catholic organisations, causes or individuals. Its sole purpose is to award grants. The current Trustees are Ed Smith and Manus Henry, and it is based in Oxford, UK. We wish to address the reality that one of the main difficulties in pro-life and Catholic work is fundraising and funding.

In summary, our charitable objectives are to:

- Advance the Catholic religion
- Assist pregnant women and unsupported mothers
- Defend and promote the human rights of the unborn, the elderly, and the disabled
- Deliver education in bioethics that promotes the utmost respect for human life

We seek to provide support primarily (but not exclusively) in England, Scotland and Wales. The Trustees are not limited to these objectives and can award grants at their discretion.

The full version of these charitable objects is given in Section 9.

2.1. Charitable Status

The Trust is a legally recognised Charitable Trust, however it is not registered with the Charities Commission, owing to its present size. A Legal Confirmation that the Trust Deed is complete, accurate and properly constituted has been certified by WinckWorth Sherwood LLP, Oxford.

3. Grants available

We want to make it easy to apply for grants, and to receive funds, whilst ensuring due diligence. We are a relatively new charitable trust with limited funds at present. We look forward to increasing our donations over time. As a guide, we have a total of around £1000 to distribute this financial year (FY 2024-25) and awarded about £1500 last financial year (FY 2023-24).

Note: If you know anyone who would be interested in donating to the Trust, please contact info@sfds.org.uk.

4. Eligibility

The prospective grant recipient(s) must fulfil one of our charitable objects.

5. Decision making process

Grants are awarded at the discretion of the Trustees, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis as we receive them. When deciding whether to make a grant, we will take the following into consideration:

- When you applied
- How needy your cause is and if there are other alternative or existing sources of funding available to you
- How local you are to Oxford

6. Application Process

1. To apply, please send an email to the chair of Trustees, Ed Smith, via info@sfds.org.uk, with a returned Grant Application Form (which is a separate document to this).
2. It is possible to have an informal call before you apply to discuss your potential application. Please send an email to us to arrange this.
3. We will endeavour to make a decision within two weeks of your application.
4. If any clarification is required, we aim to ask for it within 48 hours of receipt of your email.
5. Deadline: applications are considered on a rolling basis.

7. Grant payment

In the case of an individual trip sponsorship, grant payment will be made on receipt of the report, as specified in Part B of the (separate) Grant Application Form. Prior payment before the trip may be considered. Please make your case to the Trustees when returning the application form.

8. Privacy Policy

A copy of our Privacy Policy should have been provided to you with this document. If you do not have a copy, please request one by sending an email to: info@sfds.org.uk.

9. Other things you should know

The information in this document should be considered a guide only. The Trustees intend to follow the process outlined above, however, they reserve the right to change any aspect at their absolute discretion.

10. Charitable Objects

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document (Para 1.17):

To advance such charitable purposes (according to the law of England and Wales) as the trustees see fit. From time to time in particular but not limited to:

- 1) The advancement of the Roman Catholic religion by making grants to Roman Catholic organisations, causes and individuals;
- 2) The relief of poverty, sickness and distress of pregnant women and unsupported mothers by making grants to persons in need, and to pro-life organisations and causes;
- 3) The advancement of human rights in particular of unborn children, human embryos, the elderly, disabled, by making grants to pro-life organisations, causes and individuals;
- 4) The advancement of education of the public in bioethics and for the utmost respect for human life, by making grants to pro-life organisations, causes and individuals.

This will be primarily (but not exclusively) in England, Scotland and Wales.

For the purpose of this clause, “pro-life” means to uphold the inalienable right to life of every human being from fertilisation to natural death.