

PCAC Website in PDF Format

HOME

Contact Details:

PCAC:-

The Executive Secretary
Professional Classes Aid Council
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Tel: 020 7935 0641

Registered with the Charity Commission
of England & Wales No. 207292

UK Company Registration No. 00174262

email admin@pcac.org.uk

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If you would prefer that we did not hold any information about you on our file please do not submit your information to us.

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About Us

About The Professional Classes Aid Council

The Professional Classes Aid Council had its origins in the First World War, when it was founded as the Professional Classes War Relief Council. It changed its name in 1921, although its aims remained - and still remain - substantially the same.

For more than three-quarters of a century, PCAC has existed to provide help and assistance to professional people and their families overtaken by adverse circumstances. State support and the help available from professional benevolent institutions have increased dramatically since 1921 but there are still individuals for whom this is not enough. It is among these that PCAC can make a real difference - offering regular grants, support for those in nursing or residential homes, top-up payments to those at university or one-off gifts to meet specific needs.

PCAC is a Registered Charity. It has always kept overheads and fundraising costs to a minimum. Controlled by an Executive Committee whose members are drawn from all walks of life, its Case and Education Committees meet regularly throughout the year to consider applications for assistance.

New applications arrive each week, from social workers, professional bodies, other charities and individuals in search of assistance. Some applicants merely need advice, others become beneficiaries who may be associated with PCAC for many years.

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The Association of Charity Officers is an umbrella body of charities and benevolent funds which help people of all ages and backgrounds who are in need. The Association incorporates a large number of occupational benevolent funds - The Occupational Benevolent Funds Alliance - which help individuals who are working or have worked in particular trades, industries and professions. To find out more about how these charities can help you or someone you know go to aco.uk.net.

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Who PCAC Help

In its First Annual Report, published in 1921, PCAC recorded that "Help was given to numerous musicians, artists, schoolmasters, teachers and governesses; to architects and surveyors, authors and journalists, barristers and solicitors, engineers, doctors, actors, ministers of religion, nurses, senior civil servants and members of many other callings".

Today its beneficiaries still include representatives of every one of those professions. But PCAC has also moved with the times. While applications from governesses are still received, they are now vastly outnumbered by requests for help from members of the so-called "new professions" - advertising, public relations, science and I.T.

General Criteria

Under its Memorandum and Articles of Association, The Professional Classes Aid Council can provide assistance only to:

- Members of an established profession, or those who hold a university degree or recognised professional qualification.
- The spouses, partners, children or stepchildren of such individuals.

Applicants are expected to have claimed all possible State Benefits and any support to which they are entitled from relevant professional organisations. PCAC is not able to help with the cost of medical treatment.

Applicants must be resident within the United Kingdom.

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Education Grants

PCAC administers a separate Educational fund. This is intended to help students on essential university courses, not those changing careers or taking a course from choice. Only very exceptionally can PCAC contribute towards the cost of school fees. Applicants' general eligibility is determined by the criteria set out in the Who PCAC Help section.

In addition:

- Students must normally have started their course with the expectation of complete funding and exploited all other financial options open to them - typically student loans and career development loans.
- PCAC cannot "sponsor" students for the duration of their course. It can only help those whose planned funding has broken down. Hence, applications can only be accepted for the current academic year.

As funds are limited, further specific restrictions apply. Thus, the Education Committee is generally NOT able to help:

- Students studying abroad, except where this is an essential part of their course.
- Graduate medical, dental and veterinary students prior to the final three years of their course and while on electives and intercalated years.
- EU and overseas students who commenced their course without assurances of full funding.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers without Home Office Refugee Status or Exceptional Leave to Remain.
- Overseas doctors preparing for the IELTS or PLAB tests.
- Ordination Candidates.

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How To Apply

Applications are welcomed directly from individuals, or from statutory, voluntary or charitable bodies acting on their behalf.

Applicants or those acting on their behalf are advised to supply brief details in the first instance of the applicant's:

- Professional and Educational background.
- Current financial circumstances.
- Specific request.
- Other funds approached.

All applications are handled with discretion and in the strictest confidence and should be made in writing to:

The Executive Secretary
Professional Classes Aid Council
10 St. Christopher's Place
London
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or by email to: admin@pcac.org.uk

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Donations

Help us to help people of a professional nature of all ages.

Their needs are increasing - often people have very low incomes and need financial help to overcome a crisis or long-term support in illness or old age.

PCAC receives no financial help from National or Local Government or the National Lottery. It relies entirely upon donations, legacies and the income from its investments.

Your gift, donation or legacy is needed and will be used to give appropriate help to the individual. As a Registered Charity, PCAC can claim a refund of tax on any donation made under Gift Aid Declaration.

Please send your donation, no matter how small to:

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