



Architects Benevolent Society Grant Giving Policy Overview

1. Underpinning Principles

ABS provides financial support to individuals and families within the architectural profession based on these principles:

- Holistic, needs-led approach to assessment and support.
- Complement, not replace, statutory financial support.
- Enable individuals, avoiding dependency.
- Consistent, equitable decision-making.

2. Social Outcomes

ABS aims to:

- Improve quality of life for those facing financial and social challenges.
- Support financial independence after a crisis.
- Increase employability and maintain employment.
- Alleviate emotional distress affecting daily life.
- Promote inclusion for individuals with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following:

- At least one year of professional experience in the UK within architecture, architectural technology, or landscape architecture, or be a dependent of someone with such experience.
- Financial need assessed using Minimum Income Standard (MIS) thresholds:
 - 65% of MIS or
- 75% households where someone has long-term health issues or disabilities.
- Savings less than £6,000 (£10,000 for households with disabilities).
- Net assets under £100,000 (including property equity).



4. Grant Types

- Direct Financial Support
 - Annual maximum of £2,500 per individual.
 - Grants for urgent living expenses, housing, childcare, health/care costs, and professional membership fees.
 - Examples:
 - Housing grants up to MIS Housing Element (MISH).
 - Childcare support for children under 3 or lone parents working.
 - Dental grants
- Partner Support Services
 - Mental health support: assessment and therapy with a certified counsellor up to a maximum of £880.
 - Employment support including job search support programme through Renovo and funding for relevant training.
 - Housing advice: Support through Shelter.
 - Law Express legal helpline: Advice on employment, family, and consumer law.

5. Exceptional Circumstances

Discretionary support for:

- Refugees and asylum seekers within the architectural community.
- Individuals with barriers preventing financial independence due to health, disability, or other crises.
- Cases reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Welfare Committee and Board.

6. Exclusions

ABS does not provide support for:

- Business costs or debts.
- Tuition or private school fees.

Applicants not claiming available benefits.



7. **Additional Information**

- Restrictions to grant giving: Budget constraints may lead to a Board decision to reduce the value of the maximum grants available to individuals or a suspension of grants for a period of time.