The Gittins Family Charitable Trust

Guidance Notes 2019/20

Background

The Gittins Family Charitable trust was established by Brian Gittins (1940 – 2016) and his sister Sheila Gittins. Its purpose is to both encourage students into engineering – mechanical and manufacturing, and health and life sciences– adult nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic science, medical and pharmacological sciences and human bioscience.

Brian was born on 2nd April 1940 at Hallaton near Market Harborough, Leicestershire where his father was the station master.

For the first 16 years of his life Brian lived alongside railways. He became a member of the model engineering club, built himself a working tank locomotive to run on the track at the club and to give visitors rides on open days.

Thanks to a kind uncle, Brian started off as a craft apprentice at BTH engineering company (subsequently AEI) in Rugby, working his way up to chief design engineer. In the early 1970s he moved to GEC Gas turbines at Whetstone.

Brian entered pieces of engineering at exhibitions which resulted in commissions to build working models of locomotives and he later set up his own business, PT Engineering where he worked with Rolls Royce.

Brian was a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for over 50 years and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology for 45 years.

The trust wants to support healthcare as well because of the care given by the NHS to both Brian and Sheila in their later years.

The Awards

- 10 awards @ £1000 per student per year paid in three instalments.
- 5 awards for manufacturing and mechanical engineering students
- 5 awards for students studying adult nursing, physiotherapy, paramedic science, human bioscience and medical and pharmacological sciences.
- Students will continue to receive the scholarship for each year of their degree as long as they reach the 60% threshold at the end of the academic year

Eligibility

- UK students only
- Students living away from home either in halls or in private accommodation
- Students with a household income of less than £40,000 (proof will be required)
- Where there are more applications than places available men in healthcare will be given priority over women and women will be given priority over men in manufacturing and mechanical engineering
- 2nd and 3rd year students to have achieved 60% overall in previous academic year.