



The Graham Rushton Award

for blind and partially sighted people studying law in the UK

RNIB

supporting blind and
partially sighted people

Graham Rushton was a blind lawyer who left a considerable sum of money to RNIB as a legacy to be spent on assisting blind and partially sighted law students in the United Kingdom.

RNIB and the Society of Visually Impaired Lawyers have worked in partnership to establish an annual grant award from the legacy.

The Graham Rushton Award is a grant of around £8,000, which blind and partially sighted people can apply for, to support their studies.

Who can apply?

Anyone who is studying law in the United Kingdom, whether for a degree, a post-degree conversion qualification or a post-degree training course.

Priority may however be given to applicants who have reached a stage in their studies where local authority grants are not available, such as a Legal Practice Course (LCP) or Bar Vocational Course (BVC).

They must also:

- have a confirmed place on a course
- be studying within the United Kingdom
- be able to provide proof of sight loss.

How do you apply?

Contact RNIB on **0800 022 3010** to request a **Graham Rushton Grant** application pack in your preferred format.

The application form will ask for personal details about yourself, and your previous and intended studies.

You will also be asked to provide the following information:

- registration/medical certificates of sight loss
- a full transcript of academic grades to date and/or a copy of your degree certificate.

You will also be asked to complete a personal statement that includes the following:

- financial reasons for requesting the grant award
- the legal area in which you plan to work within, and why
- if you have a contract of employment following the completion of your course and if so, who with
- if you already have, or are currently seeking, any other additional funding
- your long term legal career plans
- names and contact details of referees.

How is the grant recipient decided?

All applications will be judged by a panel made up of blind and partially sighted lawyers and RNIB professionals.

Short listed applicants will be invited to attend a formal interview with the panel.

Please note: If the panel decides that more than one applicant meets the criteria, it may decide to split the grant between a maximum of three people.

Deadline for applications is **31 January 2009**

The grant will be allocated by **31 March 2009**

If you need further information or require this information in braille or electronic format please call **0800 022 3010** or email **employmentline@rnib.org.uk**

Useful contacts

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)
rnib.org.uk

Society of Visually Impaired Lawyers (SOVIL)
sovil.org.uk