

Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust

Funding Procedure

The Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust welcomes funding applications from individuals or institutions for projects which fall within the [funding remit of the Trust](#).

The Trust funds a variety of projects which include conferences, seminars, publications, research, popular education, archiving, translations, art, culture and digital media. We recommend you review [previous awards](#) we have given to help you decide whether your project would be a good fit for the Trust. The Trust primarily funds projects undertaken by people and institutions based in the UK. However, we occasionally make exceptions for projects outside of the UK which are strongly aligned with our objectives.

Please note that the Trust does not award funds to subsidise the continuation or running of University/College courses; cover transportation costs to or from Conferences; or subsidise fees/maintenance for undergraduate or postgraduate students.

Trust Objectives

The general objectives of the Trust are to advance public education, learning and knowledge in all aspects of

- (a) the philosophy of Marxism
- (b) the history of socialism, and
- (c) the working class movement.

The trustees have adopted the following statement as a working translation of the Trust's objectives: Marxism is not a fixed interpretation of history and society but a critical method which generates a different critique in different periods and situations. As a philosophy, its purpose is to understand the world in order to change it. It is therefore a philosophy which takes creative account of other critiques of society as part of the reality which it seeks to understand and change.

Historically Marxism has sought to understand capitalist society, and the change which it has worked for has been to a socialist form of society. Its critique has now necessarily expanded to include twentieth-century socialist societies and the received Marxist tradition itself. These societies have played a central part in the history of socialism and the working class movement. The future, not only of such societies as they depart from the past, but of every society in which a new form of socialism is argued for or attempted in the future, will be a part of the history of socialism. The part played by the working class movement past, present, and future is, in itself, a proper object of study, both in its own right and as a part of the history of socialism and the study of Marxism.

Thus, the Trust's objectives may be seen as part of a continuing process of understanding the development of modern societies in the light of the intellectual and social movements which have sought and still seek to transform them to non-exploitative and egalitarian societies. The Trust's funds should be deployed accordingly.

Trust Strategic Priorities

In addition to the Trust Objectives, the Trust is also working towards the following strategic priority in its funding decisions.

The Trust will aim to ringfence 50% of funds for applications for projects with a strong focus on popular political education and on engagement with non-academic and non-activist audiences, especially those focused on reaching people and communities across the UK who are likely to face barriers to accessing education, learning and knowledge about the philosophy of Marxism, the history of socialism, the working class movement and other social movements seeking to bring about non-exploitative and egalitarian societies. These barriers could include educational, financial, geographical, or political cultural barriers.

Scope

Please bear in mind that the scope of our objectives includes all intellectual and social movements aiming to make modern societies non-exploitative and egalitarian, including but not limited to those focused on class, race, and equitable solutions to climate change, to name a few. Your project does not have to touch them all, but we'd like to understand how your work fits into our broader objectives.

Application Guidelines

- **Applications must be made on the application form, which can be downloaded from [this page](#).**
- Applications must be made in accordance with the application deadlines on our website. In general, applications may be required to be submitted up to two months in advance of the specific funding meetings. They should be uploaded online at [this link](#) before the deadline. Applications submitted before a deadline has been announced will not be considered.
- **Please include your organisation or the main applicant's surname in the filename, e.g. Application_Burton.doc**
- Please note that all questions on the application form must be answered fully and clearly, otherwise your application is liable to not be considered by the trustees.
- When Trustees review applications, they consider the following criteria:
 - Fit with Trust objectives
 - Fit with Trust strategic priorities
 - Is the budget realistic for the activities proposed?

- Applicants ability to deliver project
 - Strength of dissemination strategy
 - What is the project's likelihood of securing funding from other sources?
- On receipt of an application, the Trust may request further information prior to the application being submitted to trustees for consideration.
- The Trust will require a project narrative report and a financial report indicating how the Trust money has been used from all successful applicants on completion of their project.
- The Trust will require an acknowledgement on project outputs or materials, e.g. reports, leaflets, websites, which reflects the Trust's contribution on all funded projects. Acknowledgement wording and details of the proposed placement of the acknowledgement should be forwarded to the Trust for approval prior to any publication. Any credit should also include the Trust's logo – which can be forwarded on request.
- The Trust will expect to publish details of all funded projects online on its website, and where appropriate to reproduce, or provide a link to, any written or visual material produced by the project.

Regular Funding Awards

- The Trust considers regular funding applications bi-annually at our January and July meetings.
- Regular Funding Awards are limited to a maximum funding total of £7,350.
- Applicants must conform to the application guidelines as outlined above.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions (if any) within 1-2 weeks of the funding meeting.

Major Project Awards

- The Trust considers applications for major project awards only once a year.
- Major Project Awards include all applications over £7,350, and the trust normally funds two or three major projects a year. Major Project Awards are limited to a maximum funding total of £15,750.
- Applications for major project awards must be submitted for initial consideration at the January meeting in accordance with the application deadlines.
- Applicants must conform to the application guidelines as outlined above.
- Major Project Award applications will be subject to an initial shortlisting process at the January meeting, the shortlist normally consists of no more than 4 or 5 projects.
- Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been shortlisted for a major project award within 1-2 weeks of the January meeting.

- Following the shortlisting process, the Trust will approach referees, and may elect to request further information, or approach independent consultants in order to facilitate its assessment of applications.
- In addition, one or more trustees will be appointed to consider applications in detail, for example through a meeting with the applicant.
- The Trust will make a final assessment of major project applications at the April meeting.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions within 2-3 weeks of the April meeting.
- The Trust reserves the right to postpone final consideration of major project applications at any time until all further requested information has been received.
- In addition to completing a narrative and financial report for the project, successful Major applicants will also be asked to meet with one or more trustees to review the project as a whole when the project is completed.

Thematic Fund

In the January round, the Trust invites applications on a particular theme (in addition to issuing an open invitation). In the January 2025 funding round the theme is **Building the Left, countering the far-right**. Following the wave of violent far-right disturbances across England in summer 2024, the Trust encourages applications concerned with research and analysis on the drivers of the 'riots', as well as educational work that provides alternatives to racist, anti-immigration and Islamophobic politics. The Trust is especially interested in work in places most affected, which are often areas of multiple deprivation and with limited access to political education.