

TASS – Frequently Asked Questions

What is TASS?

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme, or TASS as it is better known, is a Government funded programme that represents a unique partnership between sport and higher and further education. The programme awards Scholarships and Bursars to talented athletes that are committed to combining their sport and education. It aims to reduce the drop out of talented athletes from sport and supports and develops the talent of today for sporting success in the future.

Is this different from TASS 2012 scholarships?

Yes, the TASS 2012 scholarships are completely different!

Who is eligible?

Riders must reside at an English address or be studying at an English Educational Institute. Riders must also hold a G.B passport and be eligible to compete in their sport for G.B. The rider's competitive level is also taken into consideration, and for a detailed list of the minimum eligibility criteria please see the Minimum Criteria document.

What kind of grants are available for my age group?

All TASS scholarships are now £3,000. In addition to this money, riders also receive the British Olympic Association medical insurance cover (worth £710 pa), a lifestyle support programme known as PALS (worth £250) and £250 SportsAid contribution

TASS Scholarships (£3,000) are generally awarded to riders who are 18-25 years of age (extended to 35 years for disability riders) and are studying in Higher Education in England.

What can I spend the money on?

The funds must be spent on things to help you continue your competitive riding whilst in education and include coaching, competition entries and expenses, equipment, sports science support (physio, fitness, strength and conditioning) etc. Your programme for the year is agreed in advance in a Service Level Agreement.

How do I get the money?

Riders do not receive this funding directly, but need to pay for the services and then claim it back through their academic institution.

If I am on WC can I apply?

Current World Class Funded riders (Start, Potential and Performance) cannot receive additional funding from TASS. If, however, they are “Pre-Start” or “Peripheral” World Class riders then they can apply.

If I am already on TASS can I reapply?

Current TASS riders are eligible for further TASS funding if they fulfil Educational (Institute), TASS and Performance (NGB) criteria. Sporting National Governing Bodies will be asked to re-nominate current TASS riders and nominate new riders.

What happens if I leave or swap courses?

Swapping courses should not affect your support from TASS but you must inform the British Equestrian Federation as soon as possible. If you leave your course mid year or are taken on to a World Class programme then your TASS support will be terminated.

Can I apply if I live in Scotland, Wales or Ireland?

To be eligible for TASS you must have a GB passport and be studying in England.

What are the timescales of the awards?

A TASS bursary or scholarship is made annually for the period 1 August to 31 July.

Does 6th Form count as Further Education?

Yes. A Levels, ND's, NC's and GNVQ's all qualify as further education whether you are studying at school or college.

What kind of benefits would I receive from TASS?

TASS operates across England through nine regional consortia. Each consortium comprises several higher and further education institutions that work together to provide a package of sporting services to TASS scholars and bursars in their region. There are currently over 80 educational establishments across England delivering sporting services on behalf of the programme.

Who provides the sporting services to TASS riders?

Each rider is assigned a Lead Institute, who is responsible for mentoring and liaising with the rider and organising service provision for the rider. To find details of institutes in your area please visit www.tass.gov.uk and click on Institutions.

How does TASS integrate with the existing World Class Programmes?

It is deemed crucial that TASS integrates with, and compliments the existing World Class programmes (Start / Potential / Performance) including links with existing high performance centres and relationships that the BEF has with EIS.

The scheme will also provide effective links with regional and national development programmes such the Pony, Junior and Young Rider squads, and will form an integral component of the Long Term Rider Development (LTAD) model and the BEF One Stop Plans.