

RNCM Annual Appeal: Raising funds for the Access to Learning Fund

FAQs

What is the RNCM Annual Appeal raising funds for this year?

Every year, the RNCM Development team launches a public appeal to highlight an area of need. This year, we are informing audience members and regular supporters about student financial need.

How long will the appeal run?

It runs from 13 November – 15 January, and we hope to raise £55,000.

What exactly will it support?

The appeal will raise funds for the **Access to Learning Fund** (previously called the Hardship Fund). In addition to distributing emergency grants, there will be two new 'pots' of money that students can apply to that are part of the Access to Learning Fund.

These are the **Virtual Food Larder** and the **Opportunity Fund**.

How does the Virtual Food Larder work?

The Virtual Food Larder will offer virtual food vouchers through discreet access to RNCM café credit, loaded onto students' RNCM ID card, to support students struggling with food costs and maintaining a healthy diet.

Our target is to raise £5,000 for this new 'pot'.

How can students access the Virtual Food Larder?

To access the Virtual Food Larder, students should contact Student Services, who will discuss their specific needs with them.

Funds can be spent in the RNCM café, and students can access up to £100 based on need. Access to the larder will be confidential and stigma free, with funds loaded onto students' RNCM ID card.

To access the virtual food later, please contact Student Services at studentservices@rncm.ac.uk.

How does the Opportunity Fund work?

The Opportunity Fund will provide students with one-off grants to compensate for the lost income of missing a work shift, allowing them to participate in valuable artistic enrichment projects (e.g., RNCM Symphony Orchestra) without needing to sacrifice vital income to cover living costs.

Our target is to raise £10,000 for this new 'pot'.

How can students access the Opportunity Fund?

The Opportunity Fund will be available to access for selected key performance projects scheduled in the 24/25 academic year. The full list of these activities will be made available by

25 January and shared with students by Heads of School and Orchestras & Ensembles. This list will include performances from all schools / activity type.

Students who meet the published eligibility criteria (available in January 2025) will consult with Student Services to determine eligibility, including how many shifts will be missed due to the opportunity. Students will need to provide an employment contract to verify the missed shift(s).

Grants of up to £250 per activity per student will be available, factoring in rehearsal and performance hours.

When can students apply?

Students can apply for emergency grants at any time during the academic year.

Applications for the Virtual Food Larder and Opportunity Fund will **be open at the beginning of February 2025**, following the culmination of the Annual Appeal.

Will these new funds exist after 2025, once the appeal is over?

We hope so. We understand that the need for financial support for students is increasing, so will seek to raise money to ensure these funds can continue into the future.

Who should students contact for support and/or more information?

Students should contact the Student Services team, at studentservices@rncm.ac.uk to explore eligibility and application for the Access to Learning Fund.