SPE Aberdeen Section

Solutions. People. Energy.℠

SPE ABERDEEN SECTION

2026–2027 STUDENT BURSARY APPLICATION FORM

Up to £20,000 in bursaries available

Before you apply

SPE Aberdeen Section is offering a combined total of up to £20,000 in student bursaries for the 2026–2027 academic year. The total may be reduced if the standard of applications is not satisfactory.

You can apply if you are a current student studying a course related to the energy industry at one of these universities:

- **University of Aberdeen**
- **Robert Gordon University**
- **University of Dundee**
- **Heriot-Watt University**

Eligible applicants must be full-time undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD students. Students who have extended their studies are not eligible.

Your application should demonstrate:

1. A course of study directly relevant to the energy industry.
2. A clear intention or commitment to work in the energy industry.
3. Academic merit.
4. Active involvement in SPE.

How to apply

5. Complete every section of this form.
6. Answer three of the six optional questions (Q1–Q6), plus the compulsory question (Q7). You must answer four questions in total.
7. Write 300–400 words for each answer.
8. Save the form with your name in the file title.
9. Email your completed form to Diane Wood, SPE Aberdeen Section Manager, at manager@spe-aberdeen.org by 14 December 2026.

Please do not attach any other files to your email.

If you have questions about the application, contact Diane Wood at manager@spe-aberdeen.org. Please provide concise, relevant information. The selection committee may contact your university for further information.

What happens next?

Applications will be reviewed and recommendations made by the SPE Aberdeen Section Student Development Committee. The SPE Aberdeen Board has final approval.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their answers to the judging panel in Aberdeen, usually in early February. Remote presentations may be arranged for students or interviewers who are not based in Aberdeen. The date, time and format will be confirmed later.

Successful candidates will be announced in February. Awardees will be invited to an award ceremony, usually held in early March.

Important: Incomplete applications, or applications submitted late or not in the required way, will not be considered. The closing date is 14 December 2026. No extensions will be given.

1. Applicant details

Full name (first name and surname):

_____

University:

_____

Course / programme of study:

_____

Current year of study:

_____

Email address:

_____

SPE student membership number:

_____

2. Previous academic background

Please list your previous academic qualifications or studies.

From (mm/yy)	To (mm/yy)	Institution	Subject

3. Previous awards and professional involvement

Have you previously received any scholarships, bursaries or grants? If yes, give the amount and year received.

Professional society involvement (including SPE and SPE Student Chapters):

4. Brief personal history

Please provide a brief personal history in no more than 100 words.

5. Choose and answer your questions

You must answer four questions in total: choose three questions from Q1–Q6 and answer the compulsory Q7.

Each answer must be 300–400 words. Your answers should show that you understand the topic and can express your own informed opinions. Strong answers often include original thinking, creative solutions and personal reflection.

Important – Students are **required** to submit original thoughts and arguments in response to the questions instead of using arguments **or reflections** constructed using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. However, the use of AI to improve an answer constructed by a student (to check grammar and rephrase an original answer) is generally permissible. Students are encouraged to ensure that answers remain original and based on their own intellect, **judgement, and experience**. The judges reserve the right to penalise or reject any submission where AI is suspected of being used to construct the answers and there is no appeal process for any such decisions."

Optional questions – answer three of the following six

Q1. Field Development

Why was Jackdaw approved? Would you have approved it?

Q2. Decommissioning

Thousands of offshore wells, pipelines and facilities will eventually require decommissioning. Choose one part of the decommissioning challenge that you believe offers the greatest opportunity for innovation. Explain what you would change, why a current approach could be improved, and how you would demonstrate that your idea is both safe, practical and worthwhile.

Q3. Energy Transition

The energy transition is often discussed as a competition between oil and gas and renewable energy. Do you think this is the right way to frame the challenge? Describe what you believe a realistic energy system could look like during your working lifetime and what role, if any, today's oil and gas industry should have in creating it.

Q4. Data & AI

AI tools are increasingly capable of analysing data, generating designs and supporting technical decisions. Imagine you begin your first energy-industry role tomorrow and are given access to an AI assistant with expertise comparable to an experienced engineer or geoscientist. What would you use it for, what would you refuse to delegate to it, and why?

Q5. Skills Development

Technical knowledge may help you secure your first job, but it will not necessarily define the rest of your career. Identify one capability that you believe will become more important during the next ten years and one that may become less important. Explain your choices and describe what you are personally doing, or intend to do, to prepare.;What courses should universities consider developing for the next generation of energy-curious students and why?

Q6. Policy

You have five minutes with a new elected politician who has no background in energy.

They ask you a simple question: "Why can't we just stop producing oil and gas tomorrow?" How would you answer this?

Your response should acknowledge the strongest argument for rapidly reducing oil and gas production as well as the strongest argument against it, before explaining what you personally think should happen.

6. Your answers

Enter the question number and title for each of your three chosen optional questions. Each answer must be 300–400 words. Then complete the compulsory Q7.

Optional answer 1

Question number and title:

_____

Answer (300–400 words):

Optional answer 2

Question number and title:

Answer (300–400 words):

Optional answer 3

Question number and title:

Answer (300–400 words):

Compulsory question – Q7 (everyone must answer)

Think ahead to five years after your graduation. What would make you consider those first five years of your career a success? Describe what you hope to have achieved, the type of problems you would like to be solving and the contribution you would like to have made. How have your studies and experiences so far prepared you for that journey, and what do you still need to learn?

Answer (300–400 words):

Thank you for applying to the SPE Aberdeen Section Student Bursary Programme.