Queen’s Women Graduates Scholarship 2020

The Queen's Women Graduates (QWG) is interested in promoting education, especially for women, at local, national and international level.

The scholarship should enhance the educational opportunities of women students, normally those who have had a gap of at least five years since attending school, who are enrolled and are attending a degree, diploma or certificate award-bearing course at the University.

The scholarship may be helpful in assisting, for example, with the cost of fees, books, child care or travel and is available for one academic year only.

The Scholarships panel for 2020

* Leighanne Montgomery (Chair and President of QWGA),
* Clare-louise Wilkinson (Vice President of QWGA),
* Oonagh Ferrity (Former President of QWGA),
* David Capper (School of Law, Queen’s University)

Applications for this scholarship opened in August 2020 and were advertised through the Queen’s website and heavily via Queen’s email communications with students. The applications closed in December 2020.

We received an astounding 70 applications, a fantastic uptake compared to the 10 applications in 2019. Unfortunately, this is likely also a reflection of the time we are in. The impact of Covid on students has been significant, especially mature students who are now studying from home and balancing home life, demands of university work and working. .

**Shortlisting**

Shortlisting requires 5 candidates, which the panel each found challenging to shortlist, due to the volume and validity of candidates..

In previous years, shortlisting and interviews have taken place before December. Due to a number of incomplete applications, we have delayed this process until January 2020. All 10 applications have now been received in full and shared with the panel. Shortlisting has now begun, the deadline for completion is 22nd January 2020.

**Interviews**

Interviews were held on 14th December 2020, virtually via Microsoft Teams. The scholarship fund was £1000. Following some insightful and compelling interviewees, the panel decided to give the award to two candidates; Two prizes of £500 were awarded to Ms Naomi Murray and Ms Karen Keeley.

Leighanne Montgomery (President of QWGA)