BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BICENTENARY BURSARY FUND

Report for the period from 1st October 2025 **to 30th September 2026**

Background:
The Bicentenary Bursary Fund was established during the Society's 200th year in order to create a fund to help young people from the Society's area who wish to pursue a course of study or a learning opportunity that will advance their career but will also (very importantly) contribute to the wider rural economy of the Borders. It follows the Society's original motto: 'encouraging improvement'.
The fund is invested through professional fund managers, under the supervision of the Society's trustees.
The Awards Panel currently meets quarterly to consider applications made and, if appropriate, make an award.
The maximum award is 50% of the costs of the study / trip / course. The Panel also keeps the terms and conditions of the scheme under constant review.
The Awards Panel this year has comprised: Tommy Clark, Andrew Johnson, James Joicey (chair), Jill McGregor, Jane Mitchell, David Neill, James Playfair-Hannay, Derek Robeson, Charlie Robertson, Mary Thomson and Marshall Wilson. Gordon Chisholm (Rennie Welch) and Jac Neill (BUAS) also attend the meetings as observers.

This year the Bursary Fund has made **ten** awards, to:

Laura Baker – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme
Anna Barbour – extra-mural studies in qualifying as a vet under the RCVS (Royal [Dick] Veterinary College, Edinburgh)
Ben Brough – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme
Lee-Anne Gillie – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme
Megan Harvey – Next Generation delegate at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference in South Africa (Nov. 2026) (*jointly with Glendale Agricultural Society)*
Kitty Irving – extra-mural studies in qualifying as a vet under the RCVS (Glasgow University)
Zoe Niven – Next Generation delegate at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference in South Africa (Nov. 2026)
Danielle McKinnon – participation in the Rural Leadership Programme
Connie Rafferty – extra-mural studies in qualifying as a vet under the RCVS (Liverpool University)
Christopher Wilson – Next Generation delegate at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference in South Africa (Nov. 2026)

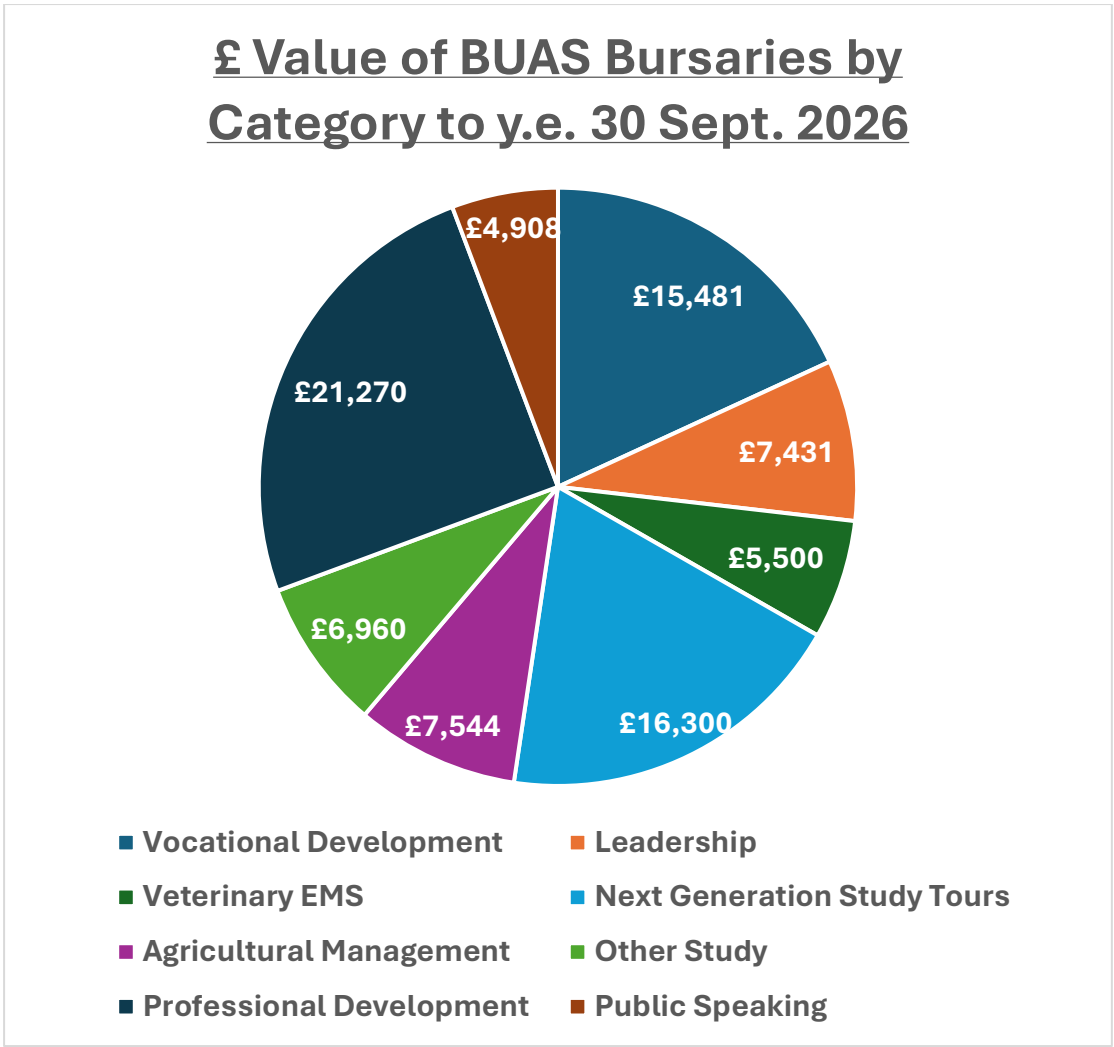
These resulted in awards totalling £12,956.

Since inception in 2013, awards total **£85,394**. The pie charts below give more breakdown.

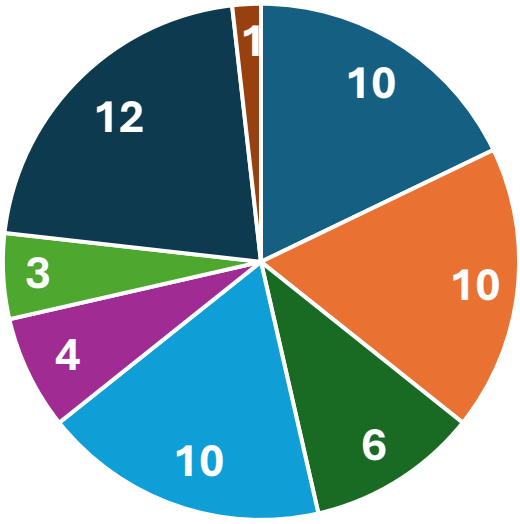
The Panel continues to be very grateful to Agrimart for advertising the Bursary Scheme three times a year on behalf of the Society and also to all BUAS members who help to spread the word. Posters showcasing some of the recipients of Bursary Awards were placed around the showground at the Border Union Show. The Bursary Panel requests, and receives, periodic updates from all its recipients.

James Joicey - October 2026

£ Value of BUAS Bursaries by Category to y.e. 30 Sept. 2026



No. of BUAS Bursaries by Category to y.e. 30. Sept. 2026



- Vocational Development
- Leadership
- Veterinary EMS
- Next Generation Study Tours
- Agricultural Management
- Other Study
- Professional Development
- Public Speaking