

David Tyson Memorial Fund

Providing funding opportunities for young people with a passion and talent for engineering - specifically rail engineering

The David Tyson Memorial Fund was established in 2017 in David's memory to provide financial support to enable young people to develop their skills and pursue a career within the engineering field, with a specific focus on rail engineering.

The Fund supports budding young rail engineers with grants of between **£100 - £500** that can cover the following costs:

- Course fees
- Accreditation
- Resources such as books or additional computer software
- Travel to courses and training sites
- Equipment, materials or tools to enable young people to take up training
- Work-based training costs

Grants are available for young people **aged 16 - 25**, with a specific focus on rail engineering, although other engineering disciplines may be considered.

In exceptional circumstances, the Fund may consider larger awards of up to £1,000.

"I would like to thank the David Tyson Memorial Fund for assisting me financially at the start of my university life. The grant has successfully been spent on travel costs. The course is going well and I have secured a summer internship. I hope to do a Master's degree at the University of Surrey in the future. Thank you for the work you are doing, as it is extremely helpful especially to someone like me."

- Grant recipient 2021

We are keen to hear from you about your funding needs!



Together we can

About the Fund

The Community Foundation for Surrey is an independent charitable foundation that brings together local Donors to facilitate giving in Surrey.

The David Tyson Memorial Fund makes grants to individuals, to help young people aged 16 - 25 who show the motivation to achieve their goals within rail engineering, or the wider engineering field.

The Fund has been set up in memory of David Tyson;

David Tyson (1948 – 2015) was a highly respected permanent way engineer who became an established figurehead and head of discipline for several railway consultants and who successfully established and managed the permanent way departments of a number of companies.

With his expansive railway knowledge, intuition and unparalleled flair for track design, he influenced major railway projects and inspired many colleagues both in the UK and overseas. He was also a Fellow of the Permanent Way Institution.

David had a natural eye for track layouts and alignments and towards the latter stages of his career was virtually peerless in his ability to see a smooth line and to realise it effortlessly through a nimbly draughted sketch. A sixth sense for how a train rides the track was equally his gift and this culminated in the writing of sophisticated computer programs that not only married the modern world with his understanding of the first principles of track engineering but also belied an acknowledged and envied skill in the ability to develop complex software tools. This was one of his many strong points and often seemingly a passion that ran alongside his continued love for building model railways.

Such was his experience and knowledge, to have David involved in a project was considered as having one of the very best in the business and this was reflected in the high regard in which he was very quickly held by those with whom he worked for the first time, including clients. His attention to detail, together with a generous attitude and easy manner, lent themselves to a highly effective application of track engineering know-how to complex and high profile projects.

While working on the HS2 project, on which he was the lead track engineer for Parsons Brinckerhoff for over two years, he conceived and wrote an advanced software tool for the in-depth analysis of track geometry. This remains in extensive use today and leads the way in processing substantial volumes of alignment data with unsurpassed efficiency, in-built intelligence and the means for indicating compliance with a variety of standards and recognised good practice.

His attributes made him a natural and effective mentor and with his inspiration and caring nature his students and team members gravitated towards him. He was able to assemble and lead teams wherever he worked. Track engineers felt privileged to work for David and his teams were dedicated to him.

Outside work, David seemed to have countless varied interests, and an energy and adventurous spirit that put many a younger man to shame. He owned his own yacht on which he lived and worked with his wife, Elif, for several years in Turkey. A keen traveller, he embarked on European road trips in their motor-home. David was also a guitar player and photographer and tried his hand at painting, and of course continued to turn his hand to model railway building.



By Tony Jory - friend and colleague



Who can apply?

Young people aged 16 - 25, typically from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, who show motivation to achieve their goals in rail engineering, or other engineering fields, as follows;

- If you are resident in Surrey or in a neighbouring county within 25 miles of Surrey and are studying in the field of engineering, you are eligible to apply.
- If you are specifically training in the field of railway engineering and are resident in England, you are also eligible to apply.



How to apply

Application is easy - simply complete the [application form](#) and return to the Community Foundation for Surrey. Support and advice are available in making your application. Please [contact us](#) if you require any further information or advice on the application process or in completing the form.

CLOSING DATE? Good news - there is no closing date. We operate a rolling programme. Send your application form to us and we will acknowledge receipt of your application. *Please contact us if you have not received acknowledgement of your application within five working days.*

Your application will be assessed against our funding criteria. Where appropriate, we will contact you to obtain any further information. Applications will then be considered by the Fund Panel.

Once decisions have been made you will be advised of the outcome. Outcomes will typically be provided within 6 weeks.

Please note: Your grant award can be made payable to the trainer / provider of your course or activity.

What cannot be funded?

Funding is not normally available for anything that has already been paid for, or has already taken place. Please make sure you wait for the outcome of your application before you start an activity or book a course that incurs costs, or spend any money.

Please also note that we cannot necessarily support all applications fully. We therefore recommend that you also look into other funding avenues, and tell us about your other fundraising towards the total costs.



End of grant reporting

We are keen to understand the difference our funding makes to your education and career progression. We will therefore be in touch within 6 months of the grant award to get a progress update. This helps us understand how the Fund is helping and making a positive difference to people's futures. We welcome any quotes and feedback, and would like to note that continuation funding may be available for strong candidates.

We are here to help, and look forward to hearing from you!

The David Tyson Memorial Fund Panel

Contact details

You can contact us at any time throughout the application process.

Email: nicola@cfsurrey.org.uk

Call: 01483 478901

Need more information?

Click [here](#) to find our guidance notes

Click [here](#) to download the application form

Full information can be found on our website;

www.cfsurrey.org.uk/fund/david-tyson-memorial-fund/



**Send you completed application form to
nicola@cfsurrey.org.uk**