

Aldridge Foundation Next Step Bursaries – Model Answers for Section 4 & 5

Section 4 - About you

16. Use the space below to tell us about your education achievements and your interests outside of school, for example:

- Achievements or things you're proud of
- Information about your academic qualifications (subject and actual / projected grades)
- Examples of your skills development
- Membership of clubs, sports teams or extra-curricular activities you take part in
- Work experience or volunteering
- Part time job

During my time at school, I took part in a debating competition which involved competing with schools around the country. Not only did the experience allow me to develop and showcase my communication and teamworking skills but I felt proud of our team for making it to the semi-finals. It was a great achievement, especially as we were the only state school team to get that far in the competition.

Additionally, I am very proud of my AS Level results as I was able to achieve ABCC even though I had to retake my English GCSE. I am currently working towards achieving AABB with support from my teachers, by participating in the current tutoring programme and attending extra lessons during my study periods.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking. It has been a passion of mine since I was younger as I had to cook sometimes for my younger siblings when my parents weren't home due to work commitments. I enjoy being creative whenever I have the chance to cook at home; sometimes even coming up with my own recipes for family and friends!

17. Which of the Aldridge Attributes do you think you are strongest in and have supported your development so far? Please give specific examples.

I believe that my strongest Aldridge Attribute is determination. I consider myself a person that is determined to implement change, in my own life as well as the life of others. I always work hard to achieve the goals I set for myself, as seen with my current efforts of retaking my English GCSE whilst doing my A-Levels. Additionally, I am currently volunteering in my local community for an organisation that helps with refugees settling in the UK. This is helping me practise my professional interpreting skills whilst making a positive change in my community.

18. What are your future aspirations and why?

In the future I would like to become a freelance translator and interpreter as I have always wanted to work in the United Nations. I am very interested in current affairs and consider myself aware of the social, environmental, economic, and political issues our society is facing. I especially want to enact change to make sure that future generations of immigrants in the UK have an equal chance in life.

Ultimately, I want to run a humanitarian translation service for those who are lacking the language skills needed when first moving to the country and are potentially at disadvantage which reflects my personal qualities of compassion, hard work and empathy.

19. If you are awarded a bursary and were going to write a caption to announce the good news on social media, what would you say? (we won't share this without your permission)

I'm thrilled to announce that I've been awarded an Aldridge Foundation Next Steps Bursary that will allow me to continue my studies and pursue my dream of becoming a freelance translator and interpreter.

I'm deeply grateful to my teachers for their support and the selection committee for giving me this opportunity. This bursary isn't just financial support; it's a symbol of belief in my potential and hard work.

My chosen path is all about connecting cultures and languages, fostering understanding, and breaking down barriers. I'm committed to giving my best, learning, growing, and contributing to the world of languages and communication and knowing that I'll have guidance and support along the way means everything.

I can't wait to see where this path takes me, and I look forward to sharing all the adventures and challenges that lie ahead. Stay tuned for more updates as I work towards my goal of becoming a freelance translator and interpreter! #AldridgeFoundationScholar #BursaryWinner #Translator #Interpreter #NewChapter

20. Is there any other information that you would like the selection panel to take in to account when making their decisions on which applications to take through to the next stage of the process?

I feel I deserve a Next Steps Bursary because I am a resilient person and have always worked hard to achieve things.

Next year I would like to undertake a course in translation and interpretation, and as I come from a low-income household, my parents are unable to support me financially to achieve this.

I have thoroughly researched a number of grants and unfortunately for various reasons, I do not qualify under their narrow eligibility criteria. Therefore, I am disadvantaged by the criteria which would imply I am in a fortunate position; however this couldn't be further from the truth.

Having migrated twice with my family from Spain to France and then later to the UK, I have faced and overcome several challenges. Initially, after the 2008 financial crash my family had no access to a living and needed to move to where the jobs were. The financial hardship left my family making tough decisions about spending and saving money; something which I have learnt dearly about. I have always felt that I haven't had the same upbringing as the rest of my peers as my education has been disrupted several times and I have had to learn two different languages at the same time as completing my schooling in both France and the UK.

Learning a new language whilst trying to integrate into a new school was tough and although I still sometimes struggle with some of the English grammar, I have come a long way, achieving good grades at GCSE and am now working towards my A-levels.

These experiences have led to my resilient attitude and proactive approach to my education and future.

Having access to financial support would help me to overcome further difficulties and challenges and allow me to reach my true potential but I am also keen to apply for the additional input of a mentor to help me set up my own business and fulfil my dream of becoming a freelance translator. With the support of a mentor I hope to grow my confidence within the academic and social sphere and benefit from the sounding board and insight of someone who has experience.

Section 5 - How do you intend to use the funds if you are successful?

21. Please give full details below of why you need the bursary and outline what the funds will be spent on. Please see guidance notes for examples of how you might use the funds.

I am applying for a multi-year bursary as I would like extra support with my course fees, as they aren't covered by Student Finance England. The fees for the two-year course I'll be taking: ***Certificate of Translation and Interpreting in German*** by the ***Chartered Institute of Linguists***, are £3,500 per academic year (£7,000 in total).

I am currently working part-time in Tesco as a customer service assistant, and I am also doing the odd paid tutoring sessions. I earn £120 per month from Tesco and approx. £20 a month for tutoring (one session per week at £5). However, my current income is spent on train tickets to get me to and from school, so I'm unable to save money towards my course fees.

If I am awarded the Next Steps Bursary, in addition to financial support, I would also welcome advice on how to set up my own business. I would like to learn from a mentor who has entrepreneurial experience who can coach me and help me develop my skills so that I can fulfil my dream of becoming a freelance translator.

22. If you are going on to higher or further education, please confirm where and what you'll be studying.

Institution: Chartered Institute of Linguists

Subject: Certificate of Translation and Interpretating in German