

Teachers' HE Factsheet Series

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Scholarships and Bursaries

This factsheet gives teachers an introduction to higher education level bursaries and scholarships for (British) students starting a degree for the first time in England. It should be used in addition to the information about mainstream funding and healthcare/social work degree funding available on **www.gov.uk**





At a glance



What tips can I give my students?

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- Start researching funding early
- Check institutions' pages on undergraduate fees and funding
- Check application deadlines and eligibility rules
- Don't be afraid to call the institution to ask questions about financial help

What is Student Hardship Funding?

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A different type of funding for students experiencing unavoidable and unexpected hardship.

What other Useful Resources are there?

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Types of higher education scholarships and bursaries

Each university and college of higher education decides what scholarships and bursaries it will offer. Here is an A-Z list of the most common types and what they usually mean:



Academic Excellence

For students who achieve specific grades in their A levels. Some institutions offer these scholarships to attract high achieving students to their institution. Note that not all request A* and A grades. Some offer scholarships to students with A and B grades.



Company Scholarships

An increasing number of national/international companies are starting to offer scholarships, some of which include work experience opportunities as part of the package.



Extra-curricular Scholarships

There are a few scholarships based on how students choose to spend their spare time, including volunteering and a variety of leisure activities.



Financial Need

All institutions offer these bursaries to students who might not be able to attend higher education without this extra financial support.



Musical Scholarships

For talented choral and instrumental students who are happy to perform for the university or college during the course of their degree.



Partnership Progression Bursaries

Many institutions offer a discount to students who progress to their degrees from schools and FE colleges with whom they have a partnership arrangement.



Personal Circumstances

These bursaries depend on a student's personal circumstances. The criteria are varied but could be based for example on home postcode, school, parents' jobs, whether or not the student has a disability or has been in care, whether the student is first generation to apply to higher education level study etc.



Sporting Excellence

For students who have made an outstanding achievement in sport. These are not usually linked to a particular degree course but will require students to represent the university or college in sporting competitions whilst studying.



Subject Specific Scholarships

Can be offered by universities, colleges and by professional bodies. These scholarships are attached to specific subjects for a number of reasons, for example to shortage subjects and sponsored degree courses. Some professional bodies offer scholarships with the aim of attracting students to their profession e.g. the Institution of Civil Engineers offers degree scholarships with salaried work-place training.

Applications and eligibility



Each institution publishes its own application procedure, eligibility rules and application deadlines.

Remember that students can apply for scholarships and bursaries on top of any other student finance they might already be receiving.

Many institutions will inform applicants of their eligibility for particular bursaries/scholarships if they match criteria identified generically through the

UCAS application procedure. Other scholarships and bursaries will need to be applied for individually.

Students applying for bursaries dependent on family income will find out whether or not they have been successful after they receive their local authority financial assessment.

Advising your students

There are lots of tips you can give your students. They should:



Commence researching early, e.g. when first looking at degree choices.



Start by reading the admissions website pages dedicated to financial support for prospective students.



Not be afraid to call an admissions team or student help-line to ask specific questions about sources of financial help.



Check whether or not a bursary/scholarship is automatic. If not automatic, what are the conditions and when will the university/college make its decision?



Assess the generosity of each scholarship/bursary. Is it high-value but only for a few applicants? Is it a lower amount but made more widely available?



Confirm how complicated the application procedure is and whether they will be able to provide all the required evidence.



Check the small-print! Will for example, students have to give back the money/refund any fee waiver if they leave the course?



(If interested in the financial need and personal circumstances bursaries)...Read the institution's 'Access Agreement' (found on the OFFA website). In these reports each university/college lists what financial support will be made available and often include additional useful information such as the availability of part-time work/campus job-shops.

Other scholarships and bursaries

These are additional sources of funding than those offered by universities and colleges. Charitable trusts make grants based on a huge variety of criteria from personal circumstances, to subject of study, religion and even gender. See the 'Useful Resources' section below for links to lists of charitable trusts.






Student Hardship Funding




Students experiencing unavoidable, unexpected financial difficulty can apply for a discretionary Student Hardship Fund grant which does not need to be paid back.

Useful Resources

Scholarship tables and databases:

-  www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
-  www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk
-  www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Student Finance England related:

-  www.gov.uk/student-finance/
-  www.gov.uk/nhs-bursaries
-  www.gov.uk/social-work-bursaries

Charitable grants and trusts:

-  The Directory of Grant Making Trusts (available in larger libraries)
-  www.acf.org.uk
-  <https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/educational-grants/>

University Access Agreements:

-  www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements



Western Outreach Network
University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY
www.won.ac.uk

The Western Outreach Network is a government funded partnership comprising of the University of Bath, Bristol, Bath Spa, UWE Bristol and six Further Education Colleges. The WON provides schools with free activities and resources to engage, inspire and inform young people about higher education and their future choices.

Schools and colleges can benefit from:

- a single point of contact for all institutions
- a website providing information about events and activities hosted by local universities and colleges
- free resources and training to support the use of careerpilot.org.uk
- access to a broad range of teaching resources to support the delivery of careers education and guidance
- free continued professional development opportunities for educational practitioners
- bespoke school visits to include talks, workshops and student ambassador visits
- campus visits
- subject specific workshops.

To subscribe to the network and register your interest in these opportunities visit our website or contact us at won@bath.ac.uk.

