

Funding at Robinson College

Introduction

This document is intended to serve 2 purposes. Firstly, it is intended to provide existing students with a guide to where and how they can access funding from an abundance of sources within the college and across the University. Secondly though, it is intended to reassure prospective applicants and their families, especially those from lower income backgrounds that help will be available. The cost of living at university is significant and you will end up searching for assistance where possible. The University estimates that home students should allow for £9,160 in living costs for the 2018-19 academic year and £10,310 for overseas students. Many might feel that University (or Cambridge in particular) is not for them because they can't afford it. However, by detailing the vast amount of support available, it hopes to make it clear that money need not be an issue when applying to Robinson College.

The booklet is divided into 2 sections, both which are useful for different purposes for which you may be looking for financial assistance. Taken together, they demonstrate that students at Robinson not only have support available for simple living costs, but also for extracurricular activities or travelling such that all are able to take part fully in college life.

The college and wider University provide these funds to be spent and applying for any of the funds listed below is in no way a bad thing. We actively encourage you to apply for whichever funds you are eligible for/may be interested in even if you are not in financial difficulty. If you find yourself in financial difficulty **DO NOT** put your head in the sand, use the relevant parts of this document as a guide or speak to someone who can help. Don't suffer in silence if you feel you may face financial pressures, you certainly will not be considered a burden.

As a first port of call your tutor or members of the RCSA welfare committee will be happy to offer some advice on most issues but for financial matters in particular the following people within college are best placed to help:

Financial Tutor: Dr Chris Warner

Senior Tutor: Dr D A Woodman

The guide provides details of some of the main sources of funding available to students but it is not exhaustive, many departments offer prizes for examination results or competitions which have not been covered while the University compiles its own database of funding which can be found [here](#). The listed resources are mainly intended for undergraduate use and further information for graduates can be found on the MCR website.

The Document's sections are:

1. Support for Living Costs
2. Support for a Full Experience while at University – Including Travel (Academic and Non-Academic)

Section 1: Support for Living Costs

1) Student Loans

As a first port of call, all EU and Home students are eligible for a tuition fee loan to cover the full cost of £9,250 per year, this money is paid directly to the University. On top of this, all home students can apply for maintenance loan which is paid into their bank account to spend on living cost. All students can receive at least £4,054 but depending on your household income you could receive up to £8,700 or even more in certain specific circumstances. You can work out how much you can apply for [here](#) while applications are made online through [this website](#).

Once you leave University you will only pay back 9% of any earnings you make over £25,000 and after 30 years the debt is cleared automatically.

Changes in household income over the year are one of the largest causes of hardship. If your household income changes during the year due to redundancy or self-employment you can complete a reassessment form which will allow you to retrospectively receive an increase in your maintenance loan and Cambridge Bursary, if this happens then contact Student Finance immediately or speak to the Financial Tutor for help.

2) The Cambridge Bursary

The Cambridge Bursary makes awards based off household income of up to £3,500 per year and is given out automatically when you apply for a student loan. It is awarded to those with a household income lower than £42,620 and payment is made in instalments in the 4th week of every term. Further information is available on the scheme's [website](#).

As of 2018-2019 The Student Loan Company will assess both UK and EU students for the Cambridge Bursary automatically when you apply for a maintenance loan (UK) or a tuition fee loan (EU) so make sure you do this to be eligible.

3) Robinson College Bursaries

A Bursary Fund has been created from donations by alumni and other benefactors of the College. In 2017/18 the College made a substantial number of awards ranging between £375 and £1300. The fund is available to assist undergraduates who face a shortfall in income or whose circumstances impose unavoidable additional expenses. Students who do not qualify for a large maintenance loan or bursary due to household income but have issues with funding are encouraged to apply as is anyone who faces hardship.

Application forms are issued at the beginning of the Lent Term and can be found [here](#). An application will be discussed with and counter-signed by your Tutor and then sent to the Tutorial Office by the deadline, which is usually mid-February. Awards are made by a College committee that meets once a year. Late applications will be considered outside committee only on the basis that an emergency arose after the deadline.

4) The Bell, Abbot and Barnes Funds

The Bell, Abbott, and Barnes Funds provide assistance to undergraduate students (but not graduate students) in financial difficulties, and particularly to those suffering unexpected hardship. They provide grants of up to £2,000 per annum based on your needs. There is one application deadline in the middle of each term: you should, well in advance, give full details of your financial situation to your Tutor who can apply on your behalf. All undergraduate students, including clinical medical

students (UK, EU or overseas) at the University of Cambridge are eligible, so long as they are in immediate need of help for financial hardship.

Students should seek alternative forms of support such as the Cambridge Bursary and College Funds before applying. More details can be found [here](#)

5) Overseas Students Only: The Cambridge Trust

The Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust was established from the merger of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and the Cambridge Overseas Trust. The trust aims to promote and assist the studies of overseas students in Cambridge who pay the overseas rate of fees. The Trust awards approximately 500 scholarships annually and supports between 1,100 and 1,400 students in residence each year from 85 countries across the world. Awards, which include both full-cost and part-cost scholarships, are offered to selected students at PhD, Masters and undergraduate level, in all subjects and at all 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge. More information about the trust and the help they offer overseas students can be found on their [website](#).

6) Disabled Students: The Disability Resource Centre

The DRC gives disabled students every assistance to obtain funding for their academic-related support requirements. More information about the DRC can be found [here](#).

Furthermore, home students can apply for a Disabled Students Allowance to cover some of the extra costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability. More information can be found [here](#)

7) 2nd Year Female Students Only: Hugh Paton - J P Morgan Bursaries

Hugh Paton was the first Law Fellow of the College before going on to work at J P Morgan, which created this fund in his memory. The fund is available to assist female undergraduates in their second year in any subject other than Architecture, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine. Awards are made on the basis of financial need, contribution to the life of the college and attention towards academic studies. Invitations to apply are issued at the end of the Michaelmas Term and application should be made to the Senior Tutor. Awards are made at the discretion of the Warden, the Senior Tutor and the Financial Tutor.

8) Law Students Only: Rebecca Flower Squire Trust Fund

The Faculty of Law is able to offer hardship grants to Undergraduate students. To be eligible, it is required (i) that the applicant is a British Citizen or a citizen of a country of the Commonwealth; and (ii) that the applicant has 'declared in writing the sincere intention of qualifying as a barrister or a solicitor or as a teacher of law, and of practising or teaching law accordingly'. Application forms for hardship grants from the Squire Fund are available from Mrs Helen Waring (hw441@cam.ac.uk) in the Faculty Office.

9) Architecture Students Only: RIBA Student Support Funds

For students currently enrolled in Part 1 (and Part 2) courses who are facing financial hardship; a scheme devised to assist applicants with up to £3,000 per academic year in one-off payments, depending on their individual financial situation. More information can be found on their website [here](#)

Section 2: Support for a Full Experience while at University

1) Book and Equipment Loan Fund

The College may purchase books or equipment of which you need the exclusive and continuous use. These will normally be larger, more expensive items (say, over £20 each) that may be of value to other students once you are finished with them. Books of a lower value may also be accepted if they are deemed essential to the course. The maximum sum you may claim in each academic year is £150, a total of £75 for books and £75 for equipment, although this limit may be waived at the discretion of the Financial Tutor to cover the cost of a single item of durable equipment. Applications should be made on [this form](#) and counter-signed by your Director of Studies before sending (with receipts) to the Financial Tutor.

2) Vacation Accommodation Awards

The College may waive or reduce charges for residence for students staying at college for academic purposes, such as for students working on research projects in departments. The College will also provide either discounted or free accommodation if you need to be in Cambridge for University Sport reasons too. Applications for the Easter vacation should be made as an application for a College Bursary (see above). Applications for the Long Vacation and other periods should be made by email to the Financial Tutor and must be supported by your Director of Studies. You should specify the nature of the work/research/sport, the period for which you require accommodation and the stipend (if any) payable by the department. Application for the room itself should be made on your Going Down form.

3) Language Courses

The College can reimburse 50% of the cost of a CULP language course. To be reimbursed please hand a valid receipt and copy of your certificate of completion the Senior Tutor's Assistant, Mrs Kempton.

4) Student Activities Fund

Funds are available to support activities out of the ordinary. These include, for example, representing the University in sport, music or other competitions, vacation work placements that are not a compulsory part of your course, some course field trips or attendance at conferences and other special academic expenses in connection with a dissertation. Awards are made at the discretion of the Financial Tutor and the Senior Tutor. Items of sports kit can only be funded if they are items that cannot be used day to day such as clothing marked with the team name or similar. The College usually pays up to 60% of qualifying costs within a maximum grant of £150 and payment is made by reimbursement against receipts. In total, students can claim £150 for non-academic activities and £150 for academic every year. Applications should be made by email to the Financial Tutor, including your case for funding and an outline of the total expenses and funding from other sources (if any), not later than 30 June in each academic year.

5) The Fred Boyne Sporting Achievement Fund

This fund was created by past and present members of the College in honour of the first Head Porter, Fred Boyne, to reward outstanding achievement in sports. While exceptional costs associated with training or competition in any sport in which the University competes may qualify for support, consideration will be given in the first instance to funding kit and other equipment for which the Student Activities Fund does not cater. Invitations to apply are issued at the beginning of the Easter Term and application should be made to the Senior Tutor. Awards are made by the Head Porter, Financial Tutor and Senior Tutor.

6) The Friends of the College Fund

This fund will consider applications from current students or recent graduates for any appropriate purpose. Awards usually fall within the range from £200 to £1,000. Invitations to apply are issued at the beginning of the Easter Term and application should be made to the Senior Tutor. Awards are made at the discretion of the Warden and the Senior Tutor.

7) The RCSA Refund Scheme

A fund that reimburses you some of the membership costs of university clubs or societies. Awards are made on a first come first serve basis up to a maximum of £20. More funding may be available subject to individual financial circumstances. Available to all students for non-political university societies. You must keep your membership receipts and present them to the RCSA Treasurer in order to submit a claim. Applications may be submitted at any point during term time.

8) The Hawk's Charitable Trust

Established in 1996 The Trust is the single largest charity devoted to funding sport in the University. The Trustees' provide a large number of modest awards every year. Grants are awarded sportsperson of regardless gender normally of Blue or Half-blue status who participate in university sports.

Applications are normally due by the middle of the Lent term and deadline is advertised to all colleges and sports clubs. More details are available about applying for an award here.

9) MML Students Only: Chaffield Shaw MML Support Fund

Robinson has established a fund to make alternative grants available so that MML students can still undertake language immersion courses now that the university has withdrawn funding. Such courses can have a significant impact on a student's ability to achieve his or her potential in Final examinations. If you are studying or will begin studying MML at Robinson please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the MML Fund.

10) Architecture Students Only: Isi Metzstein Fund

The Isi Metzstein Fund for Architects commemorates his many contributions to Robinson, as its architect along with Andrew MacMillan and as an Honorary Fellow. The fund aims to help Robinson architecture students to help them meet some of the additional costs of training, such as purchasing modelling materials and undertaking training placements. Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Isi Metzstein fund.

11) AMES Students Only: Matsuo Fund

Robinson is fortunate to have a fund designed to support AMES students to undertake both immersion vacation language courses in their first year and a full year abroad in their third year of study. Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Matsuo fund.

12) Medicine and Veterinary Medicine Students Only: Chaffield Shaw Support Funds

Medical students at Robinson are expected to undertake an elective period of clinical practice and research during their fifth year of studying medicine (the second clinical year). Given these electives are compulsory and that Students are expected to cover their own costs this can mean that students have lower personal funds available for subsistence during term time. This fund aims to assist students with the costs associated with undertaking electives. Awards made are typically £1000

A similar fund is also available for Veterinary Medicine students to cover the cost of going out on placements over 3 years of clinical training. Typically, these awards are of £800 over 3 years.

Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Chaffield Shaw Medical Support fund

13) Dissertation Grants – Various Subjects

A number of departments and faculties offer grants to support students wishing to conduct research or travel for a Part II dissertation. These include but may not be limited to:

- History
- Linguistics
- Geography

If you wish to apply for one of these funds or find out more, contact your department or faculty directly.

14) Travel Awards – Various Subjects

There are a boundless number of travel awards available in Cambridge for a large number of different purposes. Contact specific departments for any subject specific awards. Below are a number of prominent examples:

- The Student Travel Award – Provides funding for students to visit alumni groups across the world. More details can be found [HERE](#)
- Irène Némirovsky Memorial Travel Grant - £300 for a non-MML Robinson Student wishing to undertake study of an aspect of French cultural, historical, social, political or scientific life. More information is usually distributed in Easter Term.
- Frere, Mosley and Worts Travelling Scholars Funds – University wide funds awarded annually for travel involving study or research – More information can be found [here](#). Preference is given to Undergraduate students.
- Archaeology Students Only - The department has a fund that covers 75% or £500 (whichever is lower) of the costs incurred by Archaeology students when they undertake their 4 weeks of mandatory fieldwork during the summer of their second year. This rises to 75% or £1000 (whichever is lower) for students on the Assyriology and/or Egyptology track who may have higher costs due to the kind of study tour they have to do instead.
- Classics Students Only - Grants are open for application in the Lent and Easter Terms for travel in the Easter and Long Vacations by those students reading for the Classical Tripos.
- Economics Students Only – Grants available for students who wish to conduct research in Asia.
- MML Students Only – Various grants are available for students wishing to visit countries to improve their language skills who are taking modules in:
 - Portuguese and Spanish
 - ab initio Dutch and German
 - Ukrainian
 - Russian
- Anglo Saxon Norse and Celtic Students Only – Small grants available to cover travel expenses