
The RCSA Funding Guide

The cost of living at university is significant and you will end up searching for assistance where possible. Good news is that there are schemes available to help you within college and across the wider University.

It is important to know who to speak to when looking for help. 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 [Mr Martin Reavley](#)

Senior Tutor [Dr William P Nolan](#)

Don't suffer in silence if you feel you may face financial pressures. If you are a home or EU student make sure you are claiming your full loan. If you do find yourself in difficulty the college can provide help dependent to your situation. Robinson college bursaries are a valuable and generous resource.

This document contains a thorough but not exhaustive list of different sources of help available within college and across the wider University. The listed resources are mainly intended for undergraduate use and further information for graduates can be found on the [MCR website](#). Please make the time to read through carefully, you might not need it now but circumstances can change and if they do being aware of where to seek assistance to stay on top of things is important.

If you find yourself in financial difficulty **DO NOT** put your head in the sand.

Primary sources of Assistance

The Cambridge Bursary

As of 2016-2017 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). If you are an EU national receiving funding from elsewhere please make sure you apply for £0 tuition fees and £0 maintenance loans in order to be considered.

The Cambridge Bursary makes generous awards based off household income and should be investigated by all students who may be eligible. Further information is available on the scheme's [website](#).

Robinson College Bursaries

A Bursary Fund has been created from donations by alumni and other benefactors of the College. About 40 awards were made in 2013/14 between £275 and £1,100. The fund is available to assist both undergraduates and graduates who face a shortfall in income or whose circumstances impose unavoidable additional expenses.

Application forms are issued at the beginning of the Lent Term and can be found here for [undergraduates](#) and [graduates](#). An application must be discussed with and counter-signed by your Tutor and then sent to the Tutorial Office by the deadline, which is 9 February 2015. 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.

Sources of Additional Funding

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 £35 each) that may be of value to other students once you are finished with them. The maximum sum you may claim in each academic year is £75, 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.

Vacation Accommodation Awards

The College may waive or reduce charges for residence for students staying at college for academic purposes. This includes during the Easter vacation for finalists working on dissertations, during the Long Vacation for students working on research projects in departments and other academic purposes.

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, 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](#).

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](#).

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, 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. Sports clothing and equipment costs are not eligible. The College usually pays up to 60% of qualifying costs within a maximum grant of £150 and payment is made by reimbursement against receipts.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Subject Specific Funds

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.

The Modern Medieval Languages 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.

Isi Metzstein Fund for Architects

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.

Currently the fund is in the process of being endowed and so grants made from the fund are limited. Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Isi Metzstein fund.

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.

Currently the fund is in the process of being endowed and so grants made from the fund are limited. Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Matsuo fund.

Chaffield Shaw Medical Support Fund

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.

Currently the fund is in the process of being endowed and so grants made from the fund are limited. Please contact your Director of Studies for more information about the Chaffield Shaw Medical Support fund.

University Wide Funds

There are numerous scholarships and prizes available with the university each with different criteria. The university compiles a database of these various funds on its [student funding search](#). This includes faculty, memorial and departmental schemes.

Any queries can be directed to the university [Scholarships Administrator](#). As secretary to the Central University Awards they are responsible for dealing with applications from students, distributing and receiving application forms, checking applicants' eligibility and informing them of the Managers'/Electors' decisions, and answering queries.

The Bell, Abbott, and Barnes Funds

These funds provide assistance to undergraduate students (but not graduate students) in financial difficulties, and particularly to those suffering unexpected hardship. They provide grants of £100 to £1,000 (or up to £2,000 in exceptional circumstances) per annum.

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. Further information and the application form that should be completed on your behalf by your tutor is available on this [website](#).

Bartle Frere Exhibitions

The Bartle Frere Exhibitions are awarded annually for study or research in any branch of knowledge relating to a Commonwealth country, not including the United Kingdom and countries of the Indian sub-continent. The Managers will give preference to undergraduates but graduate students will also be considered.

Further information about how to apply is available [here](#).

Mary Euphrasia Mosley Fund

The Mary Euphrasia Mosley Fund provides awards for the encouragement of travel to the countries of the Commonwealth and dependent territories, excluding the United Kingdom, for the promotion of study or research and for the maintenance of good relations between them.

Further information about how to apply is available [here](#).

Worts Travelling Scholars Fund

Grants from the Worts Travelling Scholars Fund are made annually for the promotion or encouragement of investigations in countries outside Great Britain respecting the religion, learning, law, politics, customs, manners, and rarities, natural or artificial, of those countries, or for purposes of geographical discovery or of antiquarian or scientific research in such countries, subject to any conditions as to publication of the results of investigations which may be laid down at the time of the making of the grant. The Managers will give preference to undergraduates but graduate students will also be considered. These grants are made to individuals or expeditions on the basis of recommendations and are therefore not transferable.

Further information about how to apply is available [here](#).

Other places to look

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](#).

It is worth being aware that each source of funding will have different guidelines for applying and their own specific criteria for whom they support. Therefore, you will need to read the information carefully to ensure you fit the criteria before applying.

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.

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](#).

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 sportspeople of regardless gender normally of Blue or Half-blue status who participate in university sports.

In 2016, 178 applications were received, from which 146 awards were made, with a total disbursement of £26,650 of which 33% of the awards were to women.

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](#).