

About the Crane Fund

The Crane Fund is the result of a benefaction from John Crane (1571 – 1652), Cambridge apothecary and philanthropist, whose will established funds 'to be given to poore scholars for their reliefe when they are sicke for paying for their physic, dyet, or other things necessary for them in their sickness, knowing heretofore many have miscarried for want of meanes to releiue them'. The income for the Fund derived originally from Crane's estate in Lincolnshire, until its sale in 1951, after which the proceeds were invested by the University.

A body of Distributors of the Fund was established under Mr Crane's will and is laid down in University Ordinances (<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/>): the Vice-Chancellor, or a deputy, (currently the Master of Downing College); the Master of Gonville and Caius College, the Regius Professors of Physic, of Divinity, and of Civil Law. The Distributors are advised in their work by a Chief Apothecary.

In addition to providing support to individual students, the Distributors have also provided financial assistance for collective activity that they have determined as falling within the purposes of the Fund. Regular funding is provided to sustain the mental health and psychiatric support work of the University Counselling Service.