

Cambridge Bursary Scheme Guide to Policy 2023-24

This guide is for UK and Irish students and those with settled or pre-settled status in the UK, attending the University of Cambridge who begin their course in October 2023.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a bursary a student must:

- Be a Home student or Irish national or have settled or pre-settled status doing a Cambridge full-time undergraduate course as their first degree.

NB this includes some students who have qualified for the BA degree but who are still classed as undergraduates. The principal categories are:

Clinical medical and veterinary students doing the 4th, 5th and 6th year of their course;

Any student doing a course at undergraduate level in Medicine, Veterinary Science or Architecture is eligible even if this is not their first degree. This includes affiliated students in these subjects.

Students on the Cambridge Graduate Course in Medicine (at one of four) colleges: Hughes Hall, Lucy Cavendish College, St Edmund's College or Wolfson College) are also eligible for a bursary. These students will be assessed by the Student Loans Company in the same way as other students and must therefore apply to be means tested by SLC.

Bachelor of Theology students who receive a means-tested grant and who are matriculated at another College while studying also at a Theological College (they should be included with the applications for the former College);

MPhil students in Architecture and Urban Design.

- Have applied to the Student Loans Company for student financial assistance, be eligible for such assistance for at least one year of their course and been assessed as having a household income (or own income in the case of independent students) of £62,215 per year or less.
- Be liable to pay tuition fees to the University of Cambridge

NB the level of the fee charged does not affect eligibility. Cambridge students on a year abroad are eligible for a Cambridge Bursary if and only if they pay a tuition fee that year. Students from other universities visiting Cambridge as an Erasmus student are not eligible for support.

Some disabled students who are classified as full-time students but who are, for medical rather than academic reasons, completing their course over a longer period and who do not pay tuition fees every year, are eligible each year providing they meet the other criteria above.

When completing the SLC finance application form, students must sign a declaration confirming the truth of the data submitted, agreeing to inform the SLC of subsequent changes of financial circumstance, and acknowledging that they must repay any overpayment. This declaration covers all of the student finance available to the student, including the Cambridge Bursary Scheme.

Data Protection

The University and the College will hold and process information that students and sponsors have agreed that SLC can share with them for administration of the bursary, for communication and mailings, and in order to conduct research to evaluate the impact of the Cambridge Bursary Scheme on admissions, on students' progress at Cambridge, and post-graduation. This data may be disclosed in confidence to UK Government bodies, and to donors to the Cambridge Bursary Scheme.

Award Thresholds

For students starting in any year:

Lower income threshold (maximum award)	Upper income threshold (minimum award)	Maximum award (main award) (enhanced award)	Minimum Award (main award) (enhanced award)
£25,000	£62,215	£3,500 £5,600	£100 £160

Education Premium

Students starting in 2021 or after who are eligible for a CBS award (at any level) and who have been eligible for free school meals at any point during their secondary school education will receive the Education Premium of £1,000 per annum in addition to their Cambridge Bursary award. Admissions tutors should contact students to gather appropriate evidence then submit the form attached to this guide to OIS.

Independent applicants and care-leavers

Applicants who are classed as independent by SLC are regarded as independent under the CBS. The maximum independent student bursary is £5,600 and is assessed on the student's own household income rather than that of their parents.

Below is a list of categories that SLC uses to determine if a student is independent:

- Student is over the age of 25
- Student is under 25 but:
 - has supported themselves financially for three years or more
 - has a dependant
 - has been in the care of a local authority for a period of 13 weeks or ending on or before their 16th birthday and has not been resident with their parents between turning 16 and starting their course
 - is permanently and irreconcilably estranged from their parents
- Student is married or in a civil partnership
- Parents cannot be contacted practically or safely or where the location of the parents is not known.

A student won't automatically be able to apply for independent status because they do not live with their parents or because their parents refuse to give details of their income.

Care leavers receive the first instalment of the enhanced element of the bursary in advance before the start of term to assist with transportation and other essential costs. If a student who receives this advance payment does not then take up their place at Cambridge, any bursary funds paid in advance must be repaid.

Clinical Medics and Vets

Students in years 4, 5 or 6 of the Medicine or Veterinary Medicine course, or students in years 2,3 or 4 of the Graduate Course in Medicine are entitled to the enhanced rate of bursary, up to £5,600. The value of the bursary will be based on the household income figure calculated by SLC, whether that is for a dependent or independent student.

Scottish Students

Students assessed by the Student Awards Agency Scotland will be entitled to a bursary uplift to compensate for their sponsors' pension contributions not being deducted from the gross figure when their household income is calculated by SAAS. In order for the uplift to be awarded, sponsors will be required to provide the Student Funding Team with proof of pension contributions made in the relevant assessment year.

Closing dates and reassessments

Bursaries are awarded annually for help with living costs during the academic year, which normally runs from October, when the student arrives in Cambridge, to June. The Scheme closes each year at the end of this period, on 30 June, and adjustments of any sort cannot subsequently be made.

All applications which have not yet been approved (usually because financial details are lacking) automatically lapse at the end of the year on 30 June.

Bursaries are adjusted when SLC reassesses the household income of students. Reassessments are announced when a student's income decreases by at least 15% from the original figure. After 30 June, no more reassessments of any bursaries awarded will be undertaken. SLC normally requires financial evidence from previous tax years but in exceptional circumstances, can reassess based on prospective expected income (i.e. for the coming year).

Intermissions

Bursary amounts are normally paid termly. If, at any point, a student intermits for the academic year, the bursary will not be paid for the subsequent terms of the year, but students will not be asked to repay any bursary that they have already received. Students who intermit at a date before the termly bursary payment has been made will not normally receive that payment unless they have incurred significant costs (such as fee payments) in relation to that term which cannot be reimbursed.

Additional Bursaries

Recipients of the Cambridge Bursary will automatically be considered for further bursary awards which are funded by various donors to the University. These awards may be paid in addition to the Cambridge Bursary or used as a contribution towards the cost of providing the scheme. Students will be notified by email if they are selected for an award and must notify the Funding Team immediately if they wish to decline it by emailing cambridge.bursary@admin.cam.ac.uk.