

The Sheikh Family Bursaries

The COSARAF Charitable Foundation has pledged a gift to Downing College to establish The Sheikh Family Bursaries in order to award hardship funds to undergraduate Muslim home students in financial need.

The Bursaries will be open to undergraduate home students who are in financial difficulties (but not postgraduate students) in all Cambridge Colleges and particularly to those suffering unexpected hardship. They provide grants of up to £2,000 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.

1. Eligibility

All undergraduate Muslim home students in financial need, including clinical medical students (UK, EU) at the University of Cambridge are eligible, so long as they are in immediate need of help for financial hardship.

Students must be reading for one of the following degrees: B.A., Mus.B., B.Th., M.B. B. Chir., Vet M.B., or an integrated Master's degree (M.Eng., M.Math., M.Sci.) taken as Part III of a Tripos. Affiliated students (those who already have a degree from another University and are taking the Cambridge B.A. in two years rather than three) are also eligible.

Clinical medical students reading for an intercalated Ph.D. during their M.B. B.Chir. course are not eligible for the duration of their Ph.D. and should instead apply for Graduate Hardship funding (<https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/financial-hardship-support-access-funds/hardship-funding>).

Preference will be given to students who are first-generation university students and for whom these awards will make the most difference. The definition of financial hardship is set out in the COSARAF Zakat Distribution Policy and awards will be made in line with this Policy (<https://www.cosaraf.org/zakat-distribution-policy/>).

2. Other help you should seek before applying to The Sheikh Family Bursaries

UK students should have applied to grants and any other statutory awards for which they may be eligible, before applying to The Sheikh Family Bursaries. Your Tutor can advise you.

In addition, all students should have sought hardship support from their own College.

3. How much help is available?

You could receive up to a maximum of £2,000 in one year, based on an assessment of your need, but most grants are in the range £500 to £1,000. It is possible to apply more than once in a single year, subject to the overall maximum of £2,000 per annum.

4. How to apply

Applications can only be made by your Tutor, on your behalf. Contact your College Tutor for further information. The Awarders will rely on your Tutor's assessment of your need, so you must ensure that you give as much information as possible to your Tutor and that the details you give are accurate. If the Awarders require further information, they will ask your Tutor before making a decision. All the information you give will be treated confidentially.

Awards are made from The Sheikh Family Bursaries once each term. The deadline for your Tutor to apply is the Division of Term, that is to say, 9 November, 13 February or 14/21 May (the final date depending on when Easter falls). Late applications cannot be considered until the following term.

Your Tutor will normally be informed of the outcome of your application within two weeks of the application deadline. Successful applicants should receive their award before the end of Full Term through their College account.

5. What if I disagree with the outcome of my application?

If your application is unsuccessful, your Tutor will be sent an explanatory letter. You should consult your Tutor about the reasons. You will not be able to communicate directly with the COSARAF Charitable Foundation Funds but must address any disagreement with your Tutor.

6. Application form

Located via the link below

<https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/financial-hardship-support-access-funds>

You should not fill in the form yourself. Only your Tutor should complete the form, so please contact him or her for more information. Tutors should not edit the form electronically and change the layout.