

Postgraduate Financial Assistance Fund 2024-25 Report

The University's Financial Assistance Committee provides a report following each academic year outlining the financial assistance provided to postgraduate students for the previous academic year. The following data is for the academic year 2024-25.

Please note that numbers of less than 5 (<5) are suppressed in order that individual students cannot be identified. Where necessary, additional suppression (S) is applied to prevent back-calculation.

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1. Overview of the Fund

The Postgraduate Financial Assistance Fund provides financial assistance to postgraduate students in unforeseen financial need. The awards are intended to support students who would otherwise be unable to complete their course of study.

In 2024-25, the Fund provided awards of up to £3,000 to assist students with their living costs. This is an increase from the maximum award of £2,500 in 2023-24.

2. Application outcomes

Table 1: Distribution of outcomes of applications by term:¹

| | MT 2024 | LT 2025 | ET 2025 | LV 2025 | Totals |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Successful | 19 | 14 | 17 | <5 | S |
| Unsuccessful | 18 | 37 | 26 | 8 | 89 |
| Withdrawn | <5 | <5 | 5 | <5 | 11 |
| Awarded on Appeal | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Totals | S | S | S | 13 | 161 |

3. Applications by fee status

¹ Term is determined by application term in this instance, as applications are assessed a month in arrears students may receive an outcome in a different term to which they applied

Table 2. Distribution of outcomes by fee status

| | Successful applications | Unsuccessful applications | Withdrawn applications | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Home | 33 | 41 | 8 | 82 |
| Overseas | 28 | 48 | <5 | S |
| Total Applications | 61 | 89 | S | S |

4. Applications by mode of study

Table 3. Distribution of outcomes by mode of study

| | Successful applications | Unsuccessful applications | Withdrawn applications | Total applications |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Full Time | 58 | 78 | 10 | 146 |
| Part Time | <5 | 11 | <5 | S |
| Total | S | 89 | S | S |

5. Applications by College

Table 4. Distribution of outcomes by College

| College | Successful applications | Unsuccessful applications | Withdrawn applications | Total number of applications |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Christ's | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| Churchill | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| Clare | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| Corpus Christi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Darwin | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Downing | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| Emmanuel | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Fitzwilliam | <5 | 5 | <5 | S |
| Girton | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| Gonville & Caius | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Homerton | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Hughes Hall | 7 | 12 | 0 | 19 |
| Jesus | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| King's | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Lucy Cavendish | 10 | 9 | 0 | 19 |
| Magdalene | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Murray Edwards | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Newnham | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Pembroke | <5 | 0 | <5 | S |
| Peterhouse | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Queens' | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Robinson | <5 | 0 | <5 | S |
| Selwyn | <5 | <5 | <5 | S |
| Sidney Sussex | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| St Catharine's | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| St Edmund's | <5 | 11 | 0 | S |
| St John's | <5 | 6 | <5 | S |
| Trinity | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Trinity Hall | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| Wolfson | 7 | 10 | <5 | S |
| Total | 61 | 89 | 11 | 161 |

6. Applications by course

Table 5. Distribution of outcomes by course:

| Course | Successful applications | Unsuccessful applications | Withdrawn applications | Total number of applications |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MArch | <5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| LLM | 5 | <5 | 0 | S |
| MASt | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| MBA | <5 | 5 | 0 | S |
| MChir | 0 | <5 | <5 | S |
| MFin | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| MPhil | 14 | 19 | <5 | S |
| MPhil + PhD | <5 | 0 | 0 | <5 |
| MRes | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| MRes + PhD | 6 | <5 | <5 | S |
| MSt | <5 | 7 | <5 | S |
| PGCE | 0 | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| PhD | 29 | 46 | <5 | S |
| VetMD | 0 | 0 | <5 | <5 |
| Total | 61 | 89 | 11 | 161 |

7. Reasons for unsuccessful applications

In 2024-25 students were rejected for the following reasons:

- 4th year PhD

- Circumstances not unforeseen
- Completed course requirements
- Costs relating to tuition fees
- Expected course cost
- Fully funded
- High shortfall / high spending
- In first / last 6 weeks of their course
- Insufficient detail provided
- IT costs
- No tutor and / or supervisor statement
- Not used all available funding
- Savings
- Sending money home
- Unviable financial plan

9 fewer rejections for fully funded students than in 2023-24.

25 fewer rejections for high shortfall than in 2023-24; 18 fewer rejections for no tutor or supervisor support than in 2023-24.

Table 6. Number of students rejected per reason for rejection

| Reason for rejections | Number of students rejected |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4th year PhD | <5 |
| Circumstances not unforeseen | 18 |
| Completed course requirements | <5 |
| Costs relating to tuition fees | <5 |
| Expected course cost | <5 |
| Fully funded | 11 |
| High shortfall | 10 |
| High spending | 9 |
| In last 6 weeks of their course | 5 |
| Insufficient detail provided | <5 |
| IT issues | <5 |
| In first 6 weeks of course | <5 |
| No supervisor statement | 5 |
| No tutor or supervisor statement | <5 |
| No Tutor statement | <5 |
| Not used all available funding | <5 |
| Savings | 5 |
| Sending money home | <5 |
| Unviable financial plan | 6 |
| Total | 89 |

8. Reasons for successful applications

In 2024-25 awards were made for the following reasons:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Change in supervisor | Countries in crisis |
| Change to funding | Covid 19 |
| Change to living situation | Currency |
| Collapse of funding plan | Debt |
| Cost of living | Delays to research |

Equipment failure
 Family circumstances
 IT costs
 Loss of income

Parents unable to support
 Poor health
 Victim of crime

Table 7. Number of students awarded by reason for financial difficulties

| Reason for financial difficulties | Number of students awarded |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Change in supervisor | <5 |
| Change to funding | <5 |
| Change to living situation | <5 |
| Collapse of funding plan | <5 |
| Cost of living | <5 |
| Countries in crisis | <5 |
| Covid 19 | <5 |
| Currency | <5 |
| Debt | <5 |
| Delays to research | 10 |
| Equipment failure | <5 |
| Family circumstances | 6 |
| IT costs | <5 |
| Loss of income | <5 |
| Parents unable to support | 15 |
| Poor health | 6 |
| Victim of crime | <5 |

9. Award values

Table 8. Number of students awarded within each award value bracket

| Award value | Number of students awarded | Total value of awards |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| £1-£500 | 0 | £0 |
| £500-£999 | <5 | £2,410 |
| £1,000-£1,499 | 7 | £7,905 |
| £1,500-£1,999 | 22 | £35,891 |
| £2,000-£2,499 | 8 | £16,795 |
| £2,500-£3,000 | 21 | £60,123 |
| Total | S | £123,124 |