Postgraduate Financial Assistance Fund Report 2025-26

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 2025-26. Please note that numbers of 5 or fewer 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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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 2025-26, the Fund provided awards of up to £3,000 to assist students with their living costs.

1. Overall Figures

Application Outcomes	**Total Applications 2025-26**	***Total Applications 2024-25***
Awards Made	65	*61*
Awards Rejected	63	*89*
Withdrawn	11	*11*
Pending outcome	0	*0*
Totals	**139**	***161***

2. Awards by Category

Category	Total Awards Made	Total Amount awarded
Change to funding	<5	£3,000
Currency devaluation	<5	£2,848
Delays to research	14	£27,414
Extended length of studies	<5	£11,499
Family circumstances	8	£22,688
Loss of income	<5	£6,850
Parents unable to support	<5	£11,084
Poor health	<5	£11,869
Countries in crisis	6	£14,129
Higher than expected living costs	<5	£520
Change to living situation	<5	£4,400
Collapse of funding plan	<5	£2,500
Lab move	<5	£1,550
Victim of crime	<5	£4,417

3. Applications by College

College	Successful Applications	Unsuccessful Applications	Withdrawn Applications	Total Applications
Christ's	0	<5	0	<5
Churchill	0	<5	0	<5
Clare	0	<5	0	<5
Clare Hall	<5	<5	0	<5
Corpus Christi	<5	<5	0	<5
Darwin	<5	<5	0	7
Downing	<5	<5	0	6
Emmanuel	0	<5	0	<5
Fitzwilliam	0	<5	0	<5
Girton	6	<5	0	9
Gonville & Caius	0	0	0	0
Homerton	0	<5	0	<5
Hughes Hall	<5	<5	<5	<5
Jesus	<5	<5	0	<5
King's	<5	<5	0	<5
Lucy Cavendish	<5	<5	<5	12
Magdalene	0	<5	0	<5
Murray Edwards	<5	0	0	<5
Newnham	<5	<5	<5	6
Pembroke	<5	<5	0	<5
Peterhouse	<5	0	<5	<5
Queens'	<5	0	0	<5

Robinson	<5	<5	0	<5
Selwyn	0	<5	<5	<5
Sidney Sussex	<5	<5	0	<5
St Catharine's	<5	<5	0	6
St Edmund's	7	7	0	14
St John's	<5	0	0	<5
Trinity	<5	<5	0	<5
Trinity Hall	<5	<5	0	<5
Wolfson	13	8	<5	22
Totals	**65**	**63**	**<5**	**139**

4. Rejections by Category

Reason for Rejection	**Number of Applications Rejected**
Unviable financial plan	10
Circumstances not unforeseen	6
Fully funded	<5
High spending	<5
Applying for debt	<5
IT issues	<5
No supervisor statement	<5
Supporting family financially	<5
Applying for expected course costs	<5
Applying for research costs	<5
High shortfall	<5
Not taking maximum student loan	<5
Repeat application in term	<5
Submitted thesis	<5

5. Award Values

Award Range	**Number of awards**	**Value of Awards**
£0 - £500	<5	£474
£501 - £1000	6	£5,030
£1001 - £1500	13	£17,650
£1501 - £2000	13	£23,230
£2001 – £2500	<5	£9,350
£2501 - £3000	28	£81,934
Totals	**65**	**£137,668**

6. Awards by College

College	Number of Awards	Total Amount Awarded
Christ's	0	0
Churchill	0	0
Clare	0	0
Clare Hall	<5	£4,150
Corpus Christi	<5	£2,749
Darwin	<5	£10,449
Downing	<5	£5,250
Emmanuel	0	0
Fitzwilliam	0	0
Girton	6	£14,460
Gonville & Caius	0	0
Homerton	0	0
Hughes Hall	<5	£5,000
Jesus	<5	£3,000
King's	<5	£5,497
Lucy Cavendish	<5	£13,684
Magdalene	0	0
Murray Edwards	<5	£1,355
Newnham	<5	£3,000
Pembroke	<5	£2,000
Peterhouse	<5	£3,375
Queens'	<5	£9,350
Robinson	<5	£1,919
Selwyn	0	0
Sidney Sussex	<5	£1,779
St Catharine's	<5	£1,000
St Edmund's	7	£15,174
St John's	<5	£5,750
Trinity	<5	£1,500
Trinity Hall	<5	£2,900
Wolfson	13	£24,327.14
Grand Total	**65**	**£137,668.14**

Postgraduate students on 1-year courses applying to Financial Assistance Funds

- 43 out of 139 applications were made by students on 1-year postgraduate courses (including those studying part-time): 21 were rejected and 22 were awarded.