



Policy on the acceptance of donations

Queens' College is an independent charitable body and is accountable for the receipt and expenditure of funds for its charitable purposes. The College is very grateful indeed to its many donors.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the College on the considerations determining acceptability of donations, and to assist discussions with donors.

Framework of considerations

In recommending acceptance of any donation, the College will assess the following considerations:

- a. Are the purposes of the donation compatible with the purpose of the College as defined in its Statutes?
- b. Do the purposes of the donation fall within the College's mission and strategic plan?
- c. What additional costs or burdens, if any, would acceptance of the donation create for the College?
- d. Is there published evidence that the proposed donation arises in whole or in part from activity that: (i) evaded taxation, (ii) violated international conventions that bear on human rights, (iii) limited freedom of inquiry, or (iv) suppressed or falsified academic research. In the case of unproven allegations of criminality against a potential donor, no account shall be taken of mere rumour, but care will be exercised in accepting any donation, or continuing negotiations towards a possible donation, where there is a risk of significant damage to the College or University's reputation.
- e. Is there evidence that the proposed donation, or any of its terms, will: (i) require action that is illegal, (ii) limit freedom of inquiry, (iii) suppress or falsify academic research, or (iv) create unacceptable conflicts of interest for the College or the University of Cambridge?
- f. Is there evidence that acceptance of the proposed donation or compliance with any of its terms will damage the College or the University of Cambridge's reputation, including deterring other donors?

Donations from prospective or current students, or their family members

- g. No donation will affect the admission or academic record of any current or future student (or their families), and neither will it have a bearing on any dispute between any current or future student (or their families) and the College.

Authority

The Governing Body (i.e. the entire Fellowship of the College) has final say over whether or not to accept a donation.

Where proposed donations are uncontroversial and support the core purposes of the College, the Governing Body authorises the Development Director to accept donations on behalf of the College. Any proposed donations which, in the Development Director's professional opinion, are unstraightforward, can be referred to the Bursarial Committee for advice, and ultimately to Governing Body for a final decision.

Due diligence

The Development Director, working with the Senior Bursar and President, will ensure that authoritative decisions on the acceptance of donations are taken in the light of sufficient evidence. Prospective donors are referred to Queens' Data Protection Statement (<https://www.queens.cam.ac.uk/alumni-support/giving-to-queens/data-protection>) which sets out how the College handles and uses personal data.

Status of this policy

Agreed by Governing Body March 2022.