Supporting Students at Queens’

It is vital that we have sufficient funds for student support so no talented individual is prevented from attending, or remaining at College, because of their financial background. We believe financial worries should not impact on a Queens’ student’s Cambridge experience; no student’s studies should be hindered by the burden of financial hardship. Annually, through the College and Cambridge Bursaries Scheme, we issue c£260,000 of non-repayable student support, with 86 out of our 400 undergraduates benefiting from a Queens’ bursary this year.

Our generous alumni gifts have provided a variety of bursaries, awards and prizes for Queens’ students, to attract both talented undergraduates and well-qualified graduates, and support students who fall into financial difficulty while they are in our care.

Until 1998, many students received a Cambridge education for free: local education authorities provided grants for living costs and the central government covered tuition costs. Today, students have to pay tuition fees of £9,000 per year and many take out loans to cover their living costs. It is not unusual for undergraduates to leave university with debts of £50,000.

We have also taken an active role in widening access so that students who might never have considered an Oxbridge education will feel empowered to imagine a Queens’ education. Our Access Officer travels around the country to our designated areas, often with Queens’ undergraduates, to inspire schoolchildren and educate them on applying to Cambridge.

Areas of student support:

- **Awards** - to support extra-curricular travel for academic purposes (i.e. conferences, research excursions as well as work experience in developing countries).
- **Prizes** - to reward academic excellence, by subject.
- **Hardship Grants, Bursaries & Financial need** - to provide hardship funding for current students, from families with a total annual income of less than £25,000 or to support students who encounter unexpected financial difficulties during their time at Queens’.
- **Access** – support for our schools outreach and liaison team.
Queens’ has faced the stark problem of losing talented students to colleges that offer more opportunities for students: bursaries, research grants for graduates, travel for research and academic advancement and/or accommodation and book grants.

In order to keep the best undergraduates and attract the finest postgraduates, our highest priority is funding travel awards for academic purposes. This can make the difference in whether a student chooses to study at Queens’ or elsewhere; these travel grants can be used to attend conferences, research excursions or work experience. Travel bursaries are also a way for Queens’ to support the ‘squeezed middle’, because they are often not eligible for hardship funding, travel for academic purposes (attending conferences and site research) can become impossible. This is problematic as travel of this sort can both positively enrich a student’s academic studies and their future career.

Another top priority is funding academic prizes. We have over 50 academic prizes awarded annually, ranging from £75-£300 (at a cost of £2,500-£10,000 to endow), awarded to those who excel in their subjects. We aim to cover prizes for all academic subjects offered at Queens’, which is difficult given our small Endowment.

Hardship funding is vital to provide support for undergraduates whose families cannot support them during their time at Queens’. This funding can also be used to support students if their financial position changes during their time at Queens’.

There is currently the following support available for those students with a household income of £42,600 or less:

- **From the Government**: Tuition Fee Loans and means-tested Maintenance Loans and Grants.
- **From Queens’**: those who receive Government Maintenance Grants are also awarded Cambridge Bursaries (Queens’ students received over £260,000 last year. Queens’ also issued £60,000 on additional bursaries’, £65,000 in research-related travel grants and £37,000 hardship funding.

Your support can make a difference

- £1,000 would fund three student travel awards for one year
- £3,000 would endow an academic prize of £90 per year, rewarding academic excellence
- £5,000 would endow a named choral scholarship
- £6,000 would help us purchase a much-needed car for the Access Officer to travel around the country
- £7,000 would fund two full hardship bursaries for one year
- £8,000 would endow financial support for subject-based equipment/books/medical equipment
- £20,000 would endow a travel prize for two students of £300 each per annum
- £8 million endowed would generate the £240,000pa income necessary to fully fund maintenance support for undergraduates at Queens’.

*At the right level of funding, and in agreement between donor and College, naming opportunities are available for Student Support at Queens’.*