

KCSU ACCESS- Financial + Psychological Support available to King's Students -

The aim of this information sheet is to direct King's students to the help available through the college. It aims to highlight the specific support available for individual needs.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Financial Tutor:

James and Nicky, Financial Tutor and Financial Tutor's assistant, are always on hand to help you with financial concerns, questions and advice. If you feel as if you are financially struggling please reach out to them either in person or by email : financial.tutor@kings.cam.ac.uk and they will be more than happy to point you to the right support. They are also on hand to answer any queries you may have surrounding grants the college offer.

College's grants:

The college offers an array of generous grants, covering a variety of areas, which are available to King's students. These grants support students in their academic, extracurricular and social life. If you follow the link below or go to the financial support section on the college intranet you should find a list and explanation of the grants college offers and how you should go about applying for them.

<https://nicholas.kings.cam.ac.uk/intranet/students/college-grants-students>

University Bursary:

After an assessment of your household income, the university can offer a bursary calculated along a progressive rate. This is only eligible to students with a household income of less than £62,215. If you are one of these students, the college will communicate this to you and calculate the bursary you are eligible to receive. If your situation changes suddenly, please contact the financial tutor to be assessed again. To receive this bursary, you must apply to student finance first.

Cambridge Student Union Support:

SU has a series of access initiatives, the most notable being their supermarket. The Supermarket allows students facing financial difficulty get groceries for free. The SU also offers grants to support students to partake in and set up their own access initiatives. For more details about the support the SU offers go to their website at:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/news/article/cambridgesu/SU-permarket-Launch/> or

When should you access which grant?

 **You have to stay in college over holidays because you are estranged from your family/ have difficulties at home/ care leaver, ect**

 If you are a Turing Student you should automatically, on prior discussion with the college, receive free accommodation over the holidays. For students who are not Turing students it is

possible to apply for the Brewer Vacation. This grant helps students distanced from their families finance accommodation over the holidays.

 Policy application form:

Brewer Vacation Grant- [brewer-fund-vacation-bursary-app-form-2025-26.docx](#)

 You are struggling to afford supplies you need to carry out your course whether this be a laptop, coursebooks or sheet music

 If you are a Turing Student struggling to purchase laptop, ipad ectra you can apply for the technology grant. This grant entitles you to £650 pounds towards technology. All freshers are able to apply to the equipment grant, which entitles you to £250 to spend on any tangible items that would help you benefit fully from your time at King's e.g. a bike, study materials, laptop . If you are neither a fresher or a Turing support student you should apply for the study- related expenses grant, which entitles you to £250 or an exceptional grant of £500 to help you cover essential expenses relating to your studies e.g. equipment, books and travel.

 Policy application form:

Equipment Grant: [equipment-grant-application-form-2025-26.doc](#)

Study Related Expenses Grant: [study-related-policy-notes-2025-26.pdf](#)

 You need support in financing academic e.g. dissertation research or extracurricular international travel

 All undergraduate King's students are able to receive the Ferris Undergraduate Travel Grant once during their degree. All students, with the exception of year aboard students who are eligible to standard awards of £1,000 and exceptional awards of £2,000, are able to receive either the standard award of £500 or the exceptional award of £1,000. Students are able to access larger sums of money if they choose to travel sustainably. In addition university departments are often willing to financially support students in academic research.

Please note that the Ferris Travel Grants are only accessible if you are planning to undertake overseas travel.

 Policy application form:

Ferris Travel Grant:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fnicholas.kings.cam.ac.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fstudy%2Fferris-undergraduate-travel-application-form-2025-26.docx%3Fwidth%3D500%26height%3D700%26iframe%3Dtrue&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

 You find yourself in unexpected financial difficulties, can not pay your rent and daily costs and/or afford to engage in university social activities

 Firstly if you ever find yourself in unexpected financial difficulty please do not feel ashamed or struggle alone/ hesitate to ask for support. If you ever find yourself in this unfortunate situation the college and us as access officers are here to support you. The primary way college supports students in this situation is through the hardship grant. The hardship grant allows students, alongside the help of the financial tutor, to tailor support to their financial needs whether this be paying for rent, food shops or formal tickets. Despite there being no grant , students who feel as

if they are unable to engage in social life at King's due to their financial circumstances should nonetheless seek support and can use the link below.

 Policy application: [ug-student-support-app-form-2025-26.docx](#)

 **You want to participate in and/ or experience a cultural activity but are unable to afford it?**

 The college offers an array of grants which support students in enriching their cultural capital, whether this be through supporting you to learn a new language or instrument , visit a theatre production or Exhibition and/or partake in a cultural project. The most notable examples are the Bonell Fund, which supports students to undertake music lessons, and the language grants, which encourage students to undertake language courses run by the Cambridge University Language centre.

 Policy application form:

Bonnell Fund (Music Grants): [music-grants-app-form-2024-25.docx](#)

Language Grants: [language-grant-app-form-2025-26.doc](#)

Theatre and Exhibition Grant:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fnicholas.kings.cam.ac.uk%2Fsi>

Turing Students

Every year the admissions team selects 10- 12 students as Turing Students. These students are granted additional financial and psychological support in recognition of the barriers they face due to their access backgrounds. If you are one of these students, the college should have contacted you and they will privately communicate with you about the support they are available to offer. We are really keen on creating community and support networks amongst Turing students so as of this year we are setting up the Turing Family Scheme. The Turing Family Scheme will involve a series of social and formal sessions and a mentoring scheme , where we will focus on creating academic and personal connections between Turing Students. If you are a turing student and interested in this, but not signed up yet, email either us:

access@kcsu.org.uk or Zoe, admissions tutor: zla20@cam.ac.uk .

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT:

College Nurse:

The college nurse is a trained professional able to provide support for all health needs, whether physical or psychological. She can be contacted via email (nurse@kings.cam.ac.uk OR rachael.arkle@kings.cam.ac.uk) if you have any questions or concerns, and she will usually organise a meeting where you can decide what may be the best support available for your individual circumstance. She can put you in contact with university-wide support systems, like counselling or medical professionals if you feel you would benefit from prescribed treatments. Typical things which you may want to talk to her about can include feelings of anxiety,

depression or imposter syndrome, or personal experiences which may have affected your educational and mental wellbeing before or during your time at university. The nurse also runs multiple welfare initiatives, including weekly yoga and if you are lucky puppy yoga .

Personal Tutors:

Personal tutors are assigned to all students, alongside academic tutors, to provide pastoral support. You will meet your tutor at the beginning of the year, after which it is up to you how often you see them. Tutors will have a weekly walk-in time period when you are free to visit them and talk about personal issues. You may find it easier to confide in your tutor about mental wellbeing or personal experiences, over other college staff members. Like the nurse, personal tutors can put you in contact with others if desired.

College staff:

Though there are specified staff members for welfare-related issues (see above), you can speak to any staff member you trust if you want to talk about support related to your academic life (work-load, performance anxiety etc.). They may be able to direct you towards the college's welfare services directly. It is better to speak to somebody you trust, even if they are not the designated staff member, than no one at all!

University-counselling:

Cambridge offers the free University Counselling Service (UCS, link: <https://www.studentsupport.cam.ac.uk/individual-counselling>). You can ask your personal tutor or nurse for information, but you will need to complete the form on the page linked above to access this support. You can use the counselling services one-off, or organise regular check-ins (fortnightly during term time) for a long-term counselling option.

University groups and workshops:

[Groups | Student Support](#)

[Workshops | Student Support | University of Cambridge](#)

The university offers group sessions and workshops, covering different topics which change throughout the term. This is a place for discussion with others, alongside a trained practitioner, offering support and guidance. Topics covered can include the likes of bereavement/ carers/ hope, with room to share personal experiences. There are registration forms for workshops.

NHS Support

External counseling is also available through the NHS, more details about their support can be found [here](#):

Access Officers:

The KCSU Access Officers represent student voices, experiences and concerns about the transition from high school into university. We aim to bridge gaps of accessibility and participation by recognising and addressing student needs. We are also a confidential point of call for King's students, whether you want to share an experience, ask for advice or voice a concern. We can simply listen and support, or we can put you into contact with a staff member

who may be able to take more formal action. Typical topics like imposter syndrome, accommodation anxieties or difficult home lives often come up in conversation, but we are happy to talk about anything access-related. Please feel free to speak to us if you see us around King's, or contact us through our email: access@kcsu.org.uk

Welfare and Liberation Officers

Like the KCSU Access Officers, welfare and liberation officers (BME, Gender Equalities, Disability, international, access and LGBTQ+) represent student voices and experiences and push the college to be inclusive for all. They are also a confidential point of call, where you can share experiences, ask for advice or voice your concerns. These officers also hold events throughout the year to support and celebrate student's experiences and identities. We recognise that access issues can often be intersectional and we hope by working alongside other officers we can solve issues of intersectionality. If you have any concerns and/ or questions surrounding liberation issues please feel free to speak to or email the relevant officer at either: LGBTQ+@kcsu.org.uk , genderequality@kcsu.org.uk, ethnic.minorities@kcsu.org.uk , disabled.students@kcsu.org.uk , welfare.b@kcsu.org.uk and international@kcsu.org.uk

Welfare Tea

Every Friday, usually around 6pm, our welfare officers host welfare tea. Welfare Tea is an opportunity to come drink tea, eat cake and chat about anything but especially wellness. The welfare officers often get in college and university staff to chat to students and run welfare sessions during welfare tea. Every week the Welfare Officers will send you an email reminding you that welfare tea is on and the date, time and location it is being held. In the third week of Michaelmas 2025 we will be holding an access welfare tea.