



Selwyn College Cambridge

Undergraduate Student Financial Support

Starting out at University is exciting and also, at times, a bit daunting. One of the issues that students can feel nervous about is how to manage financially. This document is intended as a guide to the various sources of financial support that are available to Selwyn students.

1. Living Costs & Tuition Fees

When you received your offer from the College back in January, we included a document on 'Financing your course'. This explained the differences between 'home fee' students, 'overseas fee' students and students starting a second degree. You can find more detail at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-finance/tuition-fees>.

Home fee students can take out a loan to cover their tuition fees. For entry in October 2026 this will match the new tuition fee of **£9,790 p.a.** The loan is **NOT means tested** – everyone can take the full amount. Repayment rates depend on income after graduation.

Home fee students may also take out a maintenance loan. **This IS means tested**. Details about these loans can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>. They are repaid in the same way as the tuition fee loan.

Some parts of this note apply to all students, whereas others apply to home fee students only. We have made it clear in each section to which students it applies to.

2. The College Bill (all students)

Your college bill will be emailed to your University email address by the first day of each term and is payable within three weeks, that is always printed on the bill itself. Accepted methods of payment are detailed in the email which accompanies the bill. When you first arrive it will include the cost of your rent for the first term. Importantly, most of the kinds of student support set out in this note will be provided to you via a credit to your college bill. More detail about the college bill can be found at <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/finance/college-bill-explained>

3. The Cambridge Bursary Scheme (Home fee students)

The Cambridge Bursary Scheme (CBS) is a University-wide scheme under which each College contributes the funding to support its own students. This is paid as a grant and there is **nothing to repay**. Home fee students are eligible, including EU students with settled or pre-settled status. Full details are set out at <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary>.

There is no separate application process for the Bursary, which uses assessments from the U.K. Student Loans Company to calculate whether you are eligible. You do not need to take up any loans that are offered but you *must* go through the assessment process in order to qualify for the Cambridge Bursary. If you have not already begun the process of applying for a loan, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

If you are assessed as having a residual household income¹ of up to £62,215 you will receive a Cambridge Bursary. The Cambridge Bursary is based purely on household income and does not take into account any other scholarships, awards or Government funding. The Bursary is paid in termly installments.

The maximum Bursary amount (a 'full Bursary') is **£3,500 p.a.** for students whose household income is less than £25,000.

Smaller Bursary amounts ('partial Bursaries') are available on a sliding scale of reducing amounts up to £62,215 household income.

Students who are eligible for a full or partial Bursary who have also received free school meals (funded by their local authority) will also receive an extra **£1,000 p.a. once they provide a letter from their school or college confirming this.**

Further support is available to students who are care experienced or estranged from their parents. See <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridge-bursary/independent-students-and-care-leavers>

If your family income falls by more than c.15% during an academic year, you may apply for a reassessment during that year. That may change both your loan and Cambridge Bursary status. See <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary/reduction-income>

4. Selwyn Elgar Awards for CBS holders (Home fee students)

Thanks to a bequest from an old member of the College, Dr Dennis Elgar, Selwyn makes various grants to students without any need for an application. The various amounts are shown as credits on the students' bills. Some of these grants are particularly focused on providing extra support with financial need, defined as those who receive a Cambridge Bursary.

- **Elgar Vacation Residence Grants** enable students for whom cost would otherwise be a barrier to stay in Cambridge during the Easter vacation i.e. outside the fixed period of residence covered by normal termly rent. The amount credited to their bill will vary depending on the number of nights stayed. The credit is designed to cover rent and a contribution to subsistence.
- **Elgar Extra Matriculation Book and Equipment Grants.** In addition to the grant which is paid to all first-year undergraduates in their first term (see below), full CBS bursary holders in their first year will also receive a second grant later in the year (when their bursary status is confirmed) of **£150**, and partial CBS bursary holders will receive a second grant of **£100**.
- **Elgar Formal Hall Grants** are intended to ensure that all students feel that Formal Hall is affordable and thus helps ensure that students from less well-off backgrounds do not feel excluded from full participation in College life. Students in receipt of a Cambridge Bursary will receive an automatic credit to their College bill each Lent equating to the cost of three College member Formal Hall tickets. This is worth **over £50 p.a.** to all bursary holders. The College reserves the right to reclaim the credit if tickets are not booked and used by the recipient during the year. These tickets may not be transferred to others.

¹ Residual household income is the earnings before tax of any parents (or step-parents) with whom the student is resident, minus their pension contributions and a deduction for any other of their children who are in higher education. For further details on household income calculations, please refer to your regional funding body (SFE, SFWE, SFNI or SAAS), and especially any paperwork provided about your individual assessment.

- **Elgar Finalists' Grants** are made to Bursary holding undergraduates in their third year of study in Cambridge, including third year medical and veterinary students and others who may progress to a fourth year. The grant is intended to help with such things as application fees, interview travel and other expenses that arise as they consider their next steps. A grant of **£300** will be paid as a credit on the College bill in the Easter Term to all third-year students in residence and to fourth year students who have returned from a year abroad. Each student will only be eligible for one such grant during their undergraduate career and fourth years will not be eligible for a second grant.

5. Selwyn Elgar Awards for all students

- **Elgar Matriculation Book and Equipment Grants** of £100 will be made to all undergraduates in their first term of residence as a credit on their bill. As detailed above, Cambridge Bursary recipients will receive a further grant later in the academic year, once their Bursary status is confirmed.
- Additionally, and looking beyond your undergraduate course, **the Elgar Master's studentship** allows current Selwyn students from widening participation backgrounds to progress to a Cambridge MPhil. No separate application is necessary. The College will make the selection from the eligible students who have been conditionally accepted by the University.

6. Other Selwyn Grants and Awards (all students)

Each year the College makes a variety of awards to students. These include:

- **Long Vacation internship, project and research awards.** The application deadline is usually at the end of the Lent Term (mid-March). See: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/finance/grants-academic-projects-vacation-placements>
- **Travel Grants** for academically related travel other than the major projects covered by the awards above. The deadline for applications is usually early in the Easter Term (April/May). See <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/finance/travel-grants>
- **Sport, music and Chapel funds** with specific purposes. See: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/finance/grants-and-funds>
- **Help towards language courses** run through the University Language Centre. See: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/academic-matters-student-support/study-skills-support>

There are also various University funds available for many activities and purposes. See: <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/funding>

7. Student Support (Hardship) Funds (all students)

Both the College and the University have funds available to support students who experience unanticipated financial hardship, regardless of whether they qualify for Cambridge Bursary or Elgar funding. Anyone who thinks they may need such assistance should not hesitate to contact their Tutor for advice, including on such matters as changed family financial circumstances, serious cash flow issues, vacation residence, or expenses relating to the particular one-off problems. Your Tutor will then help guide you through the application process. Where need is identified, support will be forthcoming through a standard Student Support process. Grants and loans (the latter interest free) or deferral of bill payment dates are used to help ensure that transient financial difficulties do not become a barrier to a student participating fully in Cambridge life. In other cases, grants may be made to support students. See <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/ughandbook/finance/grants-and-funds>.

Support can also be sought for help with medical and study skills support, for example if a student is identified as requiring an assessment for a Specific Learning Difficulty. In some circumstances the College also supports students who need short-term mental health support. The College also has dedicated funds available to support students with disabilities. In these latter cases, please consult your Tutor as there is not usually a need to complete an application form to access support.

In all such matters the College takes the view that we would much prefer to assist a student from our resources than see them obliged to take paid work to make ends meet during the months from October to June. Many students do take employment during the long vacation. During the academic year there may also be some opportunities to do a little work for the College or for another part of the University. However, we do expect any student contemplating such work to discuss it first with their Tutor and Director of Studies.

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