

B. Guidelines for applying for Welfare Financial Assistance:

The College has received a new donation to establish funding for welfare-related costs for students in financial need. This donation will provide financial assistance to students who are seeking private counselling or a private medical diagnosis at the advice of their GP or other relevant clinician. It will also provide financial assistance to care-experienced and estranged UK undergraduates (and those seeking estranged student status) who require financial assistance to secure private accommodation.

These funds are available only to students who are currently in financial hardship or who would be put into financial hardship by incurring such welfare-related costs. Both enrolled and suspended students are eligible to apply.

Making an application: In addition to providing the relevant supporting evidence indicated below, applicants must submit a standard College Financial Assistance application form, demonstrating that they are either currently in financial hardship or that they would be put into financial hardship by incurring eligible welfare-related costs.

Students planning to make an application should first consult welfare.officer@queens.ox.ac.uk before submitting their application.

1. Funding for care-experienced and estranged students

What's available to students: Funding is available to care-experienced and estranged students (or students in the process of becoming estranged) who are unable to secure private accommodation because they either do not have a guarantor or do not have sufficient personal savings to pay 6-months of rent upfront (which is the usual requirement for those without a guarantor). Estranged or care-experienced students who are experiencing a shortfall in meeting their living costs generally will be expected to apply for the College's Financial Assistance in the usual way; this fund is ringfenced for assistance with securing private accommodation.

Eligibility: Enrolled and suspended UK undergraduate students who are studying without the support of their family or a supporter who were under the age of 25 on the first day of their course.

Evidencing need: Students must provide EITHER (a) a letter from any independent person of good standing in their community who knows their situation (including a member of the College Welfare Team or a Personal Tutor) OR (b) a letter from their regional funding agency confirming that they are estranged or classified as a care-leaver OR (c) confirmation that they are in receipt of a [Care-Experienced or Estranged Student Bursary](#) from the University.

Evidencing expenditure: If an application is agreed by the SFC, then the student will be required to liaise with the Bursary for the funds to be transferred to their bank account at the point that they are ready to pay the upfront rent to secure their accommodation. The student will be required to provide a copy of their tenancy agreement.

2. Funding for private counselling

What's available to students: Funding is available to provide financial assistance to cover the costs of private counselling. It is recommended that the number of sessions for which a student can request funding should normally be in the range of 12 to 15, with all sessions taking place within one calendar year, and the cost of the counselling should not normally exceed a rate of £60 per hour.

Eligibility: All enrolled or suspended students are eligible to apply. It is expected that students will complete the proposed course of counselling before the end date of their course.

Evidencing need: A student must provide a medical certificate from their GP or other relevant clinician recommending that they seek counselling that is (a) beyond that which is available to them through the University's Counselling Services AND EITHER (b) unavailable through the NHS OR, if available, would have a wait time that would have a significant impact on the student's studies. Students must also provide a link to a counsellor or counsellors listed in the register of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, or similar professional association, from whom they would seek counselling.

Evidencing expenditure: If an application is accepted by the SFC, then the student will receive the funding as a lump sum upfront and will be required to provide receipts at the end of their counselling session detailing their expenditure. Students will be required to return any underspend.

3. Private medical diagnosis

What's available to students: For students who are experiencing medical issues that are significantly affecting their studies, funding is available to provide financial assistance to cover the costs of seeking a private medical diagnosis. Funding is not available for private medical treatment.

Eligibility: All enrolled or suspended students are eligible to apply, provided that they apply by no later than Wednesday week 1 of Hilary Term in their final year. Applications made after this date will not normally be considered.

Evidencing need: A student must provide a medical certificate from their GP or other relevant clinician indicating that the student has been referred for a diagnostic assessment and that, in combination with the student's symptoms, the NHS wait times would have a significant impact on their studies. At the time of application, the student must also provide a quote for the diagnostic assessment from a private provider.

Evidencing expenditure: If an application is accepted by the SFC, then the student will receive the funding as a lump sum upfront and will be required to provide receipts following the conclusion of their diagnostic assessment. Students will be required to return any underspend.