

THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Earlier in 2018 there was a 4-week period of industrial action at the University.

The University has committed to investing the money not spent on salaries (as a result of strike action) on the student experience. The University has already decided, in conjunction with the Students' Association, to invest £150,000 of this money in increased student experience funds.

With the remainder of the money available, the University further wishes to establish a Student Opportunity Fund to support those students most impacted by the industrial action. The University will invest £1.1 million in this fund which will make grants to students most impacted by the industrial action who wish to pursue further learning opportunities at the University or elsewhere.

WHO THE FUND WILL SUPPORT

The fund will support students most impacted by the industrial action. The University has defined this as undergraduate or postgraduate taught students who, as a result of the industrial action, lost 10% or more of their teaching in semester two, 2017/18. On this basis, the University estimates that around 5000 students may be eligible to apply and benefit from this fund.

Those students who, as defined above, have been most impacted by the industrial action will be able to apply to the fund for financial support with further learning opportunities of their own choice.

HOW THE FUND WILL OPERATE

The maximum grant payable per student from the fund will be £250.

The fund will accept applications from the most impacted students, as defined above, even if they have graduated from the University by the time they make their application.

The fund will open on 25th June 2018 and will remain open until funds are disbursed or 30th June 2019, whichever is sooner.

Payments will be made on a first come, first served basis to the most impacted students as defined above; it is therefore possible that all funds will be disbursed before all applicants have decided to apply. The University will provide quarterly updates on the amount remaining in the fund online at www.

In the event that the fund closes on 30th June 2019 and there are unspent funds remaining at that time, these will be transferred into student experience funds for the benefit of the wider student community.

APPLICATION

Students wishing to apply to the fund will be required to submit a short application providing their personal details, details of the learning opportunity that they wish to pursue and a short statement as to why they have chosen this opportunity.

There will be a maximum of one application and one payment per applicant, even if the application is for less than £250 in total.

In order to ensure that funding is directed to the most impacted students, applications will be considered against data that the University holds on the impact of the strike action. Where the University's records suggest that the impact on an applicant was a loss of less than 10% of teaching in semester 2, the University will contact the applicant and may contact their School to clarify their

situation further. If the University is unable to verify that an applicant lost more than 10% of their teaching time, the application may be refused.

WHAT TYPE OF OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE FUNDED

The fund can be used to pay for learning opportunities of most kinds, including conferences, short courses, online courses, research/archive visits, and part-payment of longer or more expensive learning opportunities. However the fund cannot be used to pay for degree programmes at the University of Edinburgh.

The University reserves the right to verify that any information provided in the application form is correct and truthful and that the learning opportunity applied for is provided by a bona fide organisation.

Applicants can include the cost of travel and accommodation associated with their learning opportunity, as long as the total claim does not exceed £250. However claims that are purely for accommodation and travel will not be accepted. Additionally, the Fund also cannot be used to pay subsistence costs, e.g. rent, bills, food etc.

You can claim for a learning opportunity already taken, provided it took place during this academic year (i.e. between 18 September 2017 and 21 June 2018). In these cases we would require details and evidence of your payment and attendance at the learning opportunity. You can also apply for assistance with future learning opportunities that begin no later than 31 July 2019. You do not need to have paid for the learning opportunity in advance in order to make a claim.

HOW WILL PAYMENT BE MADE

All payments will be made in pounds sterling to the applicant's nominated UK bank account. Payment cannot be made to third parties.

Applicants can claim for support with overseas learning opportunities, in which case the University will calculate the amount to be paid in pounds sterling based on prevailing exchange rates.