



Request Reference: 3575

FOI Request dated 17/02/2026 –

Please provide the following data for each academic semester/term since August 2020, broken down semester by semester with the most recent semester first (e.g. Winter 2025/26, then the preceding semesters/terms going back five academic years from the most recent semester you hold).

For each semester/term, please provide:

1. Number of applications received to the University hardship fund(s)
2. Number of applications granted (awards made)
3. Total £ value granted (sum of awards paid)

Please provide the above in two separate tranches:

A) UK students

B) International students

Definitions and scope

- “Hardship fund(s)” includes any discretionary financial support administered by the University intended to support students facing financial hardship (for example, hardship funds, support funds, cost of living funds, discretionary bursaries specifically for hardship, or equivalent schemes). If you operate more than one relevant scheme, please either:
 - provide the requested figures aggregated across all such schemes, or
 - provide the figures by scheme and semester.
 Please state clearly which approach you have used.

Response

Home/UK Students			
Applications to Hardship Funds - Home/UK Students			
Term	No. of Applications	No. of Awards	Sum of awards paid £
2025/26	87	58	£19,486.51
2024/45	290	157	£109,278.00
2023/24	366	211	£158,116.40
2022/23	389	238	£186,021.90
2021/22	285	115	£84,440.50
2020/21	529	292	£182,830.00

International Students:

Applications to Hardship Funds - International Students			
Term	No. of Applications	No. of Awards made	Sum of awards paid £
2025/26	<5*	<5*	£550.00
2024/45	<5*	<5*	£1,714.00
2023/24	20	6	£3,571.00
2022/23	40	23	£13,740.00
2021/22	50	49	£25,200.00
2020/21	52	42	£19,500.00

Points to note:

Hardship Funds includes all application routes to support from our hardship funds, including means-tested assessment (income against expenditure) from our Hardship Support Fund, and discretionary routes based on unforeseen or exceptional circumstances and demonstrated need. Awards are not standardised and are based on assessments or individual needs.

No. of applications is based on number of form submissions and includes duplicates and non-finalised applications

in 2021/22, hardship funds application processes adapted following receipt of additional funds from OFS for Covid response, explaining spike in applications.

in 2021/22, Discretionary Hardship fund application route was used for an additional scheme for international students as a response to Covid-19.

Data shows application routes as a defined hardship funds 'scheme' as requested, and does not include emergency support packages (food vouchers etc) as they do not require a formal application route.

Some awards in the categories application pathways are paid from monies made available from donates funds, including additional funds from OFS in academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Not all applications are finalised in the same term they are submitted

Data is presented and given to the best of our knowledge.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Please note in relation to all questions, that under section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FoIA), the University declines to release data in its raw form in instances where that data could allow for individuals to be identified. Where this is the case, we have adopted the [Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\) rounding methodology](#) for protecting personal data from unauthorised exposure.

We have applied the following rules to the data provided:

- Low numbers have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 5
- We are also unable to break down into semester due to low numbers

As personal data, disclosure of this information into the public domain would mean compromising individuals' personal data and the University breaching its obligations under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act, 2018. Consequently, the exemption for personal data under section 40 (2) of the FoIA (by virtue of section 40 (3)) has been applied. This states that personal data (as defined by section 5(1)(a) of the UK GDPR are exempt from disclosure where disclosure to the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles.