

## Student Support Initiative

'Helping our students to flourish at Christ's, regardless of their social, religious or financial backgrounds'

Two of the major foci of our Campaign for Christ's, since its inception, have been our goals of Attracting the Best, and Enhancing College Life. In order to achieve this, we have developed a number of programmes, all coming together under the umbrella of the Christ's Student Support Initiative. These funds allow us to ensure that students at Christ's can make the most of their time at the College, and at Cambridge, able to engage in every aspect of their course and extracurricular activities without the pressure of financial worries.

## What We Fund

Every aspect of our students' time at Christ's is enabled and enriched by the funds that make up our Student Support Initiative, something we hear time and again when we talk to them; it is the support that our students receive at College which allows them to thrive here.

## **Bursaries**

As the main focus of our Student Support Initiative, our bursary programme provides the financial support needed to attract and inspire the best and brightest students to apply to Christ's.

This fund provides needs-based support, most notably the Cambridge Bursary of up to  $\pm 3,500$  a year for undergraduates, and even includes emergency funding to ensure students can complete their courses if they run into financial difficulties during them.

We also support students with their accommodation costs, providing means-tested rent bursaries of £950, helping to make Christ's and Cambridge one of the lowest cost universities for living expenses.

'As someone from a lower-income household, the Cambridge bursary grant was really appreciated, and gave me peace of mind financially.' Erin (m. 2018) An important part of our students' education is the development, and recognition, of their extra-curricular commitments. Through subsidies for student societies, along with a wide variety of awards for students that help fund their sporting expenses, the College offers support so that these interests can be developed without the limits of financial constraints.

The results of this are clear, with over twenty blues and half-blues awarded last year, and Christ's students participating in a wide number of University and Varsity teams, including rowing, squash, and weight-lifting. However, the importance of this support can also be seen in the way recipients bring their skills back to the College, helping increase participation at every level through encouraging others to try new sports and hobbies.





c.£84,000 worth of rent and top-up bursaries awarded



6 Christ's sport teams currently playing in College leagues



'Thanks to the College's Sporting Awards, I have been able to pounce on any opportunity that would aid my progression as an athlete, whilst seeing many of my teammates having to turn down tournaments and fixtures due to their associated costs.' Riki (m. 2013)



Welfare at Christ's covers a broad range of areas, and we are committed to providing whatever resources are needed to assist and guide our students throughout their time at the College.

Through our student welfare funds, not only do we support our students with pastoral tutors, but we can offer direct financial aid to those who might otherwise find it difficult to complete their course. Such Hardship Grants cover therapy sessions offered by Cambridge University, as well as the medical and travel expenditures that health issues and other difficulties incur.

'I suffer from a chronic back problem, and the level of support I have received is amazing. The College provided money so I could buy a special chair that supports my back while I work, and has also paid for some of my physio appointments.' Ruby (m. 2017)

Christ's prides itself on being able to offer a wide variety of grants that enable our students to explore their subjects in more depth.

These range from support to attend academic conferences, to funds for travel abroad as part of dissertation research, as well as book grants for all first year students to help them afford the core texts for their subjects.

This can even include opportunities for our students to develop their extracurricular activities further, such as Belinda (m. 2018, Geography), who was provided with support last year to go to Madrid as part of the University Model United Nations team.

## In 2018–19...

**Ist** in the Tompkins Table for the second year running



40% of female students received firsts, the highest percentage across Cambridge



96 Book Grants provided for first year students



Students attended conferences thanks to our travel grants



'Christ's offered a £120 book grant to all freshers in my first year, which to an English student was incredibly useful! I also applied for two different travel grants, and between them have received enough money to fund a research trip to Ireland, for my third-year dissertation, this summer.' Katie (m. 2017)

Last year (2018–19), your support helped us raise over  $\pounds$ 573,000 for these funds, which in turn contributed to the nearly  $\pounds$ 1 million we spent via the Student Support Initiative.



Moreover, gifts of  $\pounds 20$  a month and under received last year accounted for almost  $\pounds 40,000$  of this amount, demonstrating the vital impact that regular giving has over a student's time at Christ's when pooled together.

One donor giving £12 a month, with Gift Aid, can fund a sport bursary (£175)



Six Donors giving  $\pounds 22$  a month, with Gift Aid, can fund two rent bursaries annually ( $\pounds 1,900$ )

Ten donors giving £30 a month, with Gift Aid, can fund a year's worth of Book Grants (£4,500)

With the arrival of our 2019 matriculation year group this Michaelmas term, please consider giving to their future.

'Christ's has supported me in every way I could ever have wanted: brilliant pastoral care from my tutor who always took the time to listen to my concerns, financial support where necessary from the university bursary scheme and the College as well, and lots of academic support from my supervisors.' Luke (m. 2017)

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