

Financial Assistance Guidance

St Hilda's College is a self-governing, self-financing charity and, although part of the University of Oxford, operates as an independent institution.

The cost to the College of providing teaching, accommodation, catering, and other essential services exceeds the income it receives from fees, rents, and catering. Consequently, and alongside many other Oxford colleges, St Hilda's makes a loss on its core educational activities. To remain financially sustainable the College therefore relies on income from conferences and events, legacies and donations, and investment income. However, even with these additional revenues, the College's income barely covers its outgoings.

As a result, the funds available for financial assistance are extremely limited and must be very precisely targeted. Equally the College must be fair to all of the 700 students at St Hilda's, many of whom may be facing their own financial pressures.

Given these circumstances, **the College is not in a position to support students' day-to-day living costs which include tuition fees, accommodation and food, laptops and other devices, and the cost of travel and visas.** All of these costs are considered foreseeable. Additionally, **the College is unable to cover medical expenses or the costs of treatment.**

Any student experiencing financial difficulties is expected to explore all sources of support. For example, they should seek help from family members, apply for grants and scholarships, investigate the availability of bank loans and overdrafts, and ensure that available funding from organisations such as Student Finance England, the Student Awards Agency Scotland, and Student Finance Wales is fully utilised. Undergraduates may be able to access low value support through the JCR.

The University operates its own financial assistance schemes - the Oxford Assistance Fund - for which some students may be eligible. University departments may also be able to support costs directly associated with study. The College can, and regularly does, help students apply for University-level support.

We recognise, however, that unexpected and insurmountable financial difficulties can still arise. In such cases, the College will always do its best to offer support, to the extent it is able, and provide practical advice.

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