

# Financial support evaluation toolkit survey tool: questions text

## Page 1: Introduction

### Understanding the impact of institutional financial support on student success

<Name of institution> is keen to find out how students support themselves financially during their studies. We also want to know how useful and helpful our bursary and scholarship packages (sometimes including discount vouchers for housing, transport etc.) are in supporting students from lower-income backgrounds who may otherwise have to leave the course or do less well in their studies. We want your views on what you used this financial support for in the last academic year even if you are not in receipt of any form of scholarship or bursary this year.

Please note that participation in the survey implies your consent to participate in the study. Your responses will be linked to the student administrative data record the university has for you. However, the survey data will be completely anonymised at the reporting stage and your student data remains confidential and subject to data protection protocols. Due to the anonymous nature of the survey it will not be possible to withdraw answers at a later stage.

## Page 2: About you:

1. Which year of study are you currently in?
  - Y2
  - Y3
  - Y4
  - Other
  
2. Did you receive financial support from your university last year?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

## Page 3: Your financial situation

3. From which personal sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year? (please tick all that apply)
  - money from family or friends that you don't have to repay
  - money from family or friends that you do have to repay
  - personal savings
  - earnings from work during term time
  - earnings from work during holidays
  - personal trust fund or income from an investment
  - from borrowings e.g. loans/overdraft
  - Other please specify

4. From which other sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year?  
(please tick all that apply)

- government financial support (maintenance grants; maintenance fees; childcare grants; Disabled Students Allowance etc)
- government maintenance loan (from Student Finance England)
- government tuition fee loan (from Student Finance England)
- grants from Local Authority
- university Hardship or Access funds
- bursary or scholarships from your university/college
- grants or scholarships from your employer or other organisation

5. Did you undertake any paid work during the last academic year? (not counting work that was related to your course in some way)

- Yes
- No

5a If YES was this work (tick one only)

- Term time
- Non term time
- Both

5b How much time (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work (in term time only)?

- 1 - 4 hours per week
- 5 - 8 hours per week
- 9-15 hours per week
- over 16 hours per week

5c Did you work throughout the vacation periods? (e.g. Christmas, Easter)

- Yes
- No

5d What were your reasons for undertaking paid work?: (Please select all that apply)

- to help pay the costs of books, study materials, field trips etc
- to pay for essential living costs (food, rent, fuel bills etc)
- to have more comfortable life while studying
- to save for a specific purpose (e.g. a holiday or a car)
- to support family (e.g. your children)
- to gain employment experience in your field of study
- to avoid student debt (if you have any debt)

- to enable you to do other things outside of university life (e.g. travel, have hobbies etc)
- health-related costs
- Other (please specify)

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

<TEXT FIELD>

5e How important is having a paid job in helping you to financially continue at University? Please indicate using the following scale.

Not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 Very important

**Page 4: About your bursary or scholarship.**

6. Prior to starting your course, did you know you would be eligible for financial support (i.e. in the form of a bursary or scholarship, not loan income from Student Finance England)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
7. Prior to starting your course, did you know how much financial support you would receive (i.e. in the form of a bursary or scholarship, not loan income from Student Finance England)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
8. How much university/college financial support did you receive in the last academic year (i.e. in the form of a bursary or scholarship, not loan income from Student Finance England)? (please treat any discounts as financial support, e.g. discount vouchers for accommodation). Please select one only
  - less than £500
  - £500-£1000
  - £1001-£1500
  - £1501-£2000
  - £2001-£3000
  - £3001-£4000
  - over £4000

9. How important do you think the bursary or scholarship has been for your ability to **financially continue** with your studies? Please indicate using the following scale.

Not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 Very important

9a Which of the following activities would you most likely have had to do avoid or do less of if you didn't receive financial support from the university/college? (please tick all those that apply)

- pay for books, study materials, field trips etc
- pay for essential living costs (food, rent, fuel bills etc)
- enjoy a more comfortable life while studying
- save for a specific purpose (e.g. a holiday or a car)
- support family (e.g. your children)
- gain employment experience in your field of study
- avoid student debt (if you have any debt)
- do other 'treat' things outside of university life (e.g. travel, have hobbies etc)
- Other

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

<TEXT FIELD>

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements: Receiving financial support helps me to...

Strongly agree      Agree      Neither agree or disagree      Disagree      Strongly disagree

afford to participate along with my fellow students

be able to concentrate on my studies without worrying about finances

be able to balance commitments such as work, study and family relationships

feel part of the university community

feel less anxious than I would have felt otherwise

be included on social and study trips

feel more satisfied with my life as a student

10a Please add other items you may not be able to do without the financial support and indicate importance on a 1-5 scale

Thank you for your help in completing this survey. The university is also interested in exploring some of these issues in more detail, e.g. through interviews or focus groups. If you would prefer not to be contacted about this please tick the box.