



ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Bursaries: Survey Results - February 2023

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| | |
|--|----------|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Notices | 2 |
| Financial Situation Questions: | 3 |
| Sources of Income | 3 |
| 1a. From which personal sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year? | 3 |
| 1b. From which other sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year? | 3 |
| Paid Work | 4 |
| 2. Did you undertake any paid work during the last academic year? (Not counting work that was related to your course in some way) | 4 |
| 2a. When did you undertake this paid work? | 4 |
| 2b. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in term time only) | 4 |
| 2c. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in university vacation periods only) | 5 |
| 2d. What were your reasons for undertaking paid work? | 5 |
| 2e. How important is having a paid job in helping you to financially continue at University? | 6 |
| Bursary Questions: | 6 |
| Pre-Entry Knowledge | 6 |
| 3a. Prior to starting your course, did you know you would be eligible for a bursary from the University of York? | 6 |
| 3b. Prior to starting your course, did you know how much bursary (amount in £) you would receive from the University of York? | 6 |
| Format Preference | 7 |
| 4. If you had the option, which of the following payment types would you have preferred for your bursary in the last academic year? (rank most preferable (1) to least preferable (3)) | 7 |
| Importance of the Bursary | 7 |
| 5. How important do you think the bursary has been for your ability to financially continue with your studies? | 7 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| 5a. Which of the following activities would you most likely have had to avoid or do less of if you hadn't received the bursary from the University of York? | 7 |
| 6. Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements: Receiving a bursary helps me to... | 8 |
| Contacts and Acknowledgements | 9 |

Introduction

In February 2022, the Access and Participation Monitoring and Evaluation Team conducted a survey investigating the impact of bursaries on recipients in the previous academic year (2020/21). This was to support the [Bursaries Impact Evaluation](#) (PDF) being conducted within the team.

The survey ran for two weeks and had a maximum of 16 questions (depending on answers selected by respondents). It was based on the Office for Students Financial Evaluation Toolkit - Survey Tool¹, with the addition of questions based on the aims of the University of York.

The Bursaries Impact Evaluation is investigating the impact of the York Bursary² and the Foundation Year Bursary³. Therefore, students who responded to the survey but received one of the other bursaries available at the University of York have not been included in these results. These responses will be made use of in other areas of work being conducted by the team and across the University.

Notices

Ethics approval for this project was received from the University of York Economics, Law, Management, Politics and Sociology (ELMPS) Ethics Committee⁴ in November 2021. All participants were required to read an information sheet and complete a consent form before completing the survey. Participants were told that completing the survey was optional and they had the right to withdraw at any stage of the project. Participants of the survey were made aware that taking part in the project would not impact their receipt of financial support from the University of York in any way.

The results of this survey have been suppressed (*) where the number of respondents was fewer than 10. True 0s (where 0 participants responded) have been reported where present. This data has not been suppressed using [HESA rounding and suppression](#) because it does not contain personal demographic information.

¹ [Survey tool - Office for Students](#)

² [York Bursary - Undergraduate](#)

³ [Foundation Year Bursary - Undergraduate, University of York](#)

⁴ [Economics, Law, Management, Politics and Sociology Ethics Committee \(ELMPS\) - Research Centre for Social Sciences, University of York](#)

Financial Situation Questions:

Sources of Income

1a. From which personal sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year?

Participants could select multiple responses.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Personal savings | 53% |
| Earnings from work during University vacation periods (e.g., Christmas, Easter) | 39% |
| Earnings from work during term time | 38% |
| Money from family or friends that you don't have to repay | 28% |
| From borrowings (e.g., overdrafts, payday loans, etc) | 25% |
| Money from family or friends that you do have to repay | 8% |
| Other - None of the above | 6% |
| Other - Free text response an option in the next question | * |
| Other - Unspecified | * |
| Personal trust fund or income from an investment | * |

1b. From which other sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year?

Participants could select multiple responses.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Government tuition fee loan (from Student Finance) | 98% |
| Bursary from the University of York | 93% |
| Government maintenance loan, grant and/or bursary (from Student Finance) | 90% |
| Other - Unspecified | 12% |
| Other Government financial support (e.g., childcare grants, Disabled Students Allowance, etc) | 6% |
| Scholarship from the University of York | 5% |

| | |
|--|----|
| University of York Student Support Fund (hardship fund) | 4% |
| University of York Emergency loans | * |
| University of York Emergency Student Support Fund (covid fund) | * |
| Grants from Local Authority | * |

Paid Work

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

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 57% |
| No | 43% |

2a. When did you undertake this paid work?

Only those who responded 'Yes' to the previous question responded to this question.

Participants could select multiple responses.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Term time | 68% |
| University vacation period (e.g., Christmas, Easter) | 74% |

42% of participants selected both responses.

2b. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in term time only)

Only those who responded 'Term time' to the previous question responded to this question.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1-4 hours per week | 17% |
| 5-8 hours per week | 19% |
| 9-12 hours per week | 40% |
| 13-16 hours per week | 16% |
| More than 16 hours per week | 9% |

2c. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in university vacation periods only)

Only those who responded 'University vacation period' to the previous question responded to this question.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1-4 hours per week | * |
| 5-8 hours per week | * |
| 9-12 hours per week | 21% |
| 13-16 hours per week | 14% |
| More than 16 hours per week | 55% |

2d. What were your reasons for undertaking paid work?

Only those who responded 'Yes' to 'Did you undertake paid work?' responded to this question.

Participants could select multiple responses.

| | |
|--|-----|
| To pay for essential living costs (e.g., food, rent, utility bills, etc) | 80% |
| To have a more comfortable life whilst studying (e.g., to reduce the stress of money and/or budgeting) | 75% |
| To enable you to do other things that aren't course-related costs (e.g., societies, sports teams, etc) | 60% |
| To pay for tuition fees | 55% |
| To enable you to do other 'treat' things outside of university life (e.g., travel, have hobbies, etc) | 40% |
| To help with course-related costs (e.g., books, study materials, field trips, etc) | 38% |
| To save for a specific purpose (e.g., a holiday or a car) | 29% |
| To support family (e.g., your parents or children) | 13% |
| To gain employment experience in your field of study* | 11% |
| To avoid student debt (if you have any debt) | 9% |

**Other responses have been included in this category due to the free text responses*

2e. How important is having a paid job in helping you to financially continue at University?

Only those who responded 'Yes' to the 'Did you undertake paid work?' question responded to this question.

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 42% |
| Important | 26% |
| Moderately Important | 14% |
| Slightly Important | 13% |
| Not Important | * |

Bursary Questions:

Pre-Entry Knowledge

3a. Prior to starting your course, did you know you would be eligible for a bursary from the University of York?

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Yes | 44% |
| No | 43% |
| Unsure | 13% |

3b. Prior to starting your course, did you know how much bursary (amount in £) you would receive from the University of York?

Only those who responded 'Yes' to the previous question responded to this question.

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Yes | 61% |
| No | 24% |
| Unsure | 15% |

Format Preference

4. If you had the option, which of the following payment types would you have preferred for your bursary in the last academic year? (rank most preferable (1) to least preferable (3))

| | 1 (Most preferable) | 2 | 3 (Least preferable) |
|---|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Accommodation discount (University accommodation only) | 22% | 48% | 30% |
| Cash payment | 68% | 22% | 10% |
| Tuition fee discount | 10% | 30% | 60% |

Importance of the Bursary

5. How important do you think the bursary has been for your ability to financially continue with your studies?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very Important | 53% |
| Important | 29% |
| Moderately Important | 10% |
| Slightly Important | 6% |
| Not Important | * |

5a. Which of the following activities would you most likely have had to avoid or do less of if you hadn't received the bursary from the University of York?

Participants could select multiple responses.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Enjoy a more comfortable life whilst studying (e.g., to reduce the stress of money and/or budgeting) | 90% |
| Pay for essential living costs (e.g., food, rent, utility bills, etc) | 62% |
| Pay tuition fees | 60% |
| Pay for things that aren't course-related (e.g., societies, sports teams, etc) | 59% |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Do other 'treat' things outside of university life (e.g., travel, have hobbies, etc)* | 58% |
| Pay for course-related costs (e.g., books, study materials, field trips, etc) | 45% |
| Save for a specific purpose (e.g., a holiday or a car) | 26% |
| Avoid student debt (if you have any debt) | 13% |
| Support family (e.g., your parents or children) | 10% |
| Gain employment experience in your field of study | 6% |
| Other - Future costs and/or plans | * |
| Other - Unspecified | * |

**One Other response have been included in this category due to the free text response*

6. Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements: Receiving a bursary helps me to...

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Afford to participate along with my fellow students | 42% | 46% | 7% | 4% | * |
| Be able to concentrate on my studies without worrying about finances | 45% | 43% | 8% | * | * |
| Be able to balance commitments such as work, study and family relationships | 36% | 43% | 13% | 6% | * |
| Feel part of the university community | 25% | 33% | 34% | 7% | * |
| Feel less anxious than I would have felt otherwise | 56% | 34% | 7% | * | * |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| Be able to participate in social and study trips | 31% | 39% | 24% | 4% | * |
| Feel more satisfied with my life as a student | 45% | 43% | 9% | * | * |

Contacts and Acknowledgements

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