Support for Financial Difficulties

All students are asked before starting their programme to confirm that they have sufficient funds to pay for their fees and living expenses. However, students may find themselves in financial difficulty for a variety of reasons, and the College will help students to seek further support.

College Hardship Fund

The College has limited funds each year to help current students who are experiencing hardship, which is defined as unexpected financial difficulties with living costs. Awards do not normally exceed £1000. Students applying to the Hardship Fund will be required to demonstrate that their hardship is a result of unexpected changes to their financial circumstances, rather than the result of insufficient funding from the outset. Unfortunately we are unable provide any financial support towards tuition and College fees, continuation fees or visas.

Short-term, interest-free “bridging” loans of up to £500, or temporary adjustments to a fee-payment schedule, may be considered for students experiencing delays to their funding.

The College Hardship Panel will consider all cases of financial hardship, including applications to the Hardship Fund. This is chaired by the Senior Tutor and meets every 2 weeks during term time.

Oxford University Hardship Fund

The university will only consider applications to its Access to Learning or Hardship Fund which have been considered and approved by the College’s Hardship Panel.

GTC students experiencing any kind of financial hardship should apply to the College Hardship Fund in the first instance.

Support

If you would like to discuss your situation before submitting an application, please contact the Academic Registrar, Alison Franklin: alison.franklin@gtc.ox.ac.uk

GTC Hardship Fund Policy

1. The aim of the GTC Hardship Fund is to help current students who experience genuine financial hardship with their living costs and excludes any support towards tuition fees, continuation fees or visas.
2. Hardship Fund support is defined as: short-term financial support for students experiencing unexpected and unforeseeable financial difficulties with living costs.
3. We follow the University’s definition of ‘unexpected’.
4. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their hardship is a result of unexpected changes in their financial circumstances, rather than a result of insufficient funding being available from the outset of the course.
5. All enrolled GTC students are eligible (including PhD students in their first year and students on one-year or 9 month courses), however those on short courses (one year or less) are unlikely to receive hardship support unless it will clearly relieve a temporary difficulty with cash-flow.
6. GTC Hardship Fund awards are not normally made for more than £1000.
7. Applicants to the GTC Hardship Fund must currently be in financial hardship - speculative applications are not permitted. There must be evidence of a financial shortfall at the point of application.
8. The GTC Hardship Panel will need to consider whether a student’s long-term financial situation is unsustainable. If the Panel is concerned that a student does not have sufficient funding for the remainder of
their course then we may not be able to support a student in the short-term and may suggest other courses of action, for example an application to suspend.

9. Adjusted payment plans to support difficulties with payment of fees are not necessarily hardship, though such a plan may be agreed as part of any package of support for temporary financial hardship.

10. The Hardship Panel, chaired by the Senior Tutor, meets every 2 weeks to consider new applications.