

LC: 0281020

20 October 2020

Dear

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (2002).

I now respond to your request as follows:

Details of Discretionary Funding

1. Details of your institutions' discretionary funding including the different funding streams on offer, (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc.) eligibility, and any changes made during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The College provides financial support to students studying on further education (FE) courses from the Further Education Discretionary Fund provided by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). Students studying on higher education (HE) courses receive support from the Higher Education Discretionary Fund provided by the Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

The Student Funding Team use the following categories when providing students with financial support:

General Hardship	An award made to students across the academic year. An assessment is made by reviewing a student's income and expenditure.
Emergency Discretionary	One off payment. Payment made to students who require immediate support, usually at the start of the academic year whilst they are waiting on their first SAAS or Bursary payment. Emergency payments may also be paid throughout the academic year.
Part Time Travel	Payable to students to assist with travel costs when home address is more than two miles from their College campus.
Childcare	Payment made to students who have parental responsibilities and incur costs for breakfast club, child

	minder or after school care. Payment is made for the period the students are timetabled.
Disability	Award made to cover the cost of a student appointment with an Educational Psychologist.

- The same detail for any other student support funds administered by your institution, including funds provided by donors.

N/A.

- Details of how your institution promotes student support funding streams to students, and any changes made during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Student Funding Team promote the funding streams available in several ways:

- College Website – all funding information is published on the website including funding guides, ‘how to’ and frequently asked questions. This allows potential applicants to view the support available prior to choosing to study at Glasgow Kelvin College.
- Social Media – all College social media platforms are used to advertise when funds are open for applications.
- Pre-entry guidance talks – the majority of applicants to the College receive a pre-entry guidance talk with a member of the Advice, Guidance and Learner Support Team. During this talk, the details of the funds available are explained and applicants are provided with an information leaflet that they can refer to.
- Welcome Events – the College holds welcome events for all students during the summer period. At the beginning of these events the Advice, Guidance and Learner Support Team provide information on all support funds available.
- Email – all students on courses eligible to access support funds automatically receive an email informing them when each fund is open and a guide on how to apply. This email goes to all students who have an offer both conditional and unconditional, so they do not need to wait until they are enrolled to complete their funding applications.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Student Funding Team contacted all eligible students to explain how they could apply for financial support from the Discretionary Funds. Evidence criteria to support applications was dramatically reduced to enable the College to support as many students as possible within the shortest timescales.

All FE students who received a hardship award throughout the year were automatically provided with additional financial support without the need to apply (it was not possible to do this with HE students due to lack of funds available).

Care experienced students were prioritised with all eligible FE students receiving an award from the Discretionary Fund (again, it was not possible to do the same for HE students due to the lack of available funds).

## Number of Applications

Please note that the College does not report on a monthly basis, however, we have provided the annual figures to assist with your request.



1. The number of successful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2018/19, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

General Hardship	327
Emergency Discretionary	47
Part Time Travel	169
Childcare	362
Disability	27

2. The number of unsuccessful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2018/19, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

The College reports unsuccessful applications broken down under two categories only:

Discretionary	97
Childcare	7

3. The number of successful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2019/20, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

General Hardship	267
Emergency Discretionary*	567
Part Time Travel	159
Childcare	292
Disability	21

\*Emergency Discretionary figure includes those supported during Covid-19 pandemic financially and with ICT.

4. The number of unsuccessful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2019/20, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

The College reports unsuccessful applications broken down under two categories only:

Discretionary	47
Childcare	1

5. The same detail for any other student support funds administered by your institution, including funds provided by donors.

N/A.

### Total Amount Paid

Please note that College does not report on a monthly basis, however, we have provided the annual figures to assist with your request.



1. The amount of successful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2018/19, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

General Hardship	£437,607
Emergency Discretionary	£3,355
Part Time Travel	£87,534
Childcare	£1,476,819
Disability	£8,100

2. The amount of unsuccessful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2018/19, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

N/A

3. The amount of successful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2019/20, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

General Hardship	£408,056
Emergency Discretionary	£375,634
Part Time Travel	£64,937
Childcare	£888,646
Disability	£6,300

4. The amount of unsuccessful applications for discretionary funding each month in financial year 2019/20, broken down by category (e.g. hardship funding, childcare support, housing support etc).

N/A

5. The same detail for any other student support funds administered by your institution, including funds provided by donors

N/A

I trust the above response meets your request for information in full.

Should you be unhappy with the College's response you are entitled to seek a review of the response. To seek a review, you should apply, in writing, to Derek Smeall, Principal, stating the grounds for seeking a review.

I also wish to advise you that the Scottish Information Commissioner has launched an online appeals service via their website – the link is as follows:

[www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal).

Other contact information for the Scottish Information Commissioner is listed below:

Tel: 01334 464610



Email: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Thank you for your interest in the College.

Yours sincerely

**Interim Assistant Principal**

