

HARDSHIP

Financial Support Package

The HARDSHIP financial support package is designed to help students in financial crisis. It is applicable for any Higher Education student of the College. HARDSHIP grants may be made towards any cost, except for College fees, and typically are given towards a specific cost. Students may apply more than once in an academic year if it is for a different cost but priority in allocating funds will be to first time applicants. The HARDSHIP package is not related to the College's Access and Participation Plan.

Decisions on allocating support will be made by evaluating the following factors:

- a) the seriousness of the student's financial situation
- b) the unexpectedness of the student's financial situation
- c) the student's seriousness in seeking to manage their finances

The HARDSHIP package is expected to run on the basis defined here for the indefinite future. The College fund which primarily enables HARDSHIP grants is an on-going fund, which operates separately to the College's general fund, and which is fund-raised for separately and given to directly by donors. The level of this fund is a further factor in decisions about HARDSHIP grants. From time to time, donors may contribute to this fund and place further, specific eligibility criteria on grants. These criteria may restrict the bases upon which a grant decision is made but may not extend them.

The HARDSHIP package may be appropriate where the particular requirements of other packages cannot be met, but any grants made will not exceed the guidelines of that other package.

One specific category of HARDSHIP grants relates to support of diagnostic testing for Specific Learning Differences; grant amounts can be agreed in advance, but grants will normally only be paid as reimbursement, after the student provides evidence of payment.

Decisions on awards are made by the College's Financial Support Panel.

HARDSHIP is advertised on a VLE page that is accessible to all Higher Education students. That page also contains an online application form.

All eligible students are invited to apply, by the 15th of any month in the year. Applications may be considered at other points. The online application form includes a requirement for a breakdown of the student's income and expenses. The Panel may request the student's personal tutor to submit a reference.

Responses are normally made by the start of the month following application. The money given is a grant, not a loan, and will be credited directly to the student's bank account. Receipt of support from the HARDSHIP package will have no impact on eligibility to apply for financial support under other packages, but receipt of support from other financial packages should be indicated as income in the HARDSHIP application form.

There are no reporting requirements on recipients of support from HARDSHIP. Should the student's circumstances change between submitting their application and receiving a grant or before spending the money, the student is requested to inform the College via to financialsupport@moorlands.ac.uk.

HARDSHIP was approved by the Executive Leadership Team of Moorlands College, 30 October 2019.