



ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION

BURSARIES: SURVEY RESULTS - FEBRUARY 2022

Jess Burchell, Research and Evaluation Officer

INTRODUCTION	1
Notices	2
SOURCES OF INCOME	2
1a. From which personal sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year?	2
1b. From which other sources did you fund your participation in higher education last year?	2
PAID WORK	3
2. Did you undertake any paid work during the last academic year? (Not counting work that was related to your course in some way)	3
2a. When did you undertake this paid work?	3
2b. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in term time only)	3
2c. How much time per week (on average) did you spend during the last academic year on paid work? (in university vacation periods only)	3
2d. What were your reasons for undertaking paid work?	3
2e. How important is having a paid job in helping you to financially continue at University?	4
PRE_ENTRY KNOWLEDGE	4
3a. Prior to starting your course, did you know you would be eligible for a bursary from the University of York?	4
3b. Prior to starting your course, did you know how much bursary (amount in £) you would receive from the University of York?	4
FORMAT PREFERENCE	5
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))	5
IMPORTANCE OF THE BURSARY	5
5. How important do you think the bursary has been for your ability to financially continue with your studies?	5
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?	5
6. Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements: Receiving a bursary helps me to...	6
CONTACTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6

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 Research and Impact Evaluation](#) 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 Tool](#), with the addition of questions based on the aims of the University of York.

The Bursaries Research and Impact Evaluation is investigating the impact of the [York Bursary](#) and the [Foundation Year Bursary](#). 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 Committee](#) in November 2021. All participants of the survey were required to read an information sheet and complete a consent form before completing the survey. Participants of the survey 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.

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

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

Access and Participation Monitoring and Evaluation Team - access-and-participation@york.ac.uk

Jess Burchell, Research and Evaluation Officer

Amy Simkin, Research and Evaluation Officer

The Student Financial Support Team at the University of York
