



EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

International Student Hardship Fund Policy

1. The University has set aside limited funds to assist EU and international students in financial difficulty.
2. The fund allows for the provision of short-term financial support which may enable a student to complete their studies, or allow the time to regain stability in students financial arrangements to continue their studies in future sessions. Applications meriting support might include occasions where a sponsor is suddenly unable to provide support, e.g. a temporary delay in a living cost allowance or where financial support is stopped because of a sudden change in political/social situation in their home country or where a student unexpectedly and urgently needed to return home for family reasons.
3. The principles under which the fund will operate include:
 - a. Students seeking help must demonstrate that they had made adequate arrangements to support themselves and pay their tuition and accommodation fees before they came to University, and that any financial difficulties have been affected by unforeseen circumstances, or events beyond their control.
 - b. Funds will not be granted to replace tuition fees or living cost support (for both the Student and their dependants) that the student is expected to have made adequate provision for before starting the course.
 - c. Employment alone as a means of funding a course of study will not be considered as adequate provision because of the volatile nature of this source of support. This is in line with immigration rules where visa nationals need to show adequate financial provision without relying on potential earnings.
 - d. Students will not be able to apply for support on the grounds that their national currency has depreciated, since this will affect all students from this country.
 - e. Students who find themselves in financial hardship due to mismanagement of their finances are also ineligible for support.
 - f. The fund will be limited in resource and therefore caps on the level of award may be necessary as well as a cap in the overall availability of funding on a trimester or academic year basis.
 - g. The level of award will be judged on a case to case basis. Awards will typically not exceed £1000 (although awards in excess of this may be made in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the University) and are intended to meet immediate short term living costs. Awards will normally be made in the form of a grant, however where the award is to cover a short-term cash-flow issue (e.g. delayed sponsor payment) then an interest-free loan arrangement may be stipulated by the University. Loans will usually need to be repaid within 8-12 weeks, and always within the same academic year they were taken out.
 - h. Students who receive awards may be asked to provide some feedback on how the Fund has helped them whilst they are a student which the University will be able to use to help source additional funding for the discretionary fund going forward.
4. Eligible students must:

- a. be enrolled with Edinburgh Napier University (this includes students on programmes run by our Pathways College Edinburgh International College)
 - b. be classed as an EU or international student for tuition fee purposes AND NOT eligible for the University's Discretionary Fund.
 - c. have started their programme of study with sufficient funds to cover tuition fees and living costs
 - d. have exhausted all other sources of funding.
5. Students seeking assistance must apply by completing an application which will include submission of supporting paperwork/documents evidencing the circumstances of their financial difficulty, the funding they had put in place to support their studies and living costs and what unforeseen circumstances have impacted on their financial situation. This application from will be submitted to the Student Funding team.
 6. An assessment will be made by the Visa & International Support team to confirm that the student had made adequate arrangements to support themselves and pay their tuition and accommodation fees before they came to University, and that these arrangements have been affected by unforeseen circumstances, or events beyond their control. This will confirm their eligibility to be awarded support from the fund.
 7. An assessment by the Student Funding team will then be undertaken to determine the amount of funding to be awarded. The Student Funding team undertake necessary administrative arrangements to process and pay award to the student and manage any repayment of loans awarded.