

What can the Discretionary Fund be used towards?

The Discretionary Fund can be used towards maintenance costs and outstanding debts such as overdrafts and credit cards. Part or all of an award may be paid directly to the University of Aberdeen to repay an outstanding debt except from tuition fees.

Who funds the Discretionary Fund?

The University administers discretionary funds provided by the Scottish Government to offer stop-gap assistance to UK national undergraduate and postgraduate students experiencing genuine financial difficulties.

Can I apply more than once to the Discretionary Fund?

You can apply to the fund at any point during the 1st half session and the 2nd half session and **you can apply more than once**. However, the available funds are limited and are designed to provide non-repayable assistance for students in financial difficulties – they are not sufficient nor intended to be a student's primary source of income. Receiving an award does not guarantee you will be successful again.

Is the Discretionary Fund available all year?

The fund is available to apply to all year round, however students are expected to work and support themselves during the summer break. The fund cannot be used to support students with maintenance or tuition fees but if an unexpected circumstance was to rise and to led to financial hardship an application would be accepted but cannot be guaranteed to be successful,

How long will it take for my Discretionary Application to be assessed?

Applications will normally be assessed within 15 working days following receipt of the form and appropriate documentation. If successful, it can take up to a further 10 working days for a payment to be processed.

In an emergency where you cannot wait this long please call 01224 273935 to arrange an appointment with a Student Support Adviser.

Applications cannot be processed until all relevant documentary evidence is supplied.

What will happen if I don't submit all the required evidence for my Discretionary Application?

Any requests for further information will be made to the students' University email account. These documents must be provided within **one** month of the date of the email requesting additional information.

Applications will be destroyed if further information is not provided within the one month period.

Can my Discretionary Application be rejected?

If a further application is submitted and no improvement has been made to reduce expenditure on non-essential spending, you may be asked to attend an appointment with a Student Support Adviser to discuss your application.

I am under 25 years old, can I apply?

Yes you can apply but the Discretionary Fund is not intended to replace parental contributions for students under the age of 25 years old.