



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

School of Chemistry

Covid-19 Student Hardship Fund 2020-21

The School of Chemistry recognises that some students may be facing financial hardship as a result of the measures introduced to manage the Covid-19 pandemic. To help address this the School has set up a hardship fund with the generous support of our industry partner Afton Chemical. Grants from the fund are intended to help students who may have lost an income stream as a result of measures introduced to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic by meeting the costs of essentials such as food and other necessary day-to-day expenditure. Students may also apply to cover pandemic-related exceptional expenditure even if income has not been lost in this way. The fund is open **all of the School's students (UG, PGT and PGR)** who are eligible to apply for a one-off payment of **up to £500**. The fund is limited, and should not be viewed as a form of funding to replace long-term loss of income or meet all additional costs, rather it serves to cover immediate or recent expenditure directly related to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To ensure fair allocation of funds we require a supporting statement detailing your circumstances and justifying the sum requested, along with sufficient supporting evidence to verify the claim. PGR students should include an explanation of why your costs exceed those normally expected to be met by your stipend/studentship funding. If we need further information about your application we will contact you through your University e-mail account. Applications will be assessed by a small panel of staff who will aim to make decisions as quickly as possible.

Evidence supporting a claim may include: copies of most recent bank statements; communications from (former) employer; eviction notice; debt letter; travel tickets or any other documents you feel demonstrate your need. There is no deadline and the School will consider applications on a rolling basis. Payments will be made by direct transfer into your bank account, and the application form includes a section for this information.

Eligibility and exceptions

All School of Chemistry registered students, undergraduate and postgraduate, are eligible to apply. The grants are intended to support students who have lost income due to the measures in place to manage the pandemic, both local and national. In the absence of this, claims for exceptional expenditure will also be considered. Costs that could reasonably be covered by support from other sources, e.g. insurance, or would normally be incurred, e.g. travel to Edinburgh via the normal means/cost, will not be considered.

University Discretionary and Hardship fund

The University also has a fund to support students in financial difficulty. Details are available at: https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/support_and_advice/the_advice_place/money/emergency_loans_and_discretionary_funds/discretionary_hardship/ Students can apply to this as well as the School of Chemistry fund, and this will be valuable if your need exceeds the £500 limit for the Chemistry fund.

However, if you apply to both funds to cover the *same costs* you will need to supply evidence of refusal of support from the University fund before payment can be made.

Application process

The application form can be downloaded from the School intranet site. Please complete and return to the CTO (chemistry.teaching@ed.ac.uk) along with copies/scans/photographs of supporting documents.