



2018 Scholarship Winners' Survey

81% said the award has made a big difference to their first year at university

Nearly half our students (47%) said the £250 award has made a 'very big difference' to their first year, and a further 34% said it made a 'fairly big difference'.

"Coming from a less financially able background, I had initially worried about how I was going to afford the amount of books I needed to buy; the Scholarship helped me so much and I don't know what I would have done without it. It enabled me to go beyond just the general reading and go further into the topics I am studying."

"It's made it easier for me to use the textbooks I need, as I would've had to borrow whenever I could from other people, and that's not very reliable."

"I was able to purchase medical books that I would otherwise not have afforded, which has served me well in assignments and exam preparations."

It is clear the Scholarships help students in non-financial ways as well

"I felt really honoured to have been granted the scholarship. My School teachers really believed I had put in so much effort into my studies, and persevered despite all the difficulties I was facing at the time."

"I actually felt a boost in confidence that I was good enough to be able to receive a Scholarship in general, as this was something I didn't expect!"

"It has definitely made me feel more confident about myself academically, as being considered for the scholarship alone made me realise that my hard work is paying off."

"It's given me some self-appreciation and confidence in knowing that my work ethic during A-levels and my contribution to the college was recognised and well thought of, which I appreciate immensely and am proud of."

£250 is about the right amount in terms of covering the cost of textbooks for the first year

A majority of students feel this, and while a small minority of 9% feel it is a bit too much, this is balanced by the 6% who feel it isn't quite enough (one student studying Chemistry, and another studying Theology and Religious Studies).

Individual textbooks costing over £50 are commonplace

Obviously the cost of textbooks varies by course, but a large number of students have required textbooks costing upwards of £50, with a peak of £100 for a Human Biology textbook - enough to buy nearly 20 copies of *The Da Vinci Code*.

The results are from our annual survey of Scholarship winners from the previous year i.e. students who started university in September 2017. The survey was completed in January 2018, at the start of students' second term. A total of 32 students completed the survey (out of 50 Scholarship winners), a healthy response rate of 64%.