



18 March 2016

## **Students cut back on textbooks due to financial pressures**

### **New research released by the Reading List Foundation**

Forty per cent of students currently in receipt of a Maintenance Grant have had to cut back on textbooks due to financial pressures, according to new research released today by the charity [The Reading List Foundation](#).

If you include other essential areas such as cutting back on heating, study time (due to taking on paid work), and travel home in term-time, and Society membership, 79% of students have had to make cut-backs.

The figures are contained in research from The Reading List Foundation, a new charity established to help undergraduates from lower-income households with the costs of textbooks.

The research, commissioned from YouthSight, the specialist youth research agency, also shows that the impact on students of the available student finance is not just financial. Nearly half of students who receive a Maintenance Grant (47%) say they worried a lot or a fair amount about finances in their first year – significantly more so than is apparent among students from higher-income households (37%).

Alan Terry, Founder of The Reading List Foundation, said “This new research highlights the hard choices many students are having to make while striving for their degree, pressures that may well increase when Maintenance Grants are withdrawn later this year. In comparison, many of us in earlier generations got a university education for free, often with significant grant support along the way.”

The Charity has calculated, with help from research from IPSOS-MORI, that the value of these ‘tuition-fee free’ degrees, enjoyed by earlier generations in England, is a huge **£110 billion** in today’s prices.

“We thought this contrast was glaring, but importantly we hope we can do something about it.” said Mr Terry.

The Reading List Foundation hopes to inspire people to help fund a younger student’s First Year textbooks, providing practical, financial and emotional help. We award Reading List Scholarships worth £250 for students from lower-income households, and are supported in the delivery of the awards by Blackwell’s.

-Ends-

### Technical note:

The YouthSight research was based on a survey of 763 undergraduates domiciled in England, carried out in January 2016.

Research was carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Reading List Foundation between the 8th and 14th January 2016. Interviews were carried out on Capibus, Ipsos MORI's in-home Face-to-Face Omnibus, which interviews a nationally representative sample of adults in Great Britain. For this research, questions were screened to 489 adults aged 18+ in England who are educated to degree level or above. Data have been weighted according to age, gender, social grade, region, working status, tenure and ethnicity to the known population profile for this group.

### Note to Editors

The Reading List Foundation is a Registered Charity, Number 1164690

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