

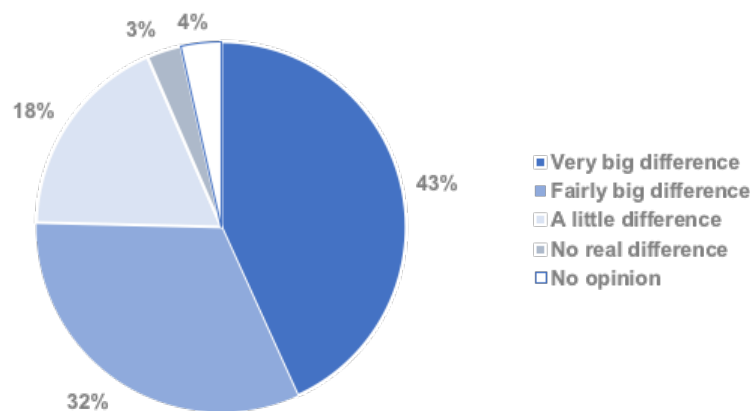


## 2018 Scholarship Winners' Survey

### The Scholarships have a real impact on students

Three-quarters of our students said the Scholarship made a 'big difference' to their first year of study, with the vast majority of the remainder saying it made a little difference. Furthermore, some of those who said it had made no difference explained the view by saying they were actually saving it to spend in their second year.

#### Impact on first year at university



*"The Scholarship has been very useful because it has allowed me to purchase all books required for my first year of university study with a lot less financial worry."*

*"Books are expensive, and it is great, as a student from a low-income background, not to have to worry about being able to afford the books needed on my course."*

*"It's notably reduced my worries in purchasing compulsory, and often expensive, texts."*

*"The books are really expensive here, and I would've possibly had to loan the books for short amounts of time rather than buy them if not for the scholarship - I now have full access to the books I want all the time from home."*

*"It has helped me afford books that I wouldn't normally be able to afford due to financial circumstances. It has really benefitted my education greatly."*

### The Scholarships have a wider impact as well

We have always believed that the Scholarships would benefit students in more ways than just academically, and this is borne out in the students' comments:

*"I felt very lucky and it gave me added confidence that I had chosen the right subject, as my teachers clearly thought me worthy of the scholarship."*

*"It made me more confident in myself and allowed me to push myself further in my first year."*

*“Receiving this scholarship was very encouraging for me and boosted my confidence in my studies, which I believe has made my first year more enjoyable and productive.”*

*“The scholarship feels like a great reward for the hard work I have put in to get where I am. I am very thankful for it.”*

*“When I received the award, it was an honour. It was not just a way of paying for books at university, but recognition for the hard work that was put in at A-level.”*

*“Winning the scholarship gave me more confidence in my own ability and motivated to work harder.”*

*“It is definitely positive and it felt good for hard work to be recognised.”*

*“I feel very grateful for the scholarship and is a great addition on my cv.”*

*“I felt very proud knowing that my teacher's put me forward for the award - I feel quite validated, still, that I'm doing well in my academic life.”*

*“It boosted my confidence that I had been chosen.”*

*“I felt more prepared to start the first year since I already passed one of the big obstacles. I also felt more relaxed, since money wouldn't be such a pressing concern.”*

*“I felt extremely privileged and grateful for receiving the award, and felt a sense of pride being able to say I had received this.”*

*“It made me feel quite cool.”*

## **The size of the award - £250 – would seem to be about right**

When we set-up the award, we chose £250 as various surveys showed it was around the average that students spent on textbooks a year. Obviously, some courses require students to spend more on textbooks than others, and our data shows that while some students spend their full £250 in their first term, others stretch it out across the three years of their course. However, on average, students do feel that the amount is about right.

If the aim is to cover the average amount students spend on textbooks in their first year.....

	Not quite enough	About right	A bit too much	Don't know
...do you think £250 is?	7%	82%	4%	7%

### **Note**

The results are from our annual survey of Scholarship winners from the previous year i.e. students who started university in September 2018. The survey was completed in January 2019, at the start of students' second term. A total of 28 students completed the survey (out of 68 Scholarship winners), a healthy response rate of 41%. Although the sample size is small, the figures are very much in line with the previous year's survey, which included a further 32 students.

The Reading List Foundation, August 2019