



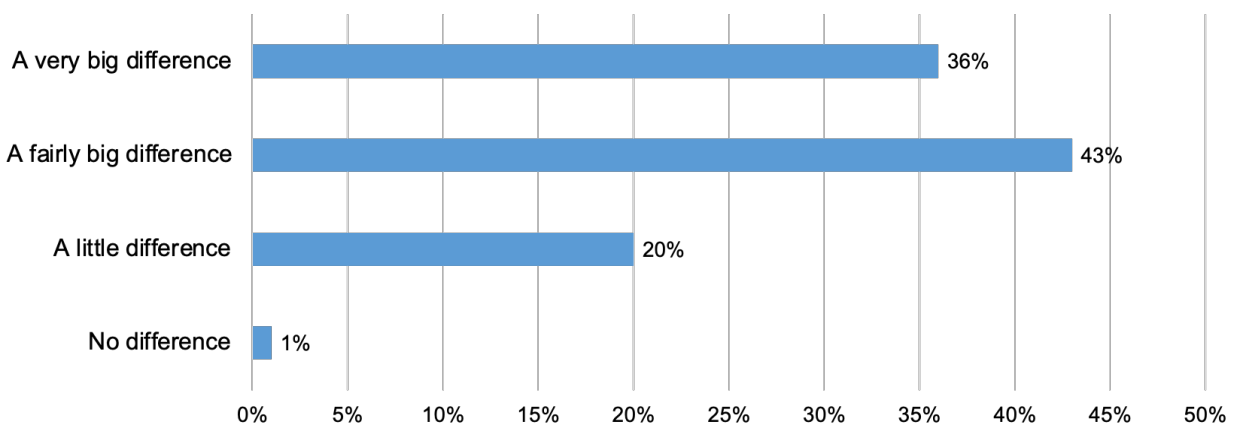
2024 Impact Report

We're delighted to present the findings of our latest survey of Scholarship winners, which again demonstrates the impact the awards have on some exceptional young people. We see again the benefits the Scholarships extend to students, both financial and, just as importantly, non-financial. They are seen to represent a small but significant help to students in the midst of some significant financial pressures. We also see the impressive breadth of both the subjects our students are studying, and the destinations they are studying them at – we are immensely proud to support such an array of Higher Education journeys.

Our Scholarships have impact

An overwhelming majority of Scholarship winners – 79% - say the award has made 'a big difference' to their first year of university. While this is marginally down on previous years (e.g. 87% in 2022), this may reflect the impact of recent inflation, which has reduced the Scholarship's value in real terms. We have, for this reason, increased the value of the Scholarship to £275 for our 2024 students.

Overall, how much of a difference, if any, did the Reading List Foundation scholarship make to your first year of university?

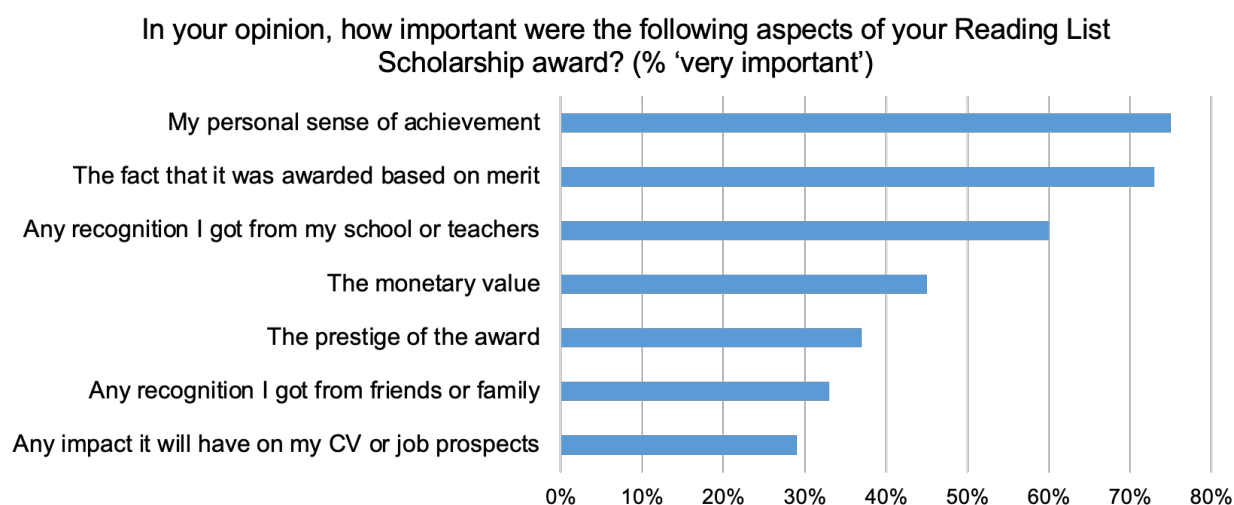


Base: all Scholarship winners having used their award (77)

Students value the award in many ways

The Scholarship awards are in the form of a £250 Blackwell's e-voucher, intended to cover the cost of a student's textbooks in their first year of university (and often second and even third years as well). The awards are intended to help the student financially, but also provide benefits in terms of recognition, reward and a boost to a student's confidence.

It is encouraging that students consistently tell us that the awards mean more than just the £250; in fact, the monetary value is some way down the list in terms of importance.



Base: all Scholarship winners (93)

The students tell us of the pride – and often surprise – they felt on being told they had won the award, and, importantly, the recognition from their teachers that the Scholarship represents.

“I felt incredibly proud to have been chosen for such an award. Being nominated by my Tutor and going on to win the award made me feel seen and valued for the effort I’d put into my studies and wider community life. It gave me an extra push to maintain that effort and drive throughout my exams.”

“I was overjoyed, I remember our end of year assembly has slides of each award and when this slide came up, I was thinking ‘please be me, please be me’ and my friends around me were whispering ‘it has to be you’, and when it was, I was just a bit in shock and thought this could do so much for me.”

“I was genuinely so relieved to know that I had the help and support of the Scholarship. The Scholarship gave me a ‘safety net’ of sorts, something that I’ve never really had.”

“I’d been through a tough year in my personal life outside of Sixth Form with my dad being terminally ill. This of course made Sixth Form that bit more difficult for me, but receiving the Scholarship made me feel like I hadn’t let myself down by struggling through the year, and that the key really is just to do your best.”

“I felt seen. I always felt invisible in Sixth Form, and getting that recognition from the staff and being able to share that achievement with my friends and family was a true gift.”

The awards support Widening Participation goals

Just over half of the students – 55% - are the first in their immediate family to go to university, and our Scholarship winners have progressed on to study an impressive range of subjects at an impressive range of universities:

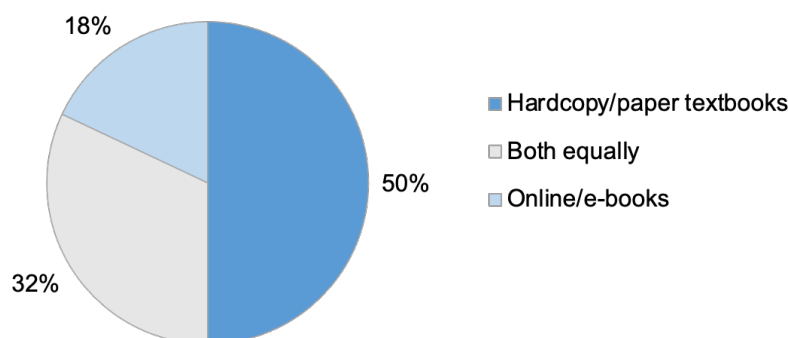


Students still prefer ‘traditional’ textbooks over e-books

The Scholarship awards are in the form of a Blackwell’s voucher, redeemable in their bookshops or online; they can be used for purchasing hardback books or e-books. Our students still value physical textbooks, with their appeal heavily outweighing that of their

digital counterparts. The balance though has shifted marginally, with the 18% who prefer online/e-books increasing from 11% a year ago.

These days many textbooks are also provided either online or in the form of digital e-books. When thinking about academic study and revision, which form do you prefer to use, if available (please ignore any cost implications)?

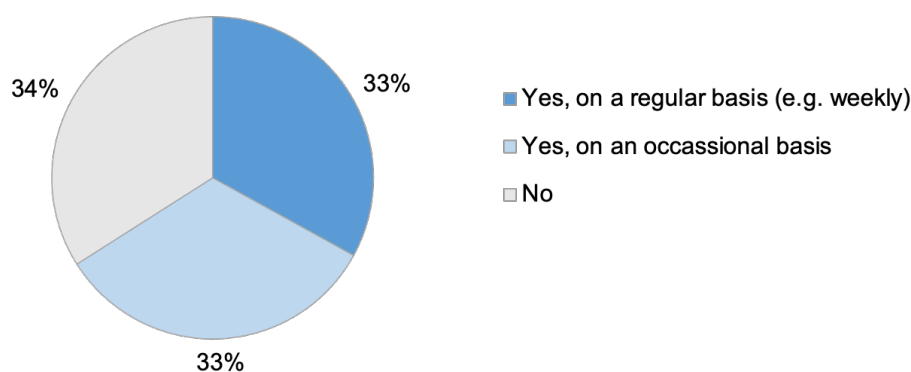


Base: all Scholarship winners (91)

A majority of students now do paid work in term-time

A 2023 Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) report showed that 55% of all students were in paid employment in term-time, an increase of 10% in a year¹. While this clearly offers advantages to students in terms of gaining valuable work experience, it is also time taken away from studying, building social capital through activities, or simply relaxing and replenishing mental health reserves. Our survey shows as many as 66% of Scholarship winners have taken on term-time paid work since starting university, a clear reflection of the financial pressures they face once there.

Can you tell us whether or not you have taken up part-time work during term-time to help your finances?



Base: all Scholarship winners (86)

The Reading List Foundation;
May 2024

¹ <https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2023/06/22/student-academic-experience-survey-2023/>

Note

The results are from our annual survey of Scholarship winners from the previous year i.e. students who started university in September 2023. The online survey was completed between March 20 and April 16 2024. A total of 93 students completed the survey (out of 252 Scholarship winners), a reasonably healthy response rate of 37%.

Demographic profile of Scholarship winners

| Gender | | Ethnic Background | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Female | 60% | White | 63% |
| Male | 38% | Asian/Asian British | 16% |
| Other | 1% | Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 9% |
| Not specified | 1% | Mixed ethnic groups | 5% |
| | | Other ethnic group | 7% |
| Source: School submissions (369) | | | |
| | | | |
| Sexual orientation | | Health conditions | |
| Straight or Heterosexual | 68% | None | 75% |
| Gay or Lesbian | 4% | Physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more | 25% |
| Bisexual | 16% | | |
| Asexual | 1% | | |
| Prefer not to say | 11% | | |
| Source: Survey responses (85) | | | |