



**London
South Bank
University**

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LSBU COVID-19 Student Hardship Fund

**New fundraising appeal
May 2020**

London South Bank University has always made provisions for students in financial hardship. Now our students are additionally dealing with the social, economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of them were already facing considerable financial hardship which has been further exacerbated by the crisis. As applications for hardship grants skyrocketed, LSBU doubled the funds available. But demand still outstrips supply. We need to raise more funds to continue to protect our most vulnerable students at this unprecedented time.

This is just a snapshot of what some LSBU students are facing right now:

- Struggling to keep up with studies remotely with only basic IT equipment and no access to libraries
- Borrowing money from family members who may themselves have lost work
- Being relied upon within the family home to contribute to rent and bills
- Balancing the need to take on temporary key work to cover their bills, against the risks of exposing vulnerable family members to the virus
- Uncertainty over whether they will be able seek part-time work or temporary employment during holidays or after graduating
- Cancellation of graduate scheme interviews and real worries about long-term prospects.

Students in our School of Health and Social Care have been hit particularly hard. With over 500 final year nursing students on clinical placements in hospitals across the UK and many other Health and Social Care students already working in keyworker roles alongside their studies and some are now working longer hours to support the NHS response. Our students make up some of the NHS frontline staff, exposing themselves to the virus through pandemic, even if they have families at home.

Josephine, studying adult nursing says:

"A lot of students are struggling especially those with children. It is hard to balance childcare, work and studying. Extra funds can help to take the pressure away".



The LSBU COVID-19 Student Hardship Fund has already supported over 600 students through some of the toughest circumstances. With your support, we will distribute grants to those who need it most, helping them to make ends meet and remove financial stress so they can focus on their studies.

Many LSBU students are already overcoming barriers to achieve their educational goals. Almost two thirds of students are defined as coming from deprived neighbourhoods. Half have parents who did not attend university. 98% are state school educated and 11% consider themselves disabled. Three-quarters are mature students aged 21 and over. A significant number of LSBU students juggle parenthood, part-time work and caring commitments with their studies.

Your gifts will support students from across all disciplines. The average COVID-19 Hardship Fund grant is £305, which is a lifeline for unexpected and urgent needs. Students have used the funds:

- To cover increased travel costs to reach placements
- To purchase second-hand IT equipment and software when unexpectedly working at home
- To buy food for themselves and their families
- To cover expensive London rent and bills.

Donations will be put to immediate use, supporting students in unexpected and urgent financial need.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to continue supporting LSBU, the institution that kick-started my career. The COVID-19 pandemic is causing such severe impact on so many students and supporting the LSBU Hardship Fund allows me to give back".

Stuart A. Johnson, donor and alumnus

At LSBU, we know money isn't everything. We have also increased non-financial support for all students at this stressful time. This includes additional mental health and wellbeing support, bespoke LSBU mindfulness sessions, online training, remote fitness and remote employability support. But some students just need a bit more money. We know it works. Students who accessed additional funding from LSBU in 18/19 and 19/20 have a progression rate of 8-9% above the average.

Please help us to support more students that need it, to help them to progress at LSBU and beyond, at this unprecedented time.

Thank you.

For more details please contact Andrea Boothman on a.boothman@lsbu.ac.uk



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