



FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICER

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Dear Undergraduate Fresher

Balliol's Financial Aid

I am writing to introduce myself to you as Chairman of the College's Student Finance Committee. I look forward to meeting you in person in the autumn, but in the meantime, before you leave home and your family, I thought I would write and emphasise what I hope you have picked up already from some of the pre-admission information that you will have seen; namely that there is financial aid within the College to enhance whatever aid is given by the Government, or sometimes to catch those in need who just miss Government or other guidelines for assistance.

The College is pro-active in helping our students to have adequate financial maintenance in order to free them to pursue their academic goals without distraction. You will be receiving a lot more information on the financial front when you arrive in Balliol. All of this information may start to sound bewildering at first sight. Don't worry about it. If you need to talk about money or financial aid, just come and see me and I will do my best to be of assistance to you. I am happy for you to email me in advance if you have any concern about these matters.

I would also like to encourage you to look at what is available in Balliol regarding Financial Aid as found in our online financial aid booklet, Money Matters: see http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Money_Matters.pdf. Do have a look at this before arriving in College this autumn. Without wishing to confuse you with too much information, I would also refer you to the University Student Funding Office website at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/ugcurrent/>

In the meantime, I would like to inform you about the Access Bursaries that Balliol is able to offer to students who expect to commence undergraduate courses at the College in October 2011. You can apply for financial assistance at any point in the academic year when you are here, but I thought I would try and catch anyone who is particularly anxious in advance. The Access Bursaries will be allocated solely on the basis of financial need and will not be related to current or future academic performance, provided that you continue with your course at Balliol.

1. BALLIOL OVERSEAS ACCESS BURSARIES

These bursaries are limited to NON-United Kingdom and NON-European Union students. We expect that in most cases we shall make individual awards worth £1,000 per annum, but we reserve the right to make larger or smaller awards depending on levels of need. Depending on the income from one or two gifts made to the College to be used for financial aid, there is a possibility that we will be able to offer a small number of grants designed as a remission from the College fee (valued at around £5,900 per annum).

2. BALLIOL ACCESS BURSARIES FOR HOME/EU STUDENTS

I estimate, based on figures for the last few years, that about 20% of our new freshers will have been assessed by their Funding Agency as needing financial assistance, not counting those in need from overseas or whose circumstances do not quite match the Funding Agency targets. We cannot gather this information accurately from the Funding Agencies until Michaelmas Term has actually started.

I would certainly encourage any fresher whose family income is modest enough to qualify for full or substantial Government support to apply for a BAB, and also any fresher, regardless of household income, who feels he or she has a legitimate case of financial need. You may be someone who just misses substantial Government maintenance support because your family income is marginally above the threshold they set for these benefits. This is not untypical and it is more difficult for us to means-test, but we are interested all the same in your need.

I would also encourage you to ensure you have taken the necessary steps to be assessed for an Oxford Opportunity Bursary if you meet the criteria: for further information see www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/prospectiveugrad/university/oob/.

Please also be aware that you may contact your regional funding body for reassessment at anytime during the year if your household income changes drastically (i.e. by more than about 15%).

Applying for an Access Bursary

If you have not yet applied for an Access Bursary and wish to do so, please apply by 9 September 2011. Application forms for both Overseas and Home/EU freshers are available on the Freshers E-guide at <http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/current-members/freshers-e-guide> or may be obtained by emailing my Secretary, Mrs Catherine Willbery at catherine.willbery@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

I must apologise if you find any of the questions intrusive; the more information you provide, the more able we will be to assess your application. If you have difficulties answering any of the questions, please contact us or attach a letter to your form explaining the problem. All of the information you provide will of course be treated in complete confidence and will not be held on any electronic database or made available to anybody outside of the College.

I very much hope that you will consider applying for an Access Bursary. If you have any queries about your eligibility for the scheme, or about the information which you need to provide, please contact my Secretary, Mrs Willbery.

I look forward to meeting you in October.

Yours sincerely



Douglas Dupree