

## Arc Guide To Hardship Funding

### What Is Available From The University Or Student Union

Every student is expected to come to the University financially prepared, with a clear idea on how the tuition fees will be paid and how living costs will be funded. We know however that sometimes even the best plans and arrangements fall through.

In order to stop students from abandoning their course or performing poorly due to severe financial crisis, the University and Student Union offer certain types of short-term financial assistance. There are several ways that we can help but there are few main principles for all types of assistance:

- Financial help is of a short-term, temporary nature; it is not designed to offer long-term regular income replacement or where there is no realistic prospect of improvement or financial stability
- Financial crisis should be unexpected- not something that could be foreseen or anticipated
- Evidence is crucial; we understand that it might be difficult to open up about financial situation especially when you are vulnerable and experiencing problems but it is our obligation to make awards in the fairest possible way and distribute public funds equitably.

#### WHAT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY?

##### Emergency Loan

*Repayable* Loan of max £200 (increments of £50). Available to students whose funding from Student Loan Company is delayed and they have not received their first loan instalment yet. Payable by BACS or cheque. Average processing time: 2-3 working days. Full information available from [Student Centre](#)

##### University Hardship Fund

*Non-repayable* grant of max £2,500. Available to ALL students who are experiencing acute unexpected financial difficulty. Students will be required to demonstrate how they have planned to cover the costs of studies. There is an online task to complete for Home students and a paper form for Postgraduate, International and EU students. Payable mainly by BACS but can be cheque or third-party payments. Average processing times: 3-4 weeks from the date all evidence is submitted. Contact [Student Centre](#) for detailed information and to request an application. [Advice](#) on application process and help with compiling evidence can also be obtained from the ARC.

## WHAT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE STUDENT UNION?

### Union Emergency Loan

*Repayable* short-term loan of max £20. Most suitable for circumstances like stolen or lost wallet etc. Students will need to hand-over their student ID card or some other form of ID as collateral. Average processing times: max 24 hrs. Payable in cash.

### Union Hardship Grant

*Non-repayable* grant of max £500, available to all students experiencing acute and unexpected financial crisis. Offered only after a discussion and initial assessment by the ARC Adviser. High level of evidence will be required. Average processing times: 5 working days, from the day all requested evidence has been provided. Preferred method of payments is directly to the third party on your behalf (for example landlord or child-minder) but also payable in cash if third-party payment is not appropriate.

### Locos Hot Food vouchers & Hillingdon Foodbank vouchers

If you are in extreme financial difficulty and you provide bank statements for all of your accounts which show that you have no funds available, we can offer you a Locos hot food vouchers or Hillingdon Foodbank voucher to ensure you have food for 3-5 days whilst your Hardship Fund/Welfare Loan application is being assessed.

## THE ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION CENTRE

Union of Brunel Students  
Hamilton Centre, Kingston Lane  
Uxbridge, Middlesex  
UB8 3PH

**Call:** 01895 269 169  
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