



ROBERT GORDON'S
COLLEGE

Bursaries
For S1 Entry
Help with Fees



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What is a Bursary?

Remaining true to the philanthropic ethos of our founder, Robert Gordon, the College is proud to offer a Bursary programme.

The Bursary Programme awards fee support to academically able pupils who would not otherwise be able to attend the College due to financial constraints.

Awards up to full fee discount are available. These are awarded based on both financial need and academic ability.

In 2023/24 £1.8 million of fee support overall was available through the Senior School Bursary programme.



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Do you qualify for the Programme?

Bursaries are only available for pupils entering Secondary 1. The College does not currently offer Bursaries beyond this year group.

They are awarded via a ranking system equally ranking academic ability (as tested in the S1 Entrance Assessment Activities) and financial need.

Bursaries are means-tested based on gross household income per capita. Whilst we encourage all families to apply for fee assisted places we suggest a total household income of £80,000 or less is more likely to receive an award.



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Timeline - Key dates for your Diary

Onsite Open Day 14/09/24	Bursary deadline 12/12/24, at noon	S1 Entrance Assessment Activities 25/01/25	Offer of Places 28/02/25	Reply Deadline 07/03/25, at noon
14/09/24 Applications open	07/01/25 Fee paying application deadline	Jan/Feb 25 Bursary Interviews	04/03/25 and 05/03/25 Post offer Tours	



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Means Testing

Means testing is conducted via a Financial Questionnaire, called the Statement of Financial Circumstances. The questionnaire assists in identifying fee affordability and assesses whether the Family may be applicable for either a full or partial Bursary. We can also make a full fee offer.

Once you start the Financial Questionnaire you will be able to save it and return to it on a later date should you need to. Note this has an expiration time of two weeks.

It is estimated that it will take approximately one hour to complete, should you have all of your supporting documents to hand.

All answers must be provided completely and accurately. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the application.

All applicants are required to fill out the S1 Application form, however ONLY those families applying for a Bursary are required to complete the Financial Questionnaire.

Any questionnaires that are incomplete by allocated deadline will result in a withdrawn application. Families will be asked if they wish to continue on a full fee paying application basis.



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Supporting Documents Required

For the Financial Questionnaire

- P60 or March 2024 pay slip and latest three pay slips
- P11D statement of benefits in kind (if applicable)
- Benefit Statement(s) including universal or tax credit, DLA, PIP and/or long term sick leave allowance
- Divorce or Separation Agreement (if applicable)
- Latest statements for all household bank accounts
- Mortgage Statement (if applicable)
- Rental Agreement (if applicable)
- Property valuation (if applicable)
- Investment/savings portfolio valuation (if applicable)
- Contents insurance (if applicable)
- Motor Vehicle description and value (if applicable)

If you or Parent/Guardian 2 of the child are business owners please have the following available:

- HMRC Self Assessment for previous tax year
- Latest company accounts filed with Companies House inclusive of a detailed profit and loss account



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S1 Entrance Assessment Activities

For the 2025-2026 Session, the S1 Entrance Assessment Activities will take place on Saturday 25th January.

During the activities the children will be placed in small groups where they will first complete an ice breaker followed by written Maths and English activities.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How many Bursaries are available?

There are a number of Bursaries available each year. However, please be aware that every year we receive five to six times as many applications as there are awards available

What is the duration of a Bursary Award?

The Bursary provides six years of financial assistance.

Can I apply for a Bursary Award and a fee paying place?

Yes, in the Statement of Financial Circumstances you can inform us if you would like for your child to be considered for a fee paying place if they are not awarded a Bursary. Indicating that you would like your child to be considered for a fee paying place will not disadvantage the Bursary application.

Where does the support for bursaries come from?

The College Bursary programme is supported by income from investments, much of which has been donated by generous benefactors, trusts and funds committed to the cause of education.

I have other children. Can I apply for help for them to attend the College?

Yes, the College are happy to support more than one child from the same family, including twins and triplets. Please note however that if help with fees is offered for one child, it does not guarantee further support will be given to siblings.



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Frequently Asked Questions

I am not sure if I can afford things like uniform, books and trips. Is there help available?

A small number of Bursary Awards include support for ancillary costs in the form of an annual 'Monetary Allowance'. However, Bursary awards do vary and not every award includes this additional financial support. As such, families should still budget for the cost of uniform, stationery, books, trips, iPad and other ancillary costs estimated to be £2,500 - £3,000 annually. A limited amount of support, on the basis of need, may be available from the College if requested. If an Award is to be made this will be discussed in a meeting with the Chief Financial Officer and the Deputy Head of S1-S2.

Do I need to re-pay the financial help at a later date?

No, a Bursary Award is like a gift rather than a loan. No amount is repayable.

If I am awarded a Bursary, do I have to pay any fees to the College, and how do I do this?

If you are awarded a full-fee award, no tuition fees will be due to the College. If you are awarded a partial or reduced fee Bursary, you will be required to pay part of the annual tuition fee to the College. The amount due will be invoiced to you and you will have the option of paying termly or by direct debit in 10 equal installments.

Is there a risk the support will be withdrawn?

Once awarded, the financial assistance would only change if your household financial position changed to the extent that you no longer needed support, or, if the Governors are not happy with the pupil's progress, conduct or attendance at the College.



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Be all you can be.

Who to Contact? For Further Information

Paula Park,
Admissions Manager,
Robert Gordon's College
Email: admissions@rgc.aberdeen.sch.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1224 646346

Andrew Lowden
Chief Financial Officer
Robert Gordon's College
Email: a.lowden@rgc.aberdeen.sch.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1224 646346