



ROBERT GORDON'S
COLLEGE

Bursaries For S1 Entry

Help with Fees

What is a Bursary?

- **Remaining true to the philanthropic ethos of our founder, Robert Gordon, the College is proud to offer fee-assisted opportunities to S1 applicants.**
- **The S1 Bursary Awards provide 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, and are awarded on the basis of both financial need and academic ability.**
- **In 2024/25, £1.8 million of fee support overall was available through the Senior School bursary awards.**

Do you qualify for a S1 Bursary?

- **Bursaries are available only for pupils entering Secondary 1 and are not offered beyond this year group.**
- **Awards are made via a ranking system that considers both academic ability (assessed in the S1 Entrance Assessment Activities) and financial need.**
- **Bursaries are means-tested on gross household income per capita. While all families are encouraged to apply for fee assistance, households with a total income of £80,000 or less are more likely to receive an award. Higher income families may also be considered, though usually for partial rather than full fee remission.**

Timeline - important diary dates

Open Day 13/09/25	Bursary Application deadline 11/12/25, at noon	S1 Entrance Assessment Activities 31/01/26	Offer of Places 27/02/26	Reply Deadline 06/03/26, at noon
13/09/25 Applications open	15/01/26 Fee paying application deadline	February 2026 Bursary Interviews	03/03/26 and 04/03/26 Post offer Tours	

What is Means Testing?

- **Means testing is conducted via a Financial Questionnaire, known as the Statement of Financial Circumstances. This assess fee affordability and determines whether a family may be eligible for a full or partial bursary, based on financial need. If a bursary application is unsuccessful, a full fee-paying offer may be made if the family indicated this preference on the form.**
- **Once started, the questionnaire can be saved and resumed later, but will expire after two weeks. Completion typically takes around one hour, provided that all supporting documents are readily available.**
- **All answers must be provided fully and accurately; failure to do so may result in the rejection of the application. All applicants must complete the S1 Application Form; however, only families applying for a bursary are required to submit the Statement of Financial Circumstances.**
- **Questionnaires not completed by the deadline will result in withdrawal of the bursary application. Families will then be asked whether they wish to proceed on a full fee-paying basis.**



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Supporting Documents Required

For the Financial Questionnaire

- P60 or March 2025 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

S1 Entrance Assessment Activities

- For the 2026-2027 academic session, the S1 Entrance Assessment Activities will take place on Saturday 31st January 2026.
- During the activities, children will be placed in small groups. They will begin with an icebreaker, followed by short writing task, before completing activities in Mathematics, English, Verbal Reasoning and Non-verbal Reasoning. With the exception of the writing task, all activities will be completed on a PC.

Frequently Asked Questions (1/2)

How many bursaries are available?

A number of bursaries are available each year; however, please note that we typically receive around ten times more applications than there are awards to offer.

What is the duration of a bursary award?

The bursary provides financial assistance from S1 to S6; however, please note that eligibility and the level of support are reviewed annually with families in receipt of a bursary. A bursary award is a gift and not a loan, and no part of it is repayable. However, if a family's financial circumstances improve significantly, this may result in a reduction of the initially allocated bursary.

Can I apply for a bursary award and a fee-paying place?

Yes. In the Statement of Financial Circumstances, you may indicate if you would like your child to be considered for a fee-paying place in the event that a bursary is not awarded. Making this indication will not disadvantage your child's bursary application.

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

Yes, the College is happy to consider bursary support for more than one child from the same family, including twins and triplets. Please note, however, that if assistance is offered for one child, it does not guarantee that further support will be provided to siblings.

Frequently Asked Questions (2/2)

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 through an annual 'Monetary Allowance'. However, bursary awards vary, and not every award includes this additional financial support. Families should therefore still budget for the cost of uniform, stationery, books, trips, iPad, and other ancillary costs, which are estimated at around £2,000 per year.

A limited amount of additional support may be available, based on financial need, if requested. If such support is to be offered, this will be discussed at a meeting with the Chief Finance and People Officer and the Head of Senior School.

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 bursary, no tuition fees will be payable. If you receive a partial or reduced-fee bursary, you will be required to pay the remaining portion of the annual tuition fee. Please note that VAT is applied to partial bursaries where applicable. The amount due will be invoiced, and you may choose to pay either termly or by direct debit in ten equal instalments.

Where does the support for bursaries come from?

As a registered charity, the College's bursary programme is funded through income from investments, much of which has been generously donated by benefactors, trusts, and funds committed to supporting education.



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Be all you can be.

Who to Contact?

For further information

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