

Evaluating the impact of higher education funding aimed to address student hardship

Introduction

Why we are running this survey now

You are invited to participate in the research project identified above, which aims to evaluate the impact of hardship funding provided by the University to students since September 2020. The research is being conducted by researchers from Sheffield Hallam University who are based in Student Engagement, Evaluation and Research (STEER).

Thank you in anticipation for your contribution to this important piece of work. For more information about student funding please contact l.austen@shu.ac.uk who is delivering the survey on behalf of the STEER and the Head of Student Funding.

Follow-up activities

At the end of the survey you will be asked if you would be willing to be involved in follow-up activities (for example, interviews and focus groups) to explore your experiences in more depth and to consider emerging themes from the survey data. If you state that you would be willing to participate, your student email address will be used as the point of contact. Participation is entirely voluntary.

Data security and anonymity

Sheffield Hallam takes responsibility for the lawful, fair and transparent use of the data you submit through this survey. All data collected will be in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please refer to [Sheffield Hallam's Privacy Notice for Research Participants](#) for information about: how and why the University uses your personal data for research; what your rights are under GDPR, and; how to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the use of your personal data.

All data collected through this survey will be stored by Sheffield Hallam. It will only be viewed and accessed by researchers within STEER. At no point will the information you

provide be shared in a way that would allow you to be personally identified. Illustrative quotations may be used for reporting purposes but the findings will be reported collectively and anonymously. Anonymised findings will be shared with those working at senior and operational levels in order to inform improvements and enhance services.

Please only answer the questions that you feel comfortable responding to. By ticking the box at the bottom of this page, you are providing consent to be involved in this piece of research. You have the opportunity to remove any data after the point of submission, but you must do this within 2 weeks of taking part. If you decide that you want to withdraw after the point of submission, or if you have any questions about this survey that have not been answered by this information page, please email L.austen@shu.ac.uk.

You should contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO@shu.ac.uk) if: you have a query about how your data is used by the University; you would like to report a data security breach (e.g. if you think your personal data has been lost or disclosed inappropriately); or you would like to complain about how the University has used your personal data

You should contact the Head of Research Ethics (Professor Ann Macaskill, a.macaskill@shu.ac.uk) if you have concerns with how the research was undertaken or how you were treated.

Postal address: Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield S1 1WBT
Telephone: 0114 225 5555

Proceed to the survey

Please tick the box below to confirm that you consent to the data being used in the way described:

I have read the information and I am happy for my answers to be used as detailed above

Your financial situation

From which **personal** sources did you fund your participation in higher education this academic year (September 2020 to April 2021)?

- money from family or friends that you don't have to repay
- money from family or friends that you do have to repay
- personal savings
- earnings from work during term time
- earnings from work during holidays
- personal trust fund or income from an investment
- from borrowings e.g. loans/overdraft
- Other (please specify)

If you selected Other, please specify:

From what **other** sources did you fund your participation in higher education this academic year (September 2020 to April 2021)?

- government financial support (maintenance grants; maintenance fees; childcare grants; Disabled Students Allowance etc)
- government maintenance loan (from Student Finance England)
- government tuition fee loan (from Student Finance England)
- NHS training grant
- A hardship grant from the University
- Another bursary or scholarship from the University (e.g. the Student Success Scholarship)
- grants or scholarships from your employer, other organisation (e.g. home government), or local authority (e.g. care leavers grant)

Did you undertake any paid work (including work that was related to your course in some way) during this academic year (September 2020 to April 2021)? * *Required*

Yes

No

Your financial situation

Was this paid work:

- Term time
- Non term time
- Both (term time and non term time)

How much time (on average) did you spend during this academic year (September 2020 to April 2021) on paid work (in term time only)?

- 1 - 4 hours per week
- 5 - 8 hours per week
- 9 - 15 hours per week
- 16 hours or more per week

Did you work throughout the vacation periods? (e.g. Christmas, Easter)

- Yes
- No

What were your reasons for undertaking paid work?: (Please select all that apply)

- to help pay the costs of books, study materials etc
- to pay for devices and IT equipment (e.g. laptop)
- to pay for essential living costs (food, rent, household bills etc)
- to have a more comfortable life while studying

- to save for a specific purpose (e.g. a holiday or a car)
- to support family (e.g. your children)
- to gain employment experience in your field of study
- to avoid student debt (if you have any debt)
- to enable you to do other things outside of university life (e.g. lifestyle, entertainment, hobbies etc)
- health-related costs
- Other (please specify)

If you selected Other, please specify:

How important do you think the income from paid work has been for your **financial capacity to continue** with your studies? Please indicate on a scale of 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Very important):

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

Please select at least 1 answer(s).

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very important

About your Hardship Fund Support

How important do you think the Hardship Fund has been for your ability **to financially continue** with your studies? Please indicate on a scale of 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Very important):

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very important

Which of the following activities would you most likely have had to **avoid or do less of** if you didn't receive the Hardship Fund from the university? (please tick all those that apply) *Optional*

- pay for books, study materials etc
- pay for devices and IT equipment (e.g. laptop)
- pay for essential living costs (food, rent, household bills etc)
- enjoy a more comfortable life while studying
- save for a specific purpose (e.g. a holiday or a car)
- support family (e.g. your children)
- gain employment experience in your field of study
- avoid student debt (if you have any debt)
- do other 'treat' things outside of university life (e.g. lifestyle, entertainment, hobbies etc)
- Other (please specify)

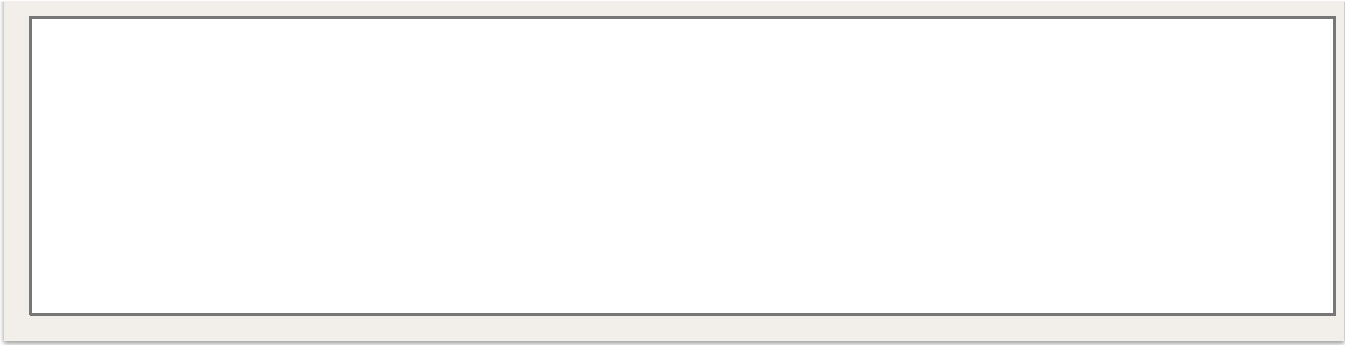
If you selected Other, please specify:

Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements: **Receiving the Hardship Fund helps me to....**

[+ More info](#)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
afford to participate along with my fellow students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
be able to concentrate on my studies without worrying about finances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
be able to balance commitments such as work, study and family relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
feel part of the university community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
feel less anxious than I would have felt otherwise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
be included on social and study events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
feel more satisfied with my life as a student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Has the Hardship Fund brought any additional benefits that have not already been mentioned? If so, please describe them below:



About your Hardship Fund Support

Were there any barriers that you encountered in the application process for the Hardship Fund? If so, please describe them below:

How did you hear about the Hardship Fund?

About your Hardship Fund Support

The university is also interested in exploring some of these issues in more detail (e.g. through interviews or focus groups). If you state that you would be willing to participate, your student email address will be used as the point of contact. Participation is completely voluntary. If you are interested in taking part, please tick the box:

I would be interested in taking part in follow-up research

Survey debrief

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

What if I have any questions that I would like to ask now?

Please contact l.austen@shu.ac.uk who is leading this research.

This study has raised personal issues that I am not comfortable discussing with the researcher now – what should I do?

We would like you to seek immediate support for these issues. If you feel you have been adversely affected by taking part in this survey, and would like to speak to a support service you are advised to seek help from:

Hallam Help: <https://www.shu.ac.uk/myhallam/help-and-support>

This is your first line of support as a student at Hallam. They may help directly or direct you to specific services or members of your course team.

Hallam Student Union:

https://www.hallamstudentsunion.com/advice_help/advicehelp/money/

This link provides further information about financial hardship.

I have concerns about this study, or the way in which it was conducted – who should I contact?

Please refer to [Sheffield Hallam's Privacy Notice for Research Participants](https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research) (www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research) for information about: how and why the University uses your personal data for research; what your rights are under GDPR, and; how to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the use of your personal data.
