

Short-Term Assistance Grant (STAG)

Introduction

If you are a current University of Hertfordshire student struggling to cover essential, day-to-day living expenses, then you may be eligible for the Short-Term Assistance Grant (STAG). STAG offers discretionary short-term financial assistance for both Overseas and Home students (including students with no recourse to public funds) struggling with the rising cost of living. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and if successful, applicants will receive a non-repayable financial award of £250.

This grant cannot assist with the cost of tuition fees. Any applications requesting assistance with the cost of tuition fees will be rejected.

Eligibility

To be considered for the fund you must be:

- studying at the University of Hertfordshire;
- studying in higher education (Level 4 or above) at Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College, West Hertfordshire College and Southgate College; or
- studying in higher education at other UK Partner Institutions not listed above.

Please note, the following **cannot** apply for STAG:

- Withdrawn, dormant or completed students
- Students on online degree pathways

Other Support

If you have faced unexpected financial hardship, you may also be eligible to apply to the University Financial - Assistance Fund (UFAF), or the Overseas Emergency Financial Aid (OEFA). All the information for these funds, as well as further information on financial assistance and managing your finances, is available on [Ask Herts](#).

Dates and Deadlines

STAG opening and closing dates are shown in the below table.

Terms	Opening date	Closing date
Autumn Term	Monday 20 th October 2025	Friday 12 th December 2025 by 4:00pm
Spring/Summer Term	Monday 12 th January 2026	Friday 15 th May 2026 by 4:00pm

Please note, STAG funds are limited. Once funds have been exhausted, STAG may be closed outside of the dates stated above, without advanced warning. Therefore, students are encouraged to apply early for STAG as funds will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

How to apply

If you meet the eligibility criteria listed above, you can apply for STAG by following the steps listed below.

Step 1 – Sign in or register with BlackBullion

To apply please register online via www.Blackbullion.com. Blackbullion is a financial well-being platform which can be used to learn and develop financial skills such as money management, budgeting and investing. Once you have registered using your University of Hertfordshire student email address, you will be able to apply for STAG, as well as other financial support, via the funding tab. Should you require any assistance with your application, the SFFS team offer one-to-one drop-in sessions. Further information can be found [here](#).

Step 2 – Course details

Please provide details of your course, including but not limited to:

- course title;
- level of study; and
- mode of study.

Step 3 – Current financial situation and difficulties

Please provide a statement outlining how you have been impacted by the rising cost of living, your current financial situation, what financial difficulties you are currently facing and **how you intend to use the awarded funds**.

Any student discovered copying personal statements from other STAG applications or using artificial intelligence (AI) will face automatic rejection of their application.

Please note, your current employment status will **not** be taken into consideration as part of your application.

Step 4 – Bank account details

Please provide details of **all** accounts held in your name, including but not limited to:

- Current accounts;
- Saving accounts;
- Trading accounts.

Blackbullion now supports an open banking connection which allows you to automatically pull in the bank statements you need to provide with your application. Whilst you still have the option to upload and annotate your bank statements manually, open banking allows you to submit your application quicker. Further information on Blackbullion and open banking can be found [here](#).

Step 5 – Personal details

Please provide your personal details, including but not limited to:

- name;
- date of birth;
- student I.D. number; and
- residential status.

Step 6 – Supporting documentation

Applicants are required to provide the most recent bank statement(s) for ALL accounts held in their name, covering a minimum period of one month.

- Submissions consisting of only one empty bank statement will be deemed unsuccessful.
- Bank statements must be dated within one month of the application date. Failure to provide up-to-date statements for **all** accounts will result in the application being deemed unsuccessful.

You may be asked for further evidence if signs of inappropriate expenditure such as gambling, crypto-currency trading, gaming, excessive fast food or taxis, are noticed.

Please note, if the evidence you have supplied is incomplete (i.e. not provided statements for all accounts in your name), you will be asked to upload further evidence within 5 working days. If you fail to upload your evidence within 5 working days, your application will be declined. If you require support with this, the SFFS team offer one-to-one drop-in sessions. More information can be found on [Ask Herts](#).

Step 7 – Review and Submit

Once the above steps have been completed, please review your application as you will be unable to make changes following submission.

If you have any questions, please contact the SFFS team at financial-support@herts.ac.uk.

Any student found to have purposefully provided incorrect information or knowingly withheld supporting evidence or documentation, will face automatic rejection of their application.

How you will be assessed

An assessment of the completed application and a decision will be made within **4 working weeks**.

This timescale may be longer during busy periods. Please note this timescale is for decisions on applications only and not for payment of an award.

Students with withdrawn, dormant or completed status at the time of their assessment will not be eligible for an award.

Receiving an award

If your STAG application is successful, you will be informed of the decision and how you will receive payment. All correspondence will be sent to your student email address.

Following confirmation of an award via the Blackbullion platform, the University's payment disbursement partner, **Aspire**, will contact the award recipient directly. Aspire will provide instructions for the secure submission and verification of bank account details, which must be completed in order for payment to be processed.

It is the responsibility of the award recipient to ensure that the bank account details provided to Aspire are accurate and up to date. Students that have been awarded are also expected to respond promptly to any communications from Aspire in order to avoid delays in payment.

Students are advised to check their email accounts regularly, including junk or spam folders, to ensure they do not miss important correspondence.

Please be advised that if your bank details are not provided by 1 June 2026, you will not receive payment, and your award will be withdrawn.

Appeals

The decision on your application for this grant are final. There is no right to appeal. However, if you are unhappy with the outcome of your application, please contact the team via the following email: financial-support@herts.ac.uk.

Other Awards

STAG can be held in conjunction with other University awards that you may be eligible for.

Note: These terms and conditions are valid for the 2025/26 academic year.