Online Q&A session – Financing your studies: 17th April 2013

Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Offer-holders, we are ready to answer your questions on finance from 3:30pm...

1. Sophie Jones: hello, can you tell me about the support the university offers students around finance?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hi Sophie, City offers students a whole host of services in relation to finance and student services generally. We have a Student Finance team who sit within Student Services, the team can provide you with advice about anything related to finance, including; fees, bursaries and scholarships, tuition fee loans and grants.

2. Susie Underhill: hello dominic, can you please tell me more about the scholarships you offer. I have received information about the scholarships that are awarded to students who achieve certain grades in their a-levels.
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hi Susie, the Lord Mayor Scholarship for Academic Excellence offers the opportunity for students who have completed 'A'levels and achieve the appropriate grades, to then gain a cash payment as a reward for academic excellence. The amount of this payment depends on which course you have applied for and what grades you achieve ‘A’ level. For example, if you achieved AAA and have applied to study BSc International Politics, you would receive £2,000 per academic year. This would be paid to you directly. If you achieve a 60% average/ 2:1 in your first and second year, you will continue to receive this money throughout your studies here. For further information, please see the link here:
http://www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-and-financial-support/bursaries-and-scholarships/the-lord-mayor-of-london-scholarships

3. Jacqueline: Hi Dominic, following up on your answer to Sopie's question. Would the same process apply to me as a Swedish citizen, i.e. can I also contact the Student Finance team for advice on financing related questions?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Jacqueline, we offer the same service to all of our students, irrespective of their nationality and domicile. Obviously, the level of funding available to you may at times different, but, we'd be able to advise you accordingly on this.

4. Sophie Jones: thanks Dominic, what support does city provide for students to plan their expenditure/budget?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Sophie, this is again something which the Finance Team within the Student Centre would be able to advise on. We offer workshops at different stages throughout the year on budgeting and there is a host of information on our website about how to plan your expenditure appropriately; including, expected costs of studying in London etc.
http://www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-and-financial-support/money-management

5. Susie Underhill: Thanks for the link. Why is it that certain courses give more money? Also, will this money be paid to the student?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Interesting question... The University has decided to offer the Scholarship as a recognition of the increased expense of going to University since 2012. Within different subjects and fields there are varying levels of interest in subjects, both locally and nationally. We feel that the scholarships we offer reflect this and as I said previously, that the scholarships are hopefully an appropriate award for student's achievements.
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hi Susie, also to answer both of your questions; the money is paid directly to the student. So, it is then up to the student to make sure the money is managed and spent appropriately!

6. Jacqueline: thanks Dominic, how do I get in contact with the Finance team. Are they open certain days/hours?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hi Jacqueline, the Finance Team can be contacted using the following email: fundsservice@city.ac.uk The team are open normal hours of the working week, but, it is probably easiest to email any specific queries, should you have any.
7. Somaya Adan: do many students from within London live in halls? I'd like to do it but the price is obviously a worry
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Somaya, students who live within the M25 and the London area are well represented within our student cohort. At the moment, it is only a small number of those students who choose to live in halls. As of this year, we have now extended a guarantee to all of our offer-holders (including those based within the M25) and so it is very plausible that more London based students will live in University halls. Obviously, there is a cost attached to this and that's a decision that you and your family have to make as to whether it’s something where you think the value of doing so, will outweigh the value of not doing so. I am not really here to encourage you either way, but, would encourage you to think about what you are after from your university experience and to make a decision on the basis of this.

8. Somaya Adan: thanks. I am just worried that with the fees so much more expensive, living in London and paying to do so will only add to my debt
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Somaya, it is undeniable that students from 2013 entry will graduate with increased debt. With the increased levels of expected debt, there are additional levels of funding which are available to you; both in terms of loans and grants. I would encourage you to look at the many different options that are available to you in both fields and make sure you are clear about what criteria you meet and what funding you are eligible for. The information on our website should hopefully help you with this and if you have any questions then please feel free to contact the team using the email address that I provided previously.

9. Somaya Adan: would you recommend getting a part-time job to fund my studies whilst at uni?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Somaya, another good question! I cannot remember the figure exactly, but, off the top of my head, I think around 40% of our students do some form of part-time work alongside their studies. We have a service called Unitemps which can help all students find work within the University and further afield. It is again up to the individual and their different ability to juggle different types of work and stress as to whether they get a job whilst studying. You need to make sure that you are available to study from 9-6, Monday to Friday and if you feel that you can achieve your absolute potential in your university study whilst also working 10-12 hours a week in your spare-time, then it may be good for you. Obviously, the sheer size of London means it is also a pretty good place to try and find work.

10. Giorgia Abatti: hello, how much will it cost to live in London in the second yr?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Dear Giorgia, this is difficult to say. It varies in accordance with where you want to live. Very loosely, the more central to London you live, the more expensive it will be. A large number of our students will look to move slightly further out than the first year accommodation, all of which is within 15 minutes walk of the university in zone 1. Students will typically go further north towards Holloway or east towards areas such as Hoxton. You would realistically be looking at spending anywhere above £100 a week for these type of places, but, again at depends on how many people you live with, what type of housing and where.

11. Matthew Abbey: hi, as a student from the US. will my fees be the same throughout my study?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hello Matt, hope the weather is a bit warmer in the US. If you are on overseas fee paying student, your tuition fees are liable to increase with inflation, but, should stay close to the amount you are due to pay in the first year. From quick research, it looks like you'd be an Economics app and this would be £12,000 per academic year.

12. Jenny: I will be studying for a postgraduate qualification in speech therapy, I understand I will receive an NHS bursary but will student finance be able to offer me some support. If not how do your postgraduate students usually fund their studies, i.e. do they usually take out a bank loan? If so what type of bank loans are preferable? Thanks!
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hi Jenny, PG funding (especially in relation to NHS courses) is slightly more complicated. Students will fund their studies in a variety of ways and this will be one of the curious things as universities move forward with increased UG fees as to whether students will still be able to
fund study on PG courses. It depends exactly what qualification you're doing, but, details of funding that are available for the PGDip in SLT are shown here:
http://www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-and-financial-support/nhs-finance-and-bursaries

* Dominic - Student Recruitment: If this isn't relevant, then obviously that's a slightly different question... In certain circumstances you can take out career loans to fund their subsistence through further study and this is something that a certain number of PG students would look at doing.

13. Matthew Abbey: thanks for the answer. is London as expensive as they say it is?
* Dominic - Student Recruitment: Hello again Matt, again - this is a difficult question to answer. It depends where you're coming from. I'd say having visited a number of different capital cities, especially in western Europe, that it's on a par (if not slightly cheaper) than most western European capitals. As a student there are a number of different discounts that you would receive from entertainment functions around the city and one of the lovely things about London is that there are a number of cultural things that you can do that are free. Such as; the National Gallery.

* Dominic - Student Recruitment: OK. Thanks for all your questions, for further information please see our finance pages here: http://www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/funding-and-financial-support All of the questions from the series of online Q&A's will be available at the MyOffer pages for the website and if any offer-holders have any specific questions that I can help with, please feel free to email me at dominic.davis.1@city.ac.uk