



The
Philosophy
Foundation
thinking changes

The Philosophy Foundation Creates Special Hardship Fund To Aid Struggling London Students

Educational charity extends helping hand to Philosophy undergraduates in danger of failing to make ends meet in one of the world's most expensive cities

London, January 12th, 2016 – The Philosophy Foundation (www.philosophy-foundation.org/) is delighted to announce the creation of a new emergency fund to try and help students who are at risk of becoming overloaded with debt.

This new dedicated financial resource – **The Philosophy Foundation Hardship Fund** – will disburse money to the Philosophy Departments of University College London (UCL), King's College London (KCL), the London School of Economics (LSE) and New College of the Humanities (NCH).

The decision has been taken in response to these Universities concerns about the rise in Philosophy BA or combined honours students coming to them reporting severe personal difficulties caused by financial worries, says the London-based social enterprise.

These include a rise in 370% rise in Philosophy student numbers seeking help from just one of the four colleges, King's, in the five years 2010-2015.

Data from the colleges also suggests very high numbers of those tackling the challenge of a Philosophy degree are already on means-tested full-fee bursaries, which usually means they lack any chance of emergency financial help from already stretched family incomes.

'I was desperate'

The good news is that many such students are highly motivated and end up with very high marks – but there is real danger some may need to withdraw from their degrees in the face of extreme short-term fiscal pressure, including, in some cases, literally having no money to buy any food at all.

“Financially disadvantaged students who have been awarded full tuition fee waivers can still struggle to manage the dramatically high cost of living in London. Financial need can compromise their ability to engage in their studies”, confirmed Dr Naomi Goulder, Head of Faculty & Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at New College of the Humanities.

The Philosophy Foundation is delighted to be able to provide at least part of the answer to these problems – with the Fund being something of a personal mission on the behalf of its CEO, Peter Worley, a one-time struggling London Philosophy student himself:

“While at college, I had a particularly difficult time between waiting for accounts to be activated and so on. I was desperate. I went to the existing Uni hardship fund and received something that really helped.”

‘Something I really appreciated’

The institutions have expressed sincere thanks for the additional chance to help students living in one of the world’s most expensive cities.

“We are truly grateful - I am in no doubt that the students will benefit greatly from your generosity. London is by no means an easy place to study!” said Rebecca Matthams, Manager of Philosophy Department at the LSE, while Professor Bill Brewer, Head of Dept of Philosophy at KCL added, “That’s wonderful news. It will certainly make a significant difference to a number of our students and we really appreciate your thought and generosity.”

Commenting on the decision on behalf of the charity’s board of Trustees, its Chair, Andrew Flynn, Consultant Psychiatrist in a London NHS Trust, added: “I am proud, as are all the Trustees, to be able to offer this support to students in need.

“It has always been one of our long-term aims, brought about sooner than expected through the hard-work and dedication of all of our team who’ve been building the charity to the shape it is in today.”

Another Foundation Trustee, Andy Russell, Senior Communications Officer at McDonald’s, said, “I know that when I received a similar amount through a hardship fund at Cambridge that it was an enormous help to me in my final year, and something I really appreciated.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

The initial amount of The Philosophy Foundation Hardship Fund is being kept confidential, but is expected to rise in the next few years.

The Fund is being split equally among the four recipient Departments, who are free to allocate the money as they see fit themselves.

For more information, please contact Emma Worley, COO, The Philosophy Foundation emma@philosophy-foundation.org 07930 310 543

ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, The Philosophy Foundation (www.philosophy-foundation.org/) now conducts philosophical enquiry in over 80 classes every week, aiming to reach approximately 6,000 children in 2016.

The Philosophy Foundation believes that reasoning skills developed through philosophical enquiry are an indispensable foundation of all aspects of learning, while Philosophy, like Maths, Music or Physical Education, is intrinsically worth doing and intrinsically engaging. The Philosophy Foundation's mission is to bring understanding, wisdom and *eudaimonia* to the heart of education for children and adults.

The body is the only charity in the world that specifically employs Philosophy graduates to do Philosophy with children, training Philosophy graduates to be able to do Philosophy in schools from nursery up to 18 using a specific methodology. It does so in the transferable skills of Philosophy: thinking skills, questioning and *enquiry*, defined by the Foundation as a collaborative exploration of topics through questioning.

We also produce resources for teachers to empower them to do Philosophy for children and enquiry across the curriculum.

Follow our progress and join in the debate at

www.philosophy-foundation.org

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