

Would you like a great GDST education for your daughter, but need help with the fees?



Bursaries and scholarships

If your daughter would benefit from a Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) education, but your family is not in a position to cover the full fees, you may be eligible for a bursary or scholarship.

As a charity, the GDST aims to be an access enabler: seeking out the brightest, most deserving girls for bursaries and scholarships so that the largest possible number of talented girls can benefit from an excellent GDST education.

In particular, we aim as far as we can to focus our support on girls for whom the chance of a GDST education would be a transformative, life-changing prospect.

Overall, nearly 20% of students at GDST senior schools receive a bursary or scholarship to help towards their fees. This amounted to nearly £14m last year.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between a bursary and a scholarship?

The key difference is that a bursary is means-tested and a scholarship isn't. We offer bursaries so that a GDST education is accessible to the best and the brightest girls, including those who are not in a position to pay full fees.

A bursary takes into account academic ability but its value is directly related to the income and financial resources of the pupil's family.

Scholarships are awarded purely on academic (or sporting, or artistic, or musical) merit, as measured in a competitive entrance exam, and take no account of family income or resources.

Who can apply for a bursary or scholarship?

GDST bursaries and scholarships are available to any student aged 11 and over at a GDST senior school. Most bursaries and scholarships are allocated on entry either to Year 7 or to the Sixth Form.

How much is a bursary or scholarship worth?

Bursaries range from 30% to 100% of fees; however, the amount of any bursary depends on local demand and the funding available. Sometimes awards of a lesser value may be offered. Pupils who get a full bursary may also get help to meet the cost of their uniforms, lunches and travel.

The values of scholarships vary, but are generally small and more about the honour of the award than the amount given. A scholarship may, however, be supplemented by a bursary.

Many of our bursaries and scholarships are funded via charitable partnerships and by donations and legacies from our former pupils, their parents and other friends. For instance, the HSBC Scholarship Programme supports girls joining our schools and Sixth Forms from state schools.

GDST bursaries: who is eligible?

To assess who is eligible for a bursary we consider a range of objective criteria including the income and capital resources of the families applying. It is anticipated that bursary awards will last for the duration of the student's time at school. We re-assess every year to take account of significant changes in family income and circumstances. A bursary may go up or down to reflect these. This ensures those most in need receive our support.

Most higher-value bursaries are awarded to pupils from families with a total income of less than £35,000 per year (or £40,000 for London schools) who have no capital assets other than their home. It is highly unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £85,000 (or £90,000 for London schools), other than in very exceptional circumstances.

Could a bursary or scholarship be withdrawn?

Very rarely, the school may withdraw a bursary or scholarship if, for example, you provide inaccurate information, or your child's behaviour or work is unsatisfactory.

Our schools try to assist as many families qualifying for bursaries as possible; however, given the demand, we are unfortunately not able to offer support to all those who meet the criteria.

How do you apply for a bursary?

1. Complete a school application form to register your daughter indicating that you would like to apply for financial assistance. You will be required to supply a valid email address.
2. The school will provide you with logon details to enable you to access the online 'Declaration of Income & Assets' form, which you should complete and submit before the closing date advised. You will need to provide proof of your income and assets, such as P60s, payslips, HMRC self-assessment forms, mortgage statements, council tax bills, or recent benefits paperwork. Original documents are required in the first year of application.

You should send the declaration and supporting documents well in advance of the school's entrance examination. Please send to:

GDST Bursary Department
100 Rochester Row
London SW1P 1JP

and not to the school for which you are applying.

3. Please ensure you use the correct postage, and send it 'signed for' to increase the chances of safe delivery.
4. The GDST will assess your eligibility for a bursary. Our staff may also make an appointment to visit you at home. The GDST then lets the school know whether you qualify and the maximum amount of financial assistance we can offer you.

For example:

- If your family's assessable income and resources are below £85,000 a year (£90,000 for London schools), you may be eligible for some support
 - If your family's annual income is less than £35,000 (or £40,000 for London schools), you may be offered a full bursary
 - For families whose annual income is between these levels, a sliding scale determines the amount of assistance they may be offered
5. Your child's academic performance will be a key consideration when the school is deciding whether or not to award a bursary.
 6. If you are eligible and the school feels your daughter would thrive there, the school will send you details of the bursary it can offer your family at the same time it offers your child a place.

Where can you find out more?

Any enquiries about GDST bursaries and scholarships should be directed to the GDST school to which you are considering applying.

For a list of GDST schools, please visit our website at www.gdst.net

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This leaflet is for information only and does not form any part of any contract between parents and the GDST. It has necessarily been prepared well in advance of the entry of a pupil to the school and inevitably there may be subsequent alterations.

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"Receiving a bursary significantly affected my life – not just in terms of the great education I received, but also through the opportunities I was given and the enthusiasm and huge boost to my self-confidence I developed as a result of my school environment."

Former GDST bursary beneficiary