

The University of Guyana's Student Support Fund

"Sometimes students need a hand up...we are here to help you succeed..."

ABOUT The Student Support Fund:

The recently initiated Student Support Fund (SSF) is designed to provide financial and other support to present students who may find themselves in exceptionally difficult circumstances which may require immediate short term aid during their course of study. No such fund has ever existed in The University before and the Vice Chancellor considers it important to ensure that funds are targeted at ensuring that challenged students can also succeed.

What is the Student Support Fund? The Student Support Fund (SSF) is provided by the University to help students who have genuine and unavoidable short term financial or personal difficulties which place them in danger of not completing because of these struggles despite having received all other financial and other support available to them.

Who Can Apply: Any student enrolled in the University of Guyana and attending classes who demonstrates with evidence their challenging circumstances and inability to garner support from any other avenues. The nexus must be made between these circumstances and the impact on the student's ability to complete their academic programme.

Who will Qualify for Support: Since applications are means-tested and the fund is currently small, not all applications will be successful. However the SSF aims to support as many students as possible who are deserving.

What Kinds of Support Is Available:

Loans – sums up to 100,000 Guyana dollars to defray hardship costs. Repayable with no interest but before graduation.

Grants – up to G\$50,000 to defray immediate hardship costs. Non –refundable.

Employment Opportunities and Assistantships: These may be continuous, short term and occasional paid projects and or assignments which can be made available to students who indicate that they need supplemental income but who are not in extreme or dire circumstances. They however may have been in such circumstances and may need this kind of support to help keep them viable.

Who administers the fund: This fund will be administered through the Registry possibly the Office of Student's Welfare in The Registry, or designate of the Registrar, but shall be chaired at all times by the accounting office for the fund which is PACE.

Disbursement is by application and a committee comprising representatives from the following constituencies will decide on recipients upon considering each written submission, investigation and case presented.: PACE, Registry, Vice Chancellor's designate Student Union, Berbice Representative, 1 Assistant Dean, elected by the Academic Board, 2 private sector representatives/large donor.

The Committee may meet/virtually or via email round robin as directed by its Secretary or Chair since it is anticipated that many of the cases presented will be urgent and therefore time sensitive which requires a speedy turn around.

Transparency and Accountability:

PACE will indicate how much has been raised on a quarterly basis. PACE will also on a quarterly basis publish as well as send the disbursements made to students to donors along with letters of thanks from students who have received from the fund. However, as soon as disbursements are made PACE's website will be updated with details in a manner which is discreet about students personal information and circumstances and in keeping with the ethic of protecting their identities from the public and minimizing harm.

Where to Apply: Applications will be accepted in writing by letter or on a special form via email or in person to The University of Guyana Student Support Fund. Email : studentsupport-pace@uog.edu.gy

Or

Mail or drop into the box at The Office of The Deputy Vice Chancellor – Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE) attention: Philanthropy Officer – SSF., Third Floor Registry Building, University of Guyana , Turkeyen Campus, Georgetown.

In Berbice, through the Office of the Assistant Administrative Officer or Campus Director.

Note: The SSF will begin to process requests from the end of July 2017.