

ICAEW Foundation – Changing Futures Bursary Programme

The aim of the Foundation is to support and provide donations to bodies, charitable trusts or funds for the public benefit in areas which are of particular interest to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

One of the ways they achieve the objectives is by offering life-changing undergraduate bursaries to talented individuals studying a finance/business related degree, who without the financial support, may not otherwise have the opportunity to join the next generation of finance professionals.

Below are a sample of student update reports provided by bursary recipients at various stages in their studies from the 2024/2025 academic year. These reports clearly demonstrate what a difference the bursary makes to these talented individuals.

Student name	Rebecca Abraham
University	Cardiff Metropolitan University
University year	Year 3
How has the bursary contributed to the past academic year?	<p>The bursary has been a significant support throughout the past academic year, helping me both academically and financially. It enabled me to purchase essential study materials, including textbooks and practice exam papers, which I used regularly to guide my studies and stay on top of the material while studying for the accounting modules. Additionally, I was able to buy Quantitative Methods workbooks. I prefer working with physical copies when studying, and having these resources made a real difference, especially since I find this topic particularly challenging. Thanks to the financial relief provided by the bursary, I was also able to attend extra one-to-one support sessions, which helped me improve and gain a better understanding of the material. The bursary not only helped me stay on track with my studies this year but has also supported me in building a strong foundation for the remainder of my degree.</p>

Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities at university?

This year, I've continued to participate in optional workshops and extra support classes to enhance my studies. These sessions have really helped me strengthen my academic skills, allowing me to approach assignments more confidently.

Being on campus for my lectures and seminars has also allowed me to build strong relationships with my lecturers. I have been able to ask questions and get one-to-one support when needed, which has been a big help. This would have been much harder to manage without the financial support I've received through the bursary, which has eased the pressure of childcare and allowed me to stay focused on my course.

Have you got a part-time job outside of your studies?

Yes, I continue to work part-time as a self-employed cleaner, providing services to regular clients on a fortnightly basis. Over the past year, I've managed to maintain a balance between work and study, which hasn't always been easy. However, the bursary has made a real difference; it's allowed me to keep my workload at a manageable level, so I can still earn an income while having enough time to focus on my academic responsibilities.

This extra support has meant I haven't had to take on additional clients just to cover everyday costs, which has helped reduce stress and given me more flexibility with my schedule, especially around assignment deadlines and exams.

What are your future ambitions?

My goal is still to become a qualified accountant, and over the past year, I've become even more motivated to make that a reality. This motivation has grown as I've seen real progress in my studies and have started to understand more clearly how the knowledge I'm gaining can be applied in a professional setting. The support I've received both through the bursary and from lecturers and peers has boosted my confidence and made me feel more capable of reaching my goals. I've also found inspiration from speaking with graduates who have

successfully balanced education, work, and parenting, which has reminded me that it's all possible. In the long term, I would love to run my own accounting practice. My ambition is not just about financial stability, but also about being a positive role model for my children, showing them that with commitment and hard work, it's possible to return to education and achieve something meaningful at any stage in life.

Any other comments

I'd like to thank you once again for awarding me the bursary. It has continued to make a real difference in helping me manage the demands of studying alongside family life. The support has not only helped ease financial pressure, but it's also given me the space to focus, stay motivated, and push forward with my goals. I remain fully committed to making the most of this opportunity and continuing to work hard towards becoming a qualified accountant. Your support has helped me come this far, and I'm grateful for the belief you've shown in me.

Student name

Irenie Jane Theodorou

University

Cyprus University of Technology

University year

Year 4

How has the bursary contributed to the past academic year?

The bursary has been a great support during the past academic year. It allowed me to fully focus on my studies without having to worry about money.

I am grateful for the support from ICAEW and the opportunity the bursary provides.

Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities at university?

While my main extracurricular activity isn't based at university, I compete as a national-level javelin athlete outside of my studies.

Have you got a part-time job outside of your studies?

I do not currently have a part-time job, as I've been focusing on balancing my university studies with my training as a national-level javelin athlete.

What are your future ambitions?

Although I have not decided on a specific career path yet, my goal is to build a successful career in either Shipping or Accounting and Finance. Alongside my academic career, one of my non-academic goals is to qualify for the Olympic games in javelin.

Student name

Bear Pluckrose

University

University of Brighton

University year

Year 1

How has the bursary contributed to the past academic year?

I have used the bursary to buy new clothes as I only had two outfits that fit me beforehand as I was too poor to be able to afford to buy anymore and then also paying for washing the clothes in halls was very expensive (£7-£8 per wash and dry) so I no longer had to make my clothes stretch as long as possible. This made a huge difference to both my confidence and personal hygiene as I both felt and smelt better and didn't have to wear dirty clothes into university. It has also allowed me access to more fresh foods in a time where my health has been struggling, so it has helped me improve my condition and be able to put in more energy towards studying.

I learnt that even a little bit of help goes such a long way compared to what I was living off of before. I think not stressing so much about money will help my future employability as it has enabled me to focus my mind on my studies and not on whether I will be able to eat or do my laundry.

Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities at university?

I wanted to be a part of the hiking society and right before I was planning on attending, I developed a health issue that limited my able to walk long distances. However, once this is fixed, I would like to be able to join in properly.

Have you got a part-time job outside of your studies?

I do not currently have a part-time position, but I have been applying to as

many as possible that would fit around my university schedule.

What are your future ambitions?

I would like to graduate with a first-class honours and then either find a graduate job or do a masters in something finance or human resources related. I would also like to eventually be able to afford to put a mortgage on a house somewhere in Sussex. I am also really into home design and house renovation so starting a business in that field would be a dream come true.

Any other comments

I am extremely grateful to be given this opportunity to solely focus on my university work and not be so stressed out about barely getting by. Thank you so much!

Student name

Sophia Caselberg

University

University of Bristol

University year

Year 2

How has the bursary contributed to the past academic year?

The bursary has been a massive relief for me and allowed me to take a year off working to adjust back to studying after my gap year. It allowed me to focus more on my studies and not be too worried about my finances.

Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities at university?

Last year I wasn't taking any as I wanted to focus more on my academics and socialising with my peers. This year, I plan to join a handful of societies to broaden my horizons - starting a martial arts society and a few others are my preferences. Having the bursary will allow me to feel secure spending the money I may need to attend the society events.

Have you got a part-time job outside of your studies?

I have been working over the summer and am in the midst of a job hunt for work back at university.

What are your future ambitions?

I want to go into forensic accounting, make time for traveling and be a homeowner at a young age.

Any other comments

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that this bursary is allowing me to access and the monetary support is genuinely such a weight off my shoulders and allows me to be more present in my life as I'm not constantly worried about the cost's activities may incur.

Student name**Taylor-Olivia Budge****University**

University of Exeter

University year

Year 1

How has the bursary contributed to the past academic year?

The bursary has taken a mental load and the worry about money during university making my studies a lot easier to focus on.

Have you been involved in any extracurricular activities at university?

Yes, at university I have joined three societies. Welsh society, netball and business and finance - the business and finance society has been incredibly helpful in supporting and developing my interest in my career. I have especially enjoyed all of the panels and outside speakers that they have arranged.

Have you got a part-time job outside of your studies?

Yes, outside of my studies I do have a part-time job back home. I work there on weekends when I have the opportunity to go back home.

What are your future ambitions?

Although I don't know what part of the finance Sector I would like to join, I do know that I aspire to work toward top level jobs in a bigger city. Perhaps in risk management.