



Bursary Q&A Document

Thank you for your interest in our Bursary Programme. Please find some frequently asked questions and guidance to the potential three stages in our application process :

Q1. Who can apply for a bursary?

1. Must be aged 11+ (Grade 6/UK Yr7), 13+ (Grade 8/UK Yr9) or 16+ (Grade11/UK Yr12) by start date
2. Without financial assistance you would be unable to afford the full fees
3. You and your child must be resident in the UK with the right to remain
4. Your child is suited for an international education through to university and meets our current Bursary Award Criteria
5. Must be able to successfully access our curriculum
6. Must be within a reasonable commuting distance to reach your chosen campus
7. Current ACS parents whose financial circumstances have significantly changed

Q2. When and how can I apply for a bursary?

From 2nd September to 29th November 2019, you can express interest to apply for a bursary for the school year commencing in August 2020. Please note: you may only apply to one campus per child. You can request further information from your selected campus by filling in the online bursary enquiry form at :

<https://www.acs-schools.com/cobham/admissions/bursaries>

<https://www.acs-schools.com/egham/admissions/bursaries>

<https://www.acs-schools.com/hillingdon/admissions/bursaries>

Q3. What are the three stages of the bursary process?

Stage 1 Submission and review of application documents including financial declaration

Stage 2 Student and parent interviews with the Bursary Committee

Stage 3 Academic Assessment

Q4. What is the application process?

Stage 1

Complete online admissions application form and upload all supporting documentation:

Note : To start the process, current parents should please submit the completed financial application form (separate online application not required)

- Completed online application form
- Copy of the student's passport and relevant visa for entrance to the UK
- Student Questionnaire – completed by student in his or her handwriting
- Two student reference forms - completed by students' current teachers, preferably the English and Maths teacher
- School reports from previous three years and results of any testing
- IB subject choice form (if applying to grade 11 and this is the preferred educational path)
- Completed financial application form to be emailed to bursariesmanager@acs-schools.com

All these documents should be submitted no later than **29th November 2019** for consideration however, you are advised to start the process early as obtaining information can be a timely process (particularly requesting teacher references).

Following review from the Bursary Committee you will be notified whether your application will proceed to stage 2. This is not a guarantee that your child(ren) has (have) been offered a place on the ACS International Schools Bursary Programme.

Stage 2

Students will be invited to an interview with the Bursary Committee.

Parents/Carers will be invited to meet with the selected schools' member of the Bursary Committee.

Following review of the interviews you will be notified whether your application will proceed to stage 3. This is not a guarantee that your child(ren) has (have) been offered a place on the ACS International Schools Bursary Programme.

Stage 3

Students will be invited to attend online assessments at our Egham campus on **Saturday 1st February 2020**. The assessments will include 3 tests covering mathematics, reading and general academic ability. Each online assessment will last between 45 minutes to 1 hour. The testing morning is designed to assess each child's current ability and potential.

Following stage 3, a final student academic and financial eligibility review is undertaken against the ACS budget and award decisions are made.

Q5. How will my financial circumstances be evaluated?

On completion of the financial background form you will be contacted by our independent external assessors, Bursary Administration Ltd to arrange a home visit and to go through your financial information with you. BAL are experts in financially assessing bursary applications and carrying out home visits for a large number of independent schools and will provide ACS International Schools with their recommendation.

Q6. When will I know if my application has been successful for a bursary?

During March 2020 you will be informed of the result. In cases where it becomes clear during processing that your application will not be successful, you will be informed earlier in the process.

Q7. In what form will the result come?

There are 3 categories of result:

- Firm offer of a place with details of the % amount of the bursary being offered
- Waitlist offer
- Application unsuccessful

Q8. What happens if my financial circumstances change once I have been allocated a bursary?

Once a bursary has been accepted it is a requirement that parents inform the school if there is any significant change in your financial circumstances, which in addition to the annual review, may result in a change of the level of award in line with the current financial need.

Q9. What constitutes a significant change?

This might be a redundancy, divorce or serious illness that impacts the household finances and puts your child's future at ACS at risk, as well as an upturn in financial circumstances that reduces or eliminates the need for a bursary.

Q10. Will I need to pay the application fee if I'm applying for a bursary?

Not for 2020-21 academic year, we will supply you with a waiver code to complete your online application.

Q11. Will other costs of attending ACS be covered by the bursary?

Some costs may be covered. In assessing your financial situation, account will be taken of the extra costs associated with attending ACS (i.e. trips, supplies etc.) and this will be reflected in any offer made. In any case requests should be completed and emailed to the FAP Manager on bursariesmanager@acs-schools.com for approval before an activity is agreed.