

Examples of personal statements provided to support an application for funding support to the Crichton Foundation:

- a) “Extra funding would me purchase my own laptop [currently using shared or outdated equipment or a phone], thus improving my accessibility to study and materials overall, improving my performance at university.”

This single sentence is unlikely to result in an award as there is simply insufficient information for the Committee to understand the circumstances that have resulted in this student needing funding to buy a new laptop. Have they explored the loan scheme for IT equipment available through the university? Has something changed between enrolling on the course and this request for support? A blunt request for money does not enable the Committee to ensure funds are being targeted appropriately.

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- b) “The rising cost of living has resulted in me struggling to manage on my limited budget. In addition to the usual bills, I need to purchase a new pair of spectacles costing £100. This is a massive amount for me to pay and is extra money I just don’t have. As my current glasses are the wrong prescription I am struggling with headaches when I try to complete university assignments.”

This statement describes a clear need for a specific item of expenditure as well as the circumstances that mean the expense cannot be met from the student’s budget. The Committee are able to provide funding when a clear need has been identified.

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- c) “An award will help me during my academic studies as I currently only get access to a student loan. I needed to drop a lot of hours at my job to be able to attend university but during the summer, I was able to get a job that I felt would be a great way for me to gain experience within my future degree.

I would like to be able to access more books and potentially get myself a new laptop as the one I have is not great. If I was not able to get a laptop, I would make do with this one until I managed to save up for a new one. During my summer placement, realised I had no appropriate clothes for the job. I had to go out and buy a lot of new clothes suitable to do my job, the funding would help with this during future placements as I was unprepared financially to buy new clothes for this job.

I feel like some extra help would give me some leeway on what I can purchase for myself to help assist me in my studies, such as a new laptop, notebooks, academic books, stationary, or even a new desk chair as my one is very old and hurts my back.

I think it is amazing that SAAS funds the overall course and I have taken great advantage of this by also studying a National 5 and an SVQ Level 3 qualifications while taking a gap year between College and University with the help of SAAS. These qualifications helped me gain access to University, but it was sometimes difficult to work full time and do these courses. I feel like this shows that I am dedicated to my education and do try my best to budget my money to help improve my future.

I try and budget to the best of my ability and gain further experience and qualifications to expand my learning and development, I feel like some extra assistance will put my mind at ease, where money is concerned.”

This statement is comprehensive in explaining what the student hopes to achieve, their reasons for needing additional support and details of how any funds would be spent as well as how this would help. The student has taken time to explain their circumstances, which allows the Committee to make an award whilst being able to satisfy the Board of Trustees and the charity regulator that funds are being disbursed appropriately.