

Bursaries, Scholarships and Other Financial Awards Policy 2024-25

1. Aims

The English College in Prague has as one of its aims, “to attract and retain those students best suited to the education we offer through selection, as far as possible, by academic ability rather than ability to pay.” The College achieves this through bursaries, scholarships and other awards. The College aims to spend 8% of fee income on various forms of fee reduction.

2. Bursaries

There are two types of bursary: ordinary bursaries and hardship bursaries.

2.1 Criteria for Ordinary Bursaries

Ordinary bursaries are dependent on an assessment of family income and can be of any value. They are dependent on an assessment of family income as stated on the official application form to be submitted by a date published on the school’s website each year. Assessments are made by the Registrar and Business Operations Manager, who then bring their recommendations to the Headmaster for approval.

A bursary is granted for one school year only and each year new applications must be submitted and are evaluated again based on the most recent attendance and effort grades and the latest family income statements. In April each subsequent year, parents of such students need to submit another official application form for the following school year.

2.2 Hardship Bursaries Criteria

If parents find themselves facing unanticipated economic difficulties during the course of the school year, they can apply to the Headmaster for financial support in meeting the continuing costs of their child’s education.

3. Scholarships

3.1 Criteria for Scholarships

Each scholarship is awarded on a slightly different basis as described below. However, a prerequisite for all scholarships (except Academic Scholarships) is a demonstrable financial need in addition to the specific criteria set out below. The assessment of financial need is conducted through the submission of the same official application form used for bursaries. Academic Scholarships are awarded independently of financial circumstances and therefore no financial details are required.

3.2 Individual Scholarship Programmes

There are seven scholarship programmes. Holders of the first five scholarships need to fulfil certain community engagement obligations including the promotion of the scholarship programme, which most notably includes helping with the annual fundraising concert for the Václav Havel Scholarship.

3.2.1 Václav Havel Scholarship - A few months before his death in 2011, Václav Havel gave his blessing to the creation of the ECP Václav Havel Scholarship, a student-led initiative enabling a member of the Roma community to study at the ECP on a fully funded scholarship. The school endeavours to reach out as widely as possible into the community to attract suitable candidates. Such candidates need to pass through the normal entrance procedures, but obviously account will be taken of their specific circumstances when assessments are made about their suitability for ECP.

3.2.2 Prince of Wales Scholarship - The Prince of Wales Scholarship is awarded to a student who would not normally consider applying for a place at an independent school because of lack of funds. The ideal candidate will be an ambitious and talented individual of Czech descent.

3.2.3 Schwarzenberg Scholarship - The Schwarzenberg Scholarship will enable a Czech student to attend the final four years at the English College in Prague. The scholarship is aimed at attracting a student who would not ordinarily be able to attend the College were the scholarship not available. Suitability will be judged on the likelihood of the student's life chances and comparative academic success being significantly improved.

3.2.4 English College Foundation Scholarship - The English College Foundation is the UK charity that established the English College in Prague in 1994. Today the Foundation supports the English College both by coordinating social events for alumni living in the UK and by fundraising for the school. The English College Foundation Scholarship is a financial award designed to support a student joining the ECP in Year 4 or Year 5 and wishing to study for the International Baccalaureate and the Czech Maturita, who would not have had the funds to join the school earlier. The value of the award will be a minimum of 20% of the annual English College fees, but may rise to 100% in exceptional cases. The Scholarship will be awarded based on the academic recommendation of the admissions team in agreement with the Headmaster.

3.2.5 Jan Barta Scholarships - These scholarships are for the student's entire time at the school and are funded up to 50% directly by the College and up to 50% by Mr Barta. The selection criteria are very open, but largely centred around an assessment of whether a candidate's life choices or life chances are likely to be significantly changed by attending ECP. There are two strands Changing Lives and ChangeMaker

Changing Lives strand - This group of students would work towards delivering a Diversity and Roma awareness week, culminating in the Václav Havel Scholarship Concert. Recruitment to this programme would focus on students who have a strong interest in social justice, inclusivity and raising money for the next Roma scholar.

ChangeMaker strand - This strand is for students who would be interested in challenging established norms and looking at novel ways to improve the human experience in its broadest sense. Students would work over time towards developing school events and/or an annual conference on innovation and fresh and alternative futures.

3.2.6 Prague 9 Scholarships - These scholarships are designed to help prospective students who are in state school education in Prague 9 to be able to study at ECP. The level of the award is up to 50%, which will reflect academic potential and may take into account financial circumstances. The scholarships are usually for a duration of two years although with sustained excellent academic performance, they will usually be continued for a further two years.

3.2.7 Academic Scholarships – These scholarships are currently offered to new students in the school. Generally, they are for one or two years and usually at a fee reduction of 25%. Academic Scholarships, bursaries and sibling discounts may be combined, but only up to a maximum discount of 50%.

3.3 Selection Process

The Headmaster decides on Academic Scholarships based on the entrance exam and interview. The remaining scholarship applicants are obliged to submit a motivational letter. A scholarship selection panel consisting of the Headmaster plus up to four other invitees is convened. The panel meets the candidates and makes their recommendation to the Headmaster who makes the final decision.

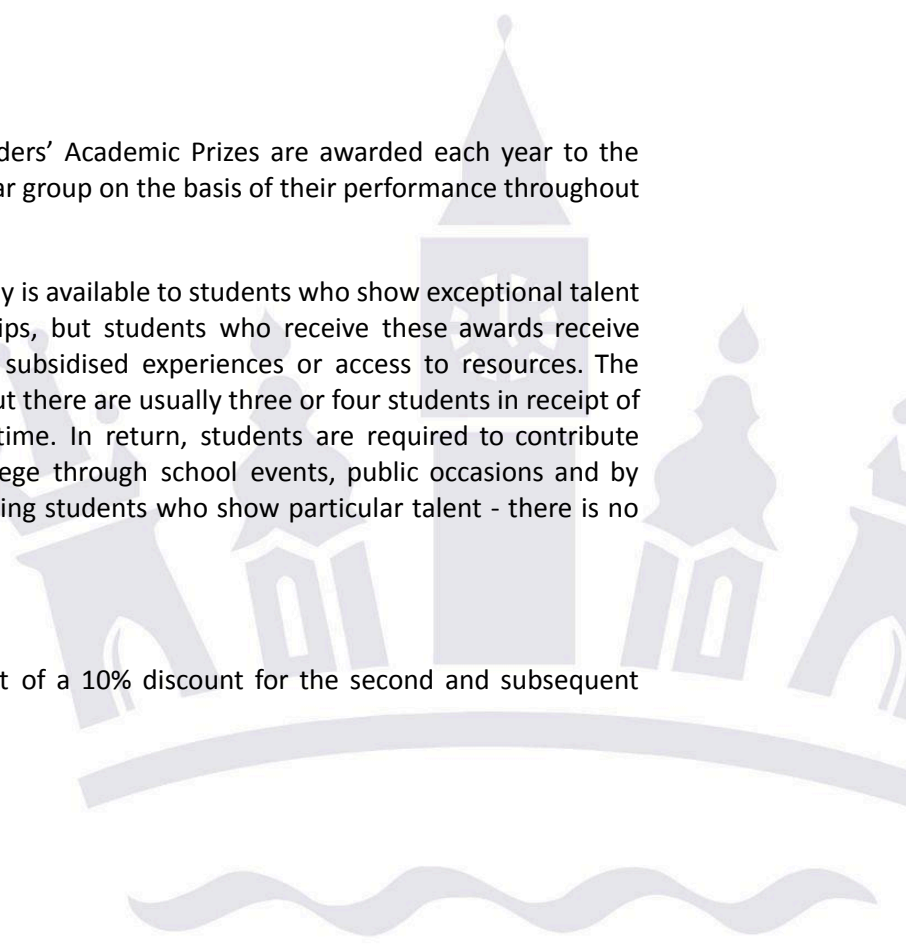
4. Other Prizes, Awards and Discounts

4.1 Founders' Academic Prizes - The Founders' Academic Prizes are awarded each year to the three highest-achieving students in each year group on the basis of their performance throughout the previous academic year.

4.2 Talent Awards - A small amount of money is available to students who show exceptional talent in a certain area. These are not scholarships, but students who receive these awards receive modest help to develop their talent, with subsidised experiences or access to resources. The number of awards made each year varies, but there are usually three or four students in receipt of a Talent Award in the school at any one time. In return, students are required to contribute significantly to the cultural life of the College through school events, public occasions and by example. These awards are offered to existing students who show particular talent - there is no formal application process.

5. Sibling Discounts

Sibling discounts are automatic and consist of a 10% discount for the second and subsequent siblings' school fees.



6. Ongoing Eligibility

All bursaries, scholarships, prizes, awards and sibling discounts at ECP are conditional on pupils achieving an attendance rate of 90% or above and ATL grades of A & B, unless exceptional circumstances apply. They are not dependent on ongoing academic performance, only effort and attitude.

