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**Title**

Bursaries and student success : a study of students from low-income groups at two institutions in the South West / Hatt, Sue ; Hannan, Andrew ; Baxter, Arthur

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**Abstract**

This article draws on quantitative and qualitative data from two institutions to compare the student experience of those with and without bursary awards. Using the student life cycle model, the article examines the ways in which bursaries impact on the student experience before they enter the institution, in the early weeks of their studies and as they progress through their programmes. At these two institutions, students with bursaries were more likely to be retained and to perform well during the first year than those without bursaries. The study found that bursaries can ease financial pressures during their transition to higher education (HE) and that institution-specific bursaries can affect students' perceptions of an institution and their commitment to succeed. After 2006, those institutions wishing to charge variable fees will be required to provide bursary support for low-income students. The findings from this article suggest that HE providers should consider the timing of the bursary payments and the implicit message the bursary sends to applicants if they want to ensure that their

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bursaries have a positive impact on the student experience. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)