

Aspire Efficiencies Case Study



Delivered by Aspire,  Powered by PayIt:  NatWest

Aspire enables universities to reduce cost, increase control, and deliver student funding more efficiently, backed by strong partner endorsement and measurable results.

The Challenge

High volumes of student payments across multiple systems can create inefficiency, cost and risk. Manual processes, re-keying, fragmented workflows and service desk queries place pressure on finance teams, with limited visibility and control.

The Aspire Approach

Aspire is a single, secure platform that delivers student and beneficiary payments efficiently and at scale. It simplifies complex processes, reduces administrative burden, and provides greater control, visibility, and insight across finance and student support functions.

100%

of Aspire partners would recommend Aspire to colleagues at other universities



"I find the JS Group team to be excellent to work with in every way. Very approachable, knowledgeable. They can't do enough for us. I can't think of a smoother project and a smoother partnership."

Marie Dyball, Payments Manager, Christ Church Canterbury University

Efficiency & Cost Reduction



Aspire saves significant time across student finance and transactional finance teams by reducing friction, re-keying, and service desk demand. Mobilisation is fast, with minimal integration required.

For bursaries and scholarships, Aspire Cash delivers average savings of over 5% of allocations, typically covering or exceeding platform costs.

- Reduces manual processing and re-keying
- Minimal mobilisation and integration
- Minimises service desk demand
- Delivers 5%+ savings on allocations



"We allocate the money to the student and allow them to draw down on this literally in minutes. It's immediate, safe and secure."

Professor Nick Braisby, Vice-Chancellor, Buckinghamshire New University



"Aspire Cash has reduced the administration process for bursaries by 80%."

Lena Smith, Together at Cardiff Manager, Cardiff University

93% agree that Aspire has improved the speed at which students receive their payments

86% agree that Aspire has simplified processes and reduced staff time required to make payments

Delivering across all one-to-many payments

100%

agree that Aspire gives students greater visibility and agency over their payments

Aspire standardises the delivery of all one-to-many payments, including bursaries, hardship and scholarships, study abroad payments, philanthropic funding, as well as research participant payments and research stipends. By bringing these into a single, consistent model, it creates realisable cross-functional efficiencies across finance and student services teams. At the same time, Aspire retains the flexibility to support urgent, bespoke and one-off payments, providing a reliable, on-hand solution that strengthens business continuity and reduces operational complexity.

“We ended up with more precise & targeted support for key priority groups with a new banded system.”

Francesca Carey, Director of Home Student Recruitment, University of Sunderland

“The monthly stipend makes budgeting easy and effectively provides a monthly income that is sufficient to live off. I also save a little each month in my aspire account for any unexpected research expenses.”

Research Student, Christ Church Canterbury University

Control, Governance & Insight

Aspire enhances financial governance by improving visibility and control over how funds are allocated and used. It removes the need to collect or manage beneficiary bank details, significantly reducing data risk and supporting GDPR compliance. It also provides insight into how and when funds are used, enabling more informed, data-led decision-making.

“I’m clear about how we are spending that money. There’s a clarity and openness to our student funding.”

Andy Cook, Vice-Chancellor, Ravensbourne University

93%

agree that Aspire supports control over payments



of Aspire users rated their previous student payment process as Good or Excellent



rate Aspire as Good or Excellent following adoption

Endorsed by partners

Aspire combines operational efficiency and a strong user experience, with consistently positive feedback from both students and stakeholders. The blend of rapid implementation, efficiency gains, scalability and enhanced control and governance positions Aspire as more than a payment tool. It is a service that enables universities to strategically deliver funding with greater confidence, consistency and measurable impact.

“We’ve switched from a slow moving, process-driven approach to one in which the students can be supported instantly.”

Ian Ashley, Head of Student Experience, University of Chester

100%

of Aspire partners would recommend Aspire to colleagues at other Universities

Statistics presented in this case study are based on 36% of current clients surveyed at 20/04/26

To find out more

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