

blackbullion 
Fintech for education



The Funding Tool

Online hardship applications



Hardship fund process is lengthy, mostly very manual, and involves a lot of menial work. In addition, chasing students for documents and evidence adds an unnecessary delay to the processing of the application.

— Money Adviser at York St John University

Streamlining the application process



Simplify the process

Streamline the application process for all types of funds, loans and scholarships.



Save time

Automate collection of evidence, follow up, and request for further information.



Reduce student anxiety

Built-in reminders and email nudges to help students submit their application before the deadline.



Improve turnaround time

Provide clear guidance and expectation from the start to help students complete their application.



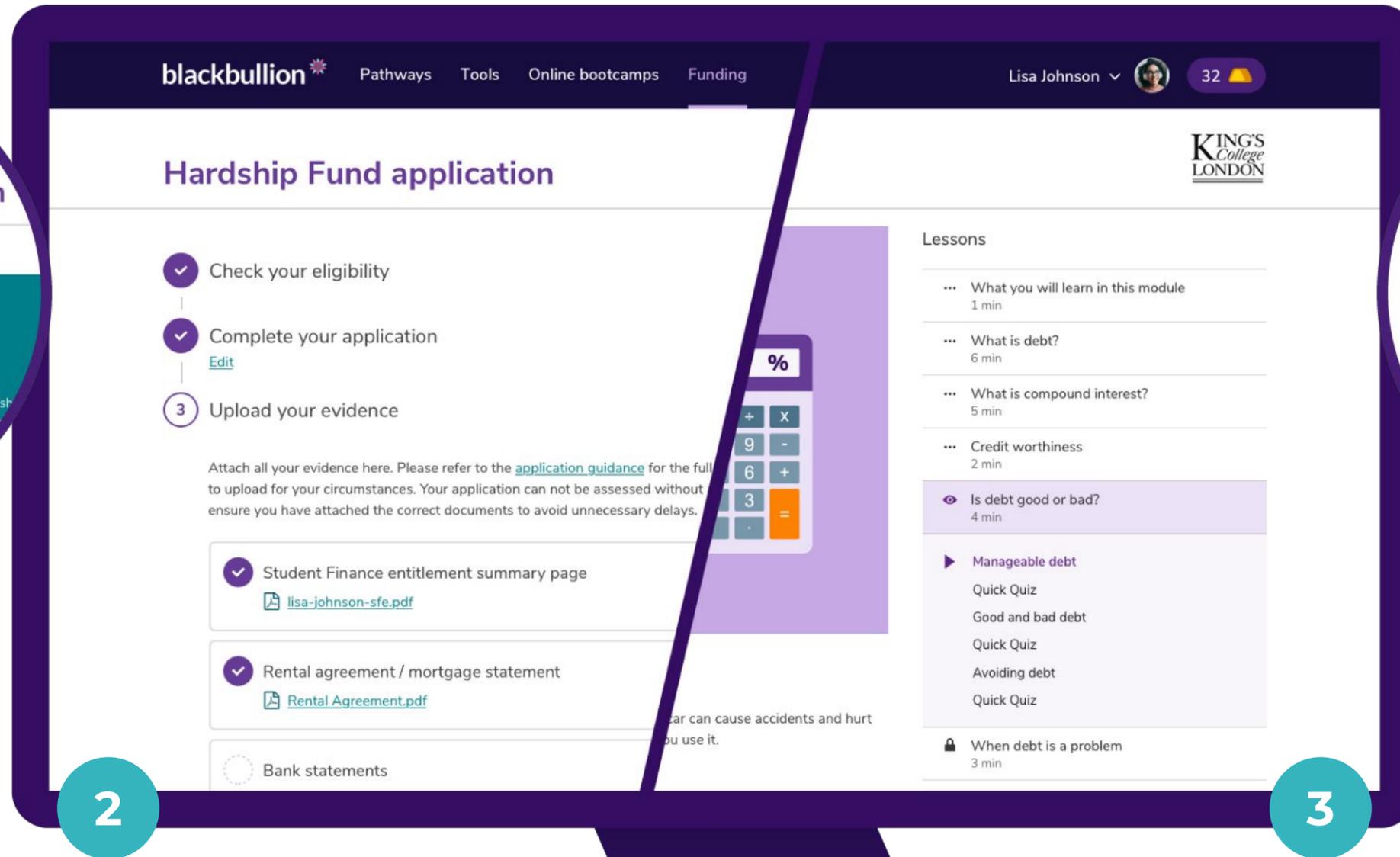
Measure impact and efficacy

Powerful and intuitive analytics to manage all applications, track progress and evidence.

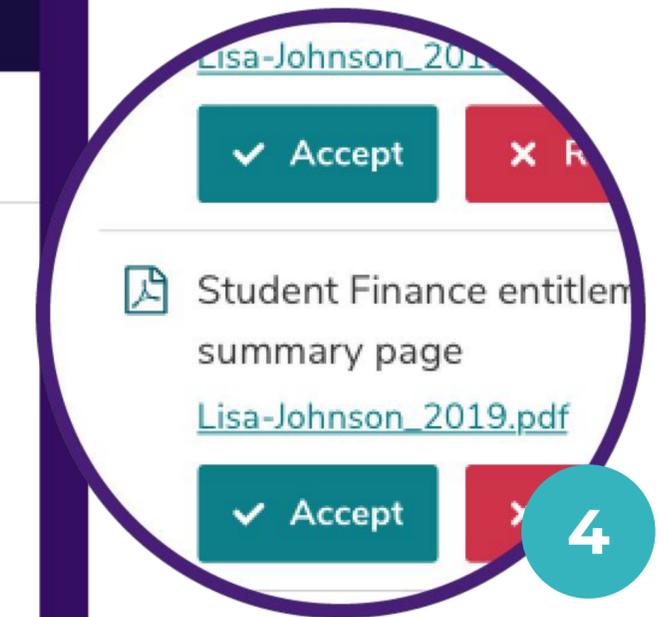
How it works



UNIVERSITY
Launches online fund application



STUDENT
Applies to the fund & submits their evidence



STUDENT
Completes learning / budget calculation

UNIVERSITY
Decides on the application outcome

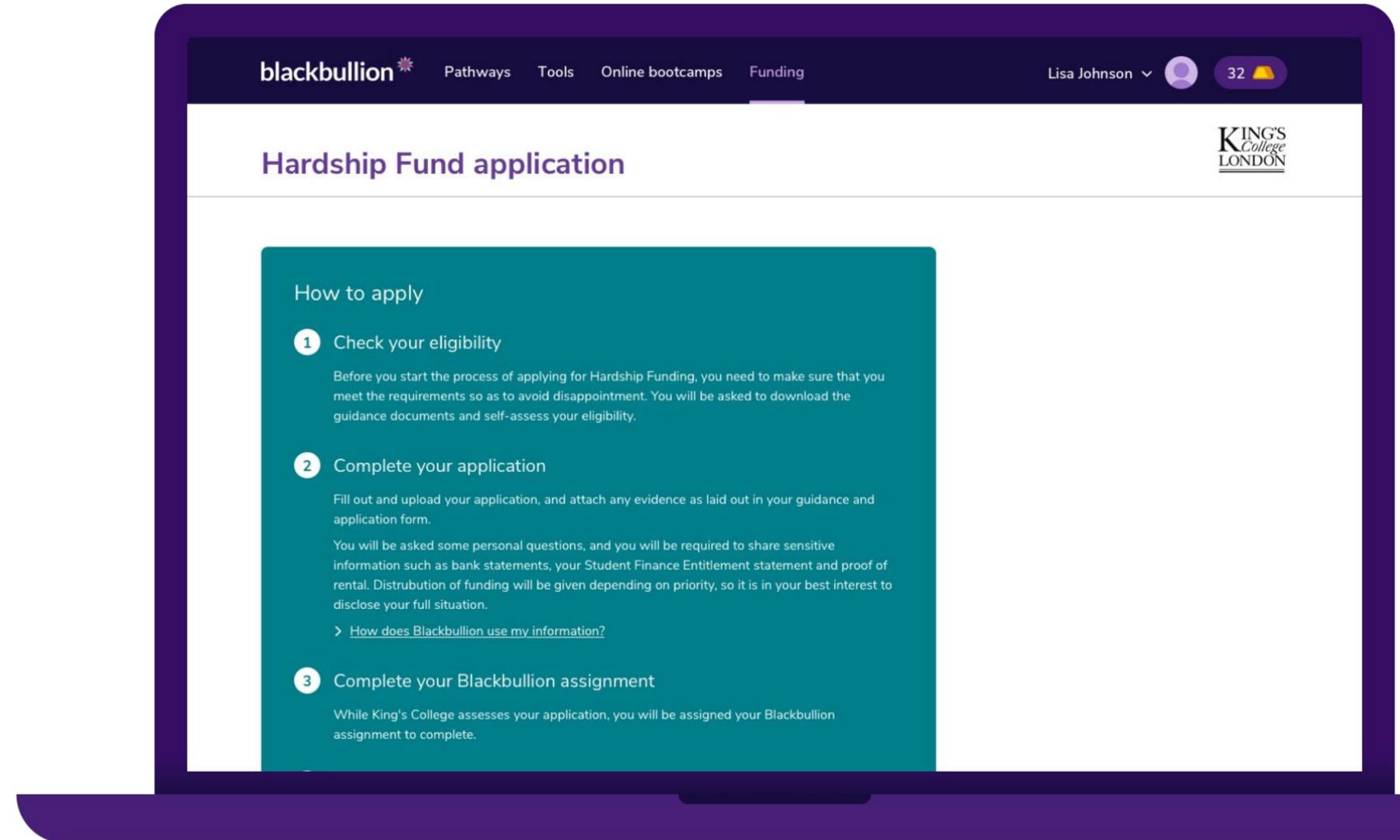
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UNIVERSITY

Launches online fund application

With a little help from the Blackbullion Team you can set up any fund on the system, including:

- Guidance documents
- Eligibility criteria
- Application forms



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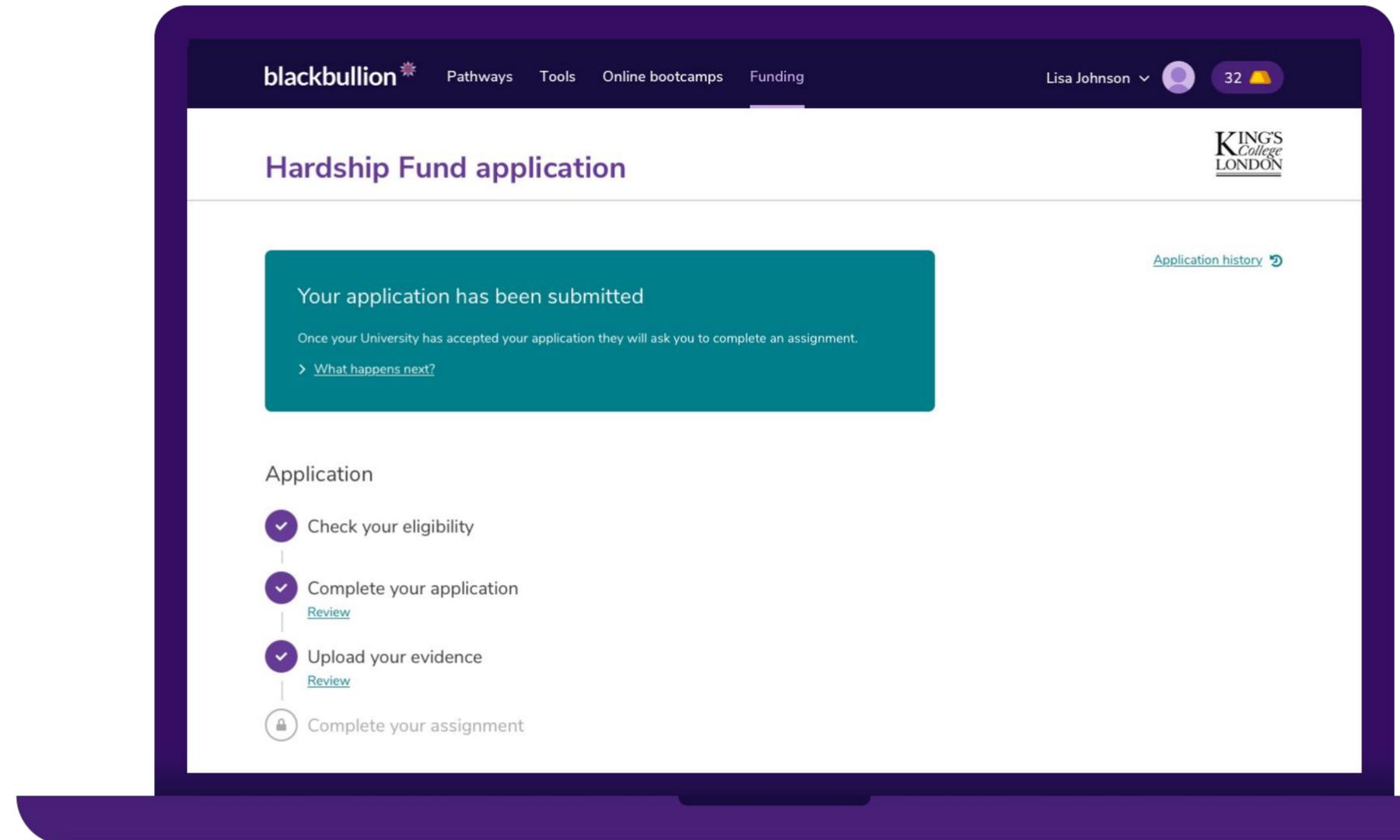
STUDENT

Applies to the fund & submits their evidence

Once the fund is up and running, any student can apply directly from Blackbullion platform.

They will be able to:

- View criteria
- Upload application forms
- Upload supporting evidence
- Submit the application



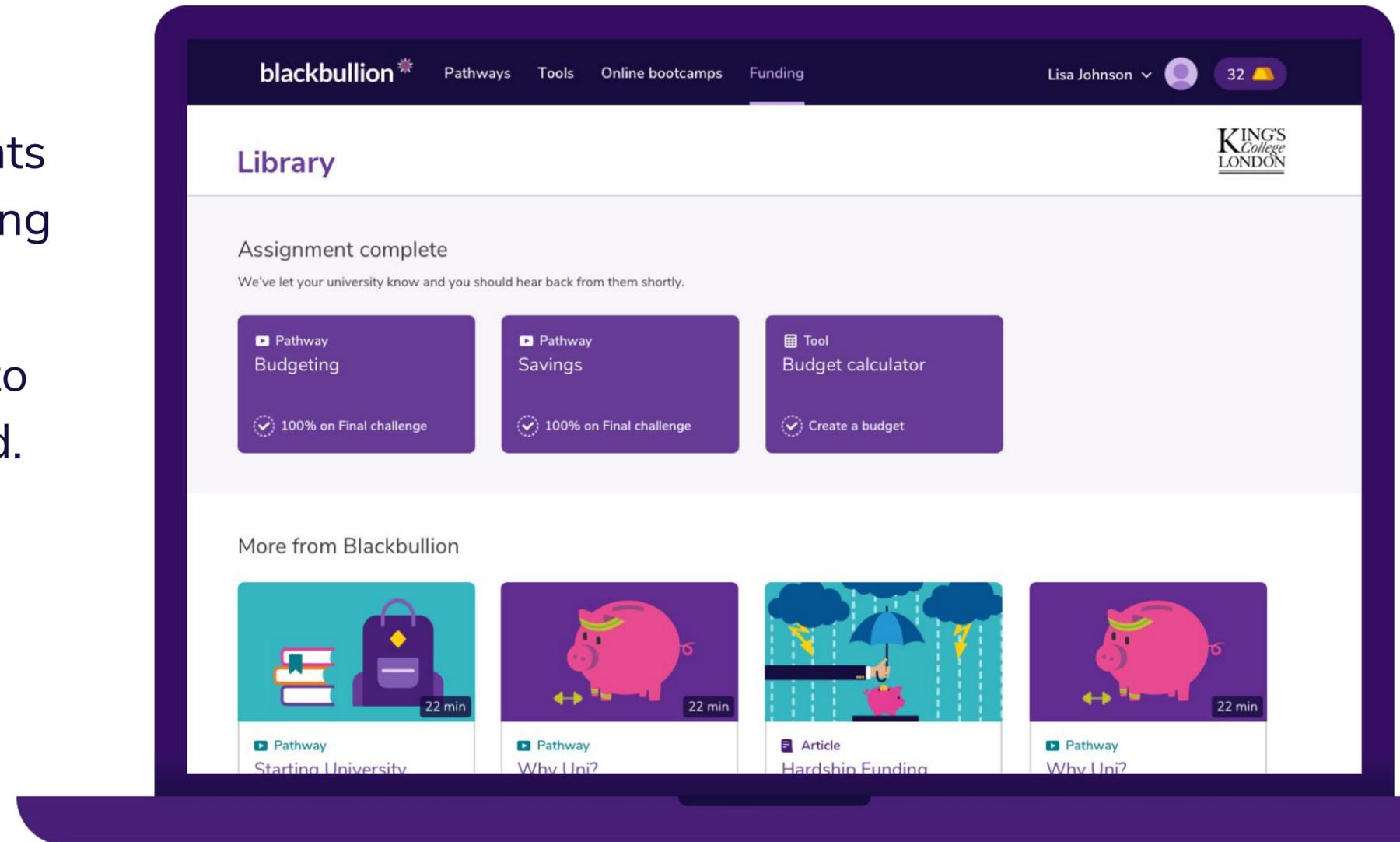
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STUDENT

Completes learning / budget calculation

After submitting their application, students will receive an email notification confirming the submission.

At this point they will also be prompted to complete any learning you have assigned.



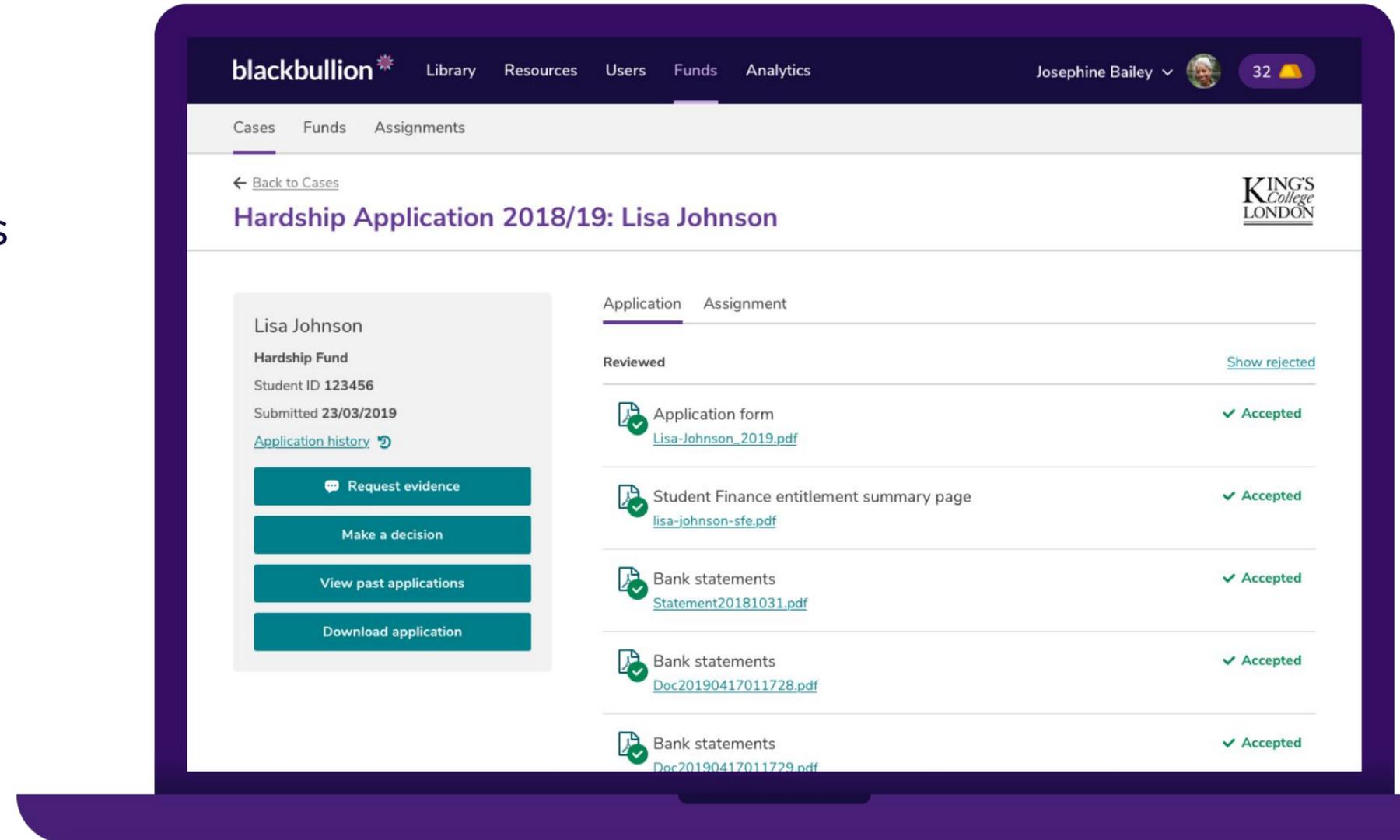
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UNIVERSITY

Decides on the application outcome

Staff member will be able to:

- Review the application and documents
- Request additional evidence
- Mark applications as successful/unsuccessful
- Inform students on the outcome



5 things to remember



Minimal tech required

We can have you up and running within a week, no need to involve IT.



Full control over application process

You can plug the tool into the existing process or build a new one, whatever works for you.



Multiple funds

You can manage multiple funds and processes with the same admin panel.



Secure student records

You will have a full control over what documents are stored on the system, and for how long. Plus two-factor authentication for all staff.



Nudges to help evidence collection

Automated notifications around missing evidence, learning assignments, and application outcomes.



Leveraging just-in-time education to underpin financial support with financial skills

Ameira — grateful for the support

Background story

Ameira is studying Human Nutrition at a university based in the Midlands. Her biggest challenge was balancing studies with family responsibilities.

Experience applying for hardship

Ameira was struggling to pay rent and the process to apply for housing benefit was long. The hardship fund helped her to pay rent and enjoy some family activities together with her children. She was pleased with the hardship award received, though she did admit she expected to be eligible for a larger award.

I found Blackbullion learning very helpful to the process. I never budgeted before and it was great to see how I was using my money. I found direct debits I didn't know about. It really helped me.



Ameira, full-time undergraduate, living with dependants

Tomasz — the uncertain applicant

Background story

Having achieved his bachelor's degree, Tomasz moved south to continue his studies. He found living with young professionals was detrimental to his studies and decided to get a place on his own to help him get through his PhD.

Experience applying for hardship

Tomasz discovered the hardship fund while looking for postgraduate funding. He applied despite being uncertain as to his eligibility. He found the experience of applying unclear and the way he had to provide the evidence was too narrow to represent his situation.

When I was asked to complete the learning module I thought I didn't need educating about finances. But when it came to completing the quizzes, I really struggled to get it right.

Sometimes you just don't realise you need it until you have to do it.



Tomasz, 2nd year postgrad, mature student

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Questions?

hello@blackbullion.com