The Open University Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund

The Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund will offer veterans, disabled in or due to military service, access to free Open University education and specialist support.

The programme will seek to provide 150 full fee waiver scholarships (or equivalent), and a wraparound disability and careers support service, to ensure that students are able to fully take advantage of educational opportunities.

Study may take the form of an introductory access module, a first Level 1 module, or an entire undergraduate or postgraduate qualification; dependent on the needs and objectives of the applicant.

The scheme, supported by a bespoke team of advisors, will draw on The Open University’s fifty years of experience in providing education to disabled students. With a disabled student community of over 23,000 students, The Open University is expert in providing extraordinary support to students experiencing an array of physical and mental disabilities.

Terms & Conditions

These conditions contain the terms of the Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund. They set out the rights and responsibilities of each party which will apply in relation to your application for the scheme and, for successful applicants only, whilst you are a registered student. Please read these conditions carefully before you apply and make sure that you understand them.

A. Eligibility

1. In order to qualify for the scheme, you must meet all the following criteria:
   - Be starting OU study for the first time in the 2020/21 academic year
   - Be eligible for a UK fee
   - Be disabled as a result of, or in, serving for the British military
   - Be intending to study an Open University module for which some, or all, of the tuition fees will be charged to you
B. Fee Waivers

2. Full fee waivers up to a maximum of 120 credits per academic year and 360 credits in total will be available. Awards will be strictly limited to a single qualification.

3. Fee waiver amounts will be calculated based on the fee amounts for which you are directly liable.

4. Study breaks will be permitted up to a total of 24 months in aggregate. Study breaks of longer than 24 months will terminate your eligibility for the scholarship fund after which a request for exceptional reinstatement will be required. Requests for reinstatement should be submitted directly to studentfees@open.ac.uk.

5. In circumstances where you are required to repeat, defer or withdraw from a module, consideration will be given to the circumstances which led to the repeat, deferral or withdrawal and an exceptional award of additional waivers or a fee credit may be approved.

6. Decisions on exceptional awards will be made by the Chair, Bursary & Scholarships Management Group or their delegated authority in line with the eligibility criteria for Discretionary Fee Credits defined by the University Senate and detailed in the Fee Rules 2020/21.

7. Any waiver approved via the Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund will supersede any award of support via the Enhanced Learning Credits scheme.

8. Any awards made by The Open University as a result of inaccurate or false information submitted by the applicant will be recovered in full.

9. Cash alternatives will not be available.
C. Specialist Equipment

10. Successful applicants will be entitled to request specialist equipment and disability support over and above the support provided via a Disabled Student’s Allowance. Additional support will be approved on a case by case basis subject to the requirements of the applicant.

11. Awards for specialist equipment and disability support made from the Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund do not supplant or supersede The Open University’s obligations to provide reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010, to which all students are entitled.

D. Specialist Careers Support

12. All eligible applicants will be entitled to pre-entry careers information.

13. Successful applicants may also be entitled to:
   - Specialist customised resources such as workbooks, webinars and forums
   - Ongoing career coaching and/or mentoring support for the duration of study
   - Placements and internships where appropriate.

Additional support will be provided on a case by case basis subject to the requirements and career goals of the applicant.

E. Applications

14. Applications may be submitted by email to studentfees@open.ac.uk or by post to:

   Student Fees
   The Open University
   PO Box 6055
   Milton Keynes
   MK10 1NH
15. The deadline for applications is midnight on 30th June 2020. No further applications will be accepted after this date. This applies to all study which begins during the 2020/21 academic year (1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021).

16. It is your responsibility to provide all supporting evidence for your application. Any application form received without the necessary supporting evidence will be returned to you.

17. In the instance that more eligible applications are received than scholarships available, a randomised draw will take place to allocate the scholarships. The draw will be open to all eligible applications received. Only one application per person.

18. The draw will take place on 3rd July 2020.

19. Successful applicants will be notified by email and letter on or before 10th July 2020.

20. No further applications will be required. Once a scholarship is approved, fee waivers will be allocated automatically subject to satisfactory participation in study for the previous academic year.

21. Applications on behalf of another person will not be accepted. The Open University accepts no responsibility for applications that are lost, delayed, misdirected or incomplete or cannot be delivered.

22. For you to be certain your application has been received you should send it using a signed for delivery service such as special or recorded delivery. Proof of postage using an unrecorded delivery service cannot be considered proof of delivery to The Open University. Applications must be received by midnight on the 30th June 2020. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

23. If you reject the scholarship, fail to complete a registration for study in the 2020/21 academic year or we are unable to contact you to confirm your readiness for study the award will be forfeited and The Open University shall be entitled to select another recipient.
24. The successful applicants may be offered the opportunity to take part in promotional activity related to the Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund such as attending fundraising events or taking part in forums.

25. The Open University shall use and take care of any personal information supplied to it as described in its Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available on request, in accordance with data protection legislation.

26. The Open University may be required to share limited information about you and the scheme with our funders.

27. The Open University accepts no responsibility for any disappointment incurred by the applicant as a result of entering the application process. The fund is discretionary, and the outcome of the draw is final.

28. The Open University will take all reasonable steps to continue the services offered as part of this scheme. There may be circumstances outside of our control where we are unable to provide those services in full or in part for reasons such as fire, flood, pandemic, terrorist acts or industrial disputes. Where those, or similar, circumstances arise we will minimise disruption so far as we are reasonably able to.

29. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.