Frequently Asked Questions

When and how will the bursary be paid?
The bursary will be paid in two instalments each academic year, subject to satisfactory participation in your studies. The first payment will be made in mid-November. The second payment will be made in early February.

What happens if I decide not to take up my course place after the bursary has been awarded?
If you have not fully registered on your module, including securing a suitable payment method and incurring a fee liability (where appropriate) within three weeks of the course start date, the bursary will be withdrawn and offered to another eligible student.

What happens if I withdraw from my course?
Bursaries do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant not a loan. However if you withdraw from your course or take a leave of absence you may have to repay a percentage of the bursary received in that academic year.

What can the bursary money be spent on?
There are no restrictions on what you can spend the money on, however the bursary is intended to support you with costs related to your study.

Why is ethnicity one of the eligibility criteria?
This bursary is aimed at groups of students who are under-represented in Higher Education, the scheme aims to help towards the Open University’s aims of ensuring that our student population reflects the whole of our society.

Why is the scheme only open to some courses?
The scheme is targeted at specific students on specific courses who would benefit most from the limited funds available.

Can I appeal if I am not happy with the decision?
The bursary is discretionary and the outcome of the draw is final. We may contact some applicants who were unsuccessful for feedback on our application process.

I am studying for a Masters or other postgraduate degree – can I apply?
Our bursary scheme is only open to undergraduates – we do not currently have a scheme to support postgraduate students.