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 100 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 submit an application and make sure that you understand them.

A. Eligibility

1. In order to qualify for the scheme the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:
   - Be starting study in the 2018/19 academic year
   - Be eligible for a UK fee
   - Be disabled as a result of, or in, military service
   - Be studying an Open University module for which some, or all, of the tuition fees are being charged to the applicant

B. Fee Waivers

2. Full fee waivers up to a maximum of 120 credits per academic year, 360 credits in total and not exceeding £18,000 for the total duration of the applicant’s qualification will be available for each successful applicant. Awards will be strictly limited to a single qualification.

3. Fee waiver amounts will be calculated based on the fee amounts for which the applicant is 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 the applicant’s eligibility for the scholarship fund after which an application for exceptional reinstatement will be required.
5. In circumstances where a successful applicant is 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 Senior Manager, Policy & Controls, Student Fees 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 2018/19.

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 from the applicant.

9. No cash alternatives will 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, advice and guidance.

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 1st August 2018. No further applications will be accepted after this date. This applies to all study which begins during the 2018/19 academic year (1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019).

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

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

18. Applications will be chosen at random from a draw of all eligible applications. The draw will take place on 6th August 2018.

19. Successful applicants will be notified by email and letter on or before 10th August 2018.

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. Proof of delivery of the application is not proof of receipt by The Open University. Applications must be received by midnight on the 1st August 2018. Applications received outside this time period will not be considered.

23. If the applicant rejects the scholarship, fails to complete their registration for study for which the award was made or the applicant is in breach of these terms and conditions the award will be forfeited and The Open University shall be entitled to select another recipient.

24. The successful applicant may be required to take part in promotional activity related to the Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund.

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

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

27. The Open University reserves the right at any time and from time to time to modify or discontinue, temporarily or permanently, this scholarship scheme with or without prior notice due to reasons outside its control.

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