The Open Futures – Sanctuary Scholarships

People arriving into the UK seeking refuge from threats to their lives face many challenges, but they also have the opportunity to build a new life and a hopeful future for their families. Participation in the labour market is often the key for successful long-term integration. University study opportunities open doors to careers, benefit individuals, and address the UK’s skills gap. These study opportunities need to cater flexibly to the transitional circumstances of asylum-seekers and refugees.

When a person has both the ambition and the chance to succeed, impossible dreams can become a reality. The opportunity to access higher education enables individuals to pursue their passions and provides a sense of purpose, identity, and achievement. It enables asylum-seekers and refugees to invest in their future and make substantial contributions to the society in which they make their new homes.

The Open University believes education should be open to everyone. Our Sanctuary Scholarships – part of the Open Futures Fund – are the latest initiative developed from our passionate advocacy for lifelong learning and our belief that accessible education is a powerful tool for social mobility, improving people’s lives, and building better communities.

Building upon our successful scholarships and bursaries programme – the Open Futures Fund – the OU is launching our Sanctuary Scholarships, offering financial support for students beginning study with the university in Autumn 2022. It will provide full fee-waiver scholarships to 12 students each year for the next three years. The fund will also provide 50 fully funded places on OU Access Modules starting in Autumn 2022 with the aim of preparing successful applicants with the skills and confidence to progress into Higher Education.

Terms & Conditions

These conditions contain the terms of the Open Futures – Sanctuary Scholarship and the Access Module Fee Waiver. 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 either a scholarship or an Access Module Fee Waiver, you must meet all the following criteria:

   - Be a forced migrant to the United Kingdom (a person displaced from their homeland or place of residence for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures) see Appendix 1 for full details
   - Have a personal annual income of not more than £25,000 or be in receipt of a qualifying benefit (see Appendix 3 for a list of qualifying benefits)
   - Be ordinarily resident in the UK
   - Hold no existing UK higher education qualification(s)
   - Be a new student to The Open University in academic year 2022/23
   - Be studying towards an undergraduate Open University module commencing in the 2022/23 academic year
   - Be studying at a minimum study intensity of 25% (30 credits) per academic year.

B. Supporting Evidence

2. You will need to provide evidence of your immigration status (see Appendix 2 for full details)

3. You will need to provide evidence of your personal annual income or a qualifying benefit (see Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 for further information).

C. Scholarship awards

4. Full fee waivers up to the value of 120 credits per seasonal academic year and 360 credits in total will be available for up to 12 eligible scholarship applicants.

5. Study breaks may be permitted up to a total of 12 months in aggregate. Study breaks of longer than 12 months will terminate your eligibility for the scholarship, after which an
application for exceptional reinstatement will be required. Requests for reinstatement should be submitted directly to studentfees@open.ac.uk.

6. 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.

7. 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 detailed in the Fee Rules 2022/23.

8. Any awards made by The Open University as a result of inaccurate or false information submitted by the applicant will be recovered from the applicant. Cash alternatives will not be available.

D. Access Module Fee Waiver awards

9. Up to 50 full fee waivers will be available for an OU Access Module which starts in October 2022.

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

11. 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 detailed in the Fee Rules 2022/23.

12. Any awards made by The Open University as a result of inaccurate or false information submitted by the applicant will be recovered from the applicant. Cash alternatives will not be available.
E. Applications

13. Applications can 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

14. The deadline for applications is midnight on 22 July 2022. No further applications will be accepted after this date.

15. It is your responsibility to provide all supporting evidence for your application by the advertised deadline. We reserve the right to request additional evidence from you. Failure to submit all required evidence may cause a processing delay and could lead to your application being declined.

16. Only one application per person. 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. The draw will be completed for full scholarships prior to the draw for Access Module fee waivers. Successful applicants for a scholarship will not be entered into the draw for Access Module fee waivers.

17. Applications on behalf of another person will not be accepted.

18. Successful applicants will be notified by email on or before 5 August 2022.

19. 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 and ongoing confirmation of each applicants immigration status and right to remain in the UK.
20. The Open University accepts no responsibility for applications that are lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete or cannot be delivered.

21. 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 22 July 2022. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

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

23. The successful scholarship applicants may be offered the opportunity to take part in promotional activity related to the Open Futures – Sanctuary Scholarship such as attending fundraising events or taking part in forums.

24. 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.

25. By submitting your application, you agree to the collection, retention, usage and distribution of your personal information in order to process your application and contact you.

26. 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 following the selection panel is final.

27. 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.

28. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.
Appendix 1 – Immigration Status

Applicants must have one of the following immigration statuses granted by the UK Home Office:

- Asylum Seeker - currently seeking asylum within the UK or Refused Asylum Seeker where your application for refugee status has been denied and a fresh claim is in process.
- Refugee status or you are the family member of someone granted refugee status. By family member we mean, you were either the spouse, civil partner or child under the age of 18, at the point your family member submitted their application for protection to the UK Home Office.
- Limited or Discretionary leave to remain as a result of an application for protection in the UK.
- Humanitarian Protection status or you are the family member of someone granted Humanitarian Protection status. By family member we mean, you were either the spouse, civil partner or child under the age of 18, at the point your family member submitted their application for protection to the UK Home Office.
- Indefinite leave to remain as a result of an application for protection in the UK.
- Section 67 Leave
- Calais Leave
- Limited leave to remain as a result of an application to either the Ukraine Family Scheme or Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

Please note that this scholarship is awarded on the understanding that you will continue to have an immigration status that allows you study for the duration of your course. If your immigration permission does change so that you were not permitted to study, the scholarship will be withdrawn. You will be required to submit evidence of your status throughout your scholarship. Failure to provide this evidence will result in your scholarship being cancelled.
Appendix 2 – Supporting evidence to confirm your immigration status

If your application is based on your own immigration status
You will need to confirm your immigration status by providing at least one of:

• Copy of the front and back of your Biometric residence permit (BRP)
  (If your BPR does not confirm the reason your leave was granted, you will need to provide a copy of the Home Office letter which notified you of the outcome of your application)
• Copy of Home Office letter
• Copy of the front and back of your Application registration card (ARC)

If your application is based on you being a family member of a person granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection
You will need to confirm your immigration status by providing at least one of:

• Copy of the front and back of your Biometric residence permit (BRP)
  (If your BPR does not confirm the reason your leave was granted, you will need to provide a copy of the Home Office letter which notified you of the outcome of your application)
• Copy of Home Office letter

If your own immigration documentation does not confirm you are a family member of a person granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection, and that this was also the case as of the date they submitted their application for protection, you will also need to provide the following:

• Confirmation of your spouse’s, civil partner’s or parent’s refugee status or Humanitarian Protection and date they submitted their application for protection to the UK Home Office - Copy of Home Office letter confirming the date of their application to the UK Home Office and it’s outcome
• Confirmation that as of the date your family member submitted their application to the UK Home Office, you were their spouse, civil partner or child under the age of 18 - marriage/civil partnership certificate or birth certificate
Appendix 3 – Qualifying benefits

Qualifying Benefits

- Income Support
- Housing Benefit (including Local Housing Allowance)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- Universal Credit
- A reduction under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (*students in Wales only*)
Appendix 4 – Your Income

Types of income and evidence

Types of income and supporting evidence required for yourself.

Employment income

One of:

- Copy of P60 or P45.
- Copy of pay slip from tax month 12 or tax week 52 showing ‘total paid to date’.

Self-employment income

(estimate for 2021/22 if you are not sure, you must provide evidence of 2020/21 income)

One of:

- Copy of letter from accountant confirming income from self-employment.
- Copy of HMRC tax calculation.
- Copy of your P60, P11D or confirmation of earnings from chartered or certified accountant.

Retirement or disability pension

Copy of proof of amount and how often it is paid.

Benefits income

Copy of letter from Jobcentre Plus confirming amount and type of benefit (see the sections below on benefits to include/not to include as income).

Unearned investment income

(e.g. interest from bank or building society accounts, ISAs, shares)

Copy of letter or statement from bank, building society or investment company.

Unearned income from property rental or lodgers

- Rental income: Copy of tax calculation showing total property rental income.
• Lodger income: Copy of signed letter from lodger confirming total amount of rent paid.

Other income
(e.g. loans, bursaries, maintenance payments, redundancy payments)
Copy of proof of other income including amount and date received.

Benefits to include as part of personal income
• Contribution-based JSA/ESA
• Incapacity Benefit
• Maternity Allowance
• Statutory Sick Pay
• Carer’s Allowance
• Retirement Pension

Benefits NOT to include as part of personal income
• Disability Living Allowance
• Attendance Allowance
• Industrial Injuries Benefit
• Child Benefit
• Guardian’s Allowance
• Working or Child Tax Credits
• Higher Education Bursary paid to care leavers
• Personal Independence Payments
• Armed Forces Independence Payments