The Open University Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund

The Disabled Veterans’ Scholarships Fund offers veterans, disabled in or due to military service, access to free Open University education and specialist support. The programme has already provided more than 300 full fee waiver scholarships to successful applicants. The scholarship fund also provides a wraparound disability and careers support service, to ensure that students are able to fully take advantage of educational opportunities. We are pleased to offer a further 50 places in 2024/25.

Study may take the form of an introductory Access module, a 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 Advisers, will draw on The Open University’s 50 plus years of experience in providing education to disabled students. With a disabled student community of over 28,000 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. To qualify for a scholarship, you must meet all the following criteria:
   - Be starting OU study as a new or returning student in the 2024/25 academic year (refer to The Open University Fee Rules for definitions of new and returning student)
   - Be ordinarily resident in the UK and eligible to pay a UK fee
   - Be disabled as a result of, or whilst serving in, the British military
   - Be studying towards an Open University qualification or a standalone module starting in the 2024/25 academic year (between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025)

B. Supporting Evidence

2. You will need to provide supporting evidence of your disability, sustained as a result of, or whilst serving in, the British military.

C. Scholarship Awards

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

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

5. Study breaks up to 24 months are permitted. Study breaks of longer than 24 months will terminate your eligibility for the scholarship, after which a request for exceptional reinstatement will be required. Requests for
reinstatement should be submitted directly to fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@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 Senior Manager, Policy & Controls, Academic Services, 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 2024/25.

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

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

10. Cash alternatives will not be available.

D. Specialist Equipment

11. Successful applicants will be entitled to request specialist equipment and disability support over and above the support provided via a Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA). Additional support will be approved on a case-by-case basis subject to the requirements of the applicant.
12. 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.

E. Specialist Careers Support

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

14. 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

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

F. Applications

16. Applications may be submitted directly to fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk or by post to:

Student Fees
The Open University
PO Box 6055
Milton Keynes
MK10 1NH
17. The deadline for applications is midday on 10 July 2024. No further applications will be accepted after this date. This applies to all study which begins during the 2024/25 academic year (1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025).

18. If you would like a Welsh version of the application form or terms and conditions, you can request this by emailing Student Fees fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk. Any forms submitted in Welsh will not be treated less favourably than those submitted in English.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. Successful applicants will be notified by email on or before 26 July 2024.
22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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 midday on 10 July 2024. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

25. If you reject the scholarship, fail to complete registration for study in the 2024/25 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.
28. The Open University may be required to share limited information about you and the scheme with our funders.

29. 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.

30. 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.

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