Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary
Terms & Conditions 2022/23

A. Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary 2022/23

1. The Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary provides a fund for new postgraduate students ordinarily resident in Wales, aged 60 or over and starting an eligible Masters qualification in the 2022/23 academic year.

2. Each bursary is for a total value of £4,000 and is designed to help with study costs or other living expenses a student may incur whilst undertaking their qualification.

3. The Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary is intended as a contribution towards study costs and is not a tuition fee payment method for students in Wales.

B. Terms & Conditions

4. These conditions contain the terms of the Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary. They set out the rights and responsibilities of each party which will apply in relation to confirming your eligibility for the scheme and, for recipients only, the period over which payments are disbursed.

5. Please read these conditions carefully and make sure that you understand them before you complete and return your application form.

C. Eligibility

6. In order to qualify for a Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary an applicant must meet all the following criteria:

- be ordinarily resident in Wales on the first day of the seasonal academic year in which their Masters qualification begins

- be eligible for The Open University’s Wales home nation fee

- be starting a new Masters qualification in the 2022/23 academic year

- be aged 60 or over on the first day of the seasonal academic year that their Masters qualification begins
• be studying a Masters qualification which can be completed in no more than three years
• have no credit transfer or prior study linked to their Masters qualification
• not already hold a Masters degree or equivalent or higher level qualification

D. Bursary Payments

7. Eligible students will receive their bursary by BACS directly into their bank account. The £4,000 bursary will be paid in three instalments each year, over the two- or three-year duration of their qualification, subject to satisfactory participation in study.

8. Eligible students will receive the first instalment after the first module of the qualification begins, not before. All payments will be subject to the University verifying that the student is actively participating in study.

9. An example payment schedule for two- and three-year qualifications beginning in October 2022 is as follows:

Example payment schedule for two-year qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>£660</td>
<td>£660</td>
<td>£680</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>£660</td>
<td>£660</td>
<td>£680</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example payment schedule for three-year qualification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£1,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£1,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£440</td>
<td>£480</td>
<td>£1,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. Qualifications which begin later in the academic year will have their payment schedule adjusted accordingly.

11. Bursary payments will not be made to any student who is no longer participating in their qualification.

12. 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 bursary eligibility, after which a request for exceptional reinstatement will be required. Requests for reinstatement should be submitted directly to studentfees@open.ac.uk.

13. Bursaries do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant not a loan.

14. Any bursary payments made by The Open University in error or paid as a result of false information submitted to the University will be recovered from the student.

E. Application Forms

15. Bursary applications may be submitted up to nine months after the first day of the seasonal academic year in which your eligible Masters qualification begins.

16. It is your responsibility to provide all information requested in the application form by the advertised deadline. We reserve the right to request additional information from you. Failure to submit a complete application may cause a processing delay and could lead to your application being declined.

17. No further applications will be required. Once a bursary is approved, payments will be released automatically subject to the student’s ongoing active participation in study.

18. Successful applicants will be notified by email. If the applicant rejects the bursary or the application is in breach of these Terms and Conditions, the award will be forfeited.

19. The Open University accepts no responsibility for application forms that are lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete or cannot be delivered.
20. Application forms can be sent by email to studentfees@open.ac.uk or by post to:

Student Fees  
The Open University  
PO Box 6055  
Milton Keynes  
MK10 1NH

21. We aim to process application forms within 10 working days of receipt (under normal circumstances).

22. For you to be certain your application has been received, if sending by post 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.

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

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. 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.

26. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.
F. Frequently Asked Questions

When and how will the bursary be paid?

The bursary will be paid in three equal instalments each academic year, over the two- or three-year duration of the qualification, subject to satisfactory participation in your studies. Eligible students will receive the first instalment after the first module of their Masters qualification begins, not before. All payments will be subject to the University verifying that you are actively participating in study.

What happens if I withdraw from my qualification?

Bursaries do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant not a loan. However, if you withdraw from your module or qualification, or take a leave of absence, you will not receive further instalments until you return to study.

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.

Will receiving this bursary affect my entitlement to other benefits?

If you receive state benefits you must report any student income you receive. This income may be taken into account in each assessment period in which you are studying your course. A set amount may be disregarded in each period to cover study expenses. If you have any concerns about this you should discuss it directly with your benefits assessor prior to submitting your application form.

Why is age included in the criteria?

The funding for the scheme has been provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) as an interim solution until the provision of loans for postgraduate courses to individuals aged 60 or over is implemented in the future.
Will receiving this bursary affect my eligibility for other sources of student support?

No, being in receipt of the Wales Postgraduate 60+ Bursary will not prevent access to any other forms of student support for which you are eligible.

G. Appendix 1 – Seasonal Academic Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification start date</th>
<th>First day of the Seasonal Academic Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October or November</td>
<td>1st September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January or February</td>
<td>1st January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April or May</td>
<td>1st April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>