

Student Fees

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Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarships 2026/27

- Eligible applicants in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland may apply for an Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship to fund their Open University studies, up to a maximum of 120 credits per academic year, 360 credits in total.
- The scholarship is open for all undergraduate module presentations which commence in the 2026/27 academic year (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027).
- Before making an application, please ensure you have read the full Terms and Conditions available at <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/sanctuary-scholarship>.
- Applications for the 2026/27 academic year will close at midday on 22 July 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.
- Please note: Scholarship funds are limited. There are a maximum of 10 scholarship awards available for 2026/27.
- Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you success. To ensure fairness, eligible applicants will be selected at random up to the maximum number of scholarships available.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application on or before 7 August 2026.

Completing the application

To be included in the selection process for the Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship you must complete this application form correctly and in full, providing supporting evidence where required.

Section 1: Your details

1.1 Enter your details.

Open University Personal Identifier (if you have one)

Date of birth

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Nationality

Email address

Telephone number

Section 2: Your eligibility for a scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, you must meet all the following the criteria:

- You are 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) unable to access higher education Student Finance due to your immigration status.
- You are ordinarily resident in the UK.
- You hold no existing UK higher education qualification(s).
- You are a new student to The Open University in academic year 2026/27.
- You intend to study an undergraduate OU module commencing in the 2026/27 academic year (between 1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027).
- You intend to study at a minimum intensity of 25% (30 credits) per academic year.

Please note: Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you success. If you still plan to study with The Open University even if unsuccessful in applying for a scholarship, you will need to make sure you have an alternative payment method in place. Further information is available on our Fees and Funding page: <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding>. If you are planning on applying for any additional support, it is advisable to apply as early as possible to ensure all support is in place ready for when you commence study.

Section 3: Your immigration status

3.1 Please confirm the date you first entered the UK

3.2 Please confirm which one of the following immigration statuses you have been granted by the UK Home Office:

Asylum Seeker.

A person ordinarily resident in England, who has been awarded limited leave to enter or remain as a result of a failed application for asylum or humanitarian protection.

Please note: If you are ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales this category does not apply to you.

3.3 Supporting evidence

- You will need to provide evidence to confirm your current immigration status. Appendix 2 of the Terms and Conditions provides further information on the evidence you need to provide to confirm your immigration status.



What supporting documentation have you provided with your application as evidence of your immigration status?

Application Registration Card (ARC)

Share code to access your eVisa and Home Office letter explaining the grounds on which your limited leave was granted or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

Home Office letter

Other

NOTE: We will not be able to accept your application if you have not provided sufficient evidence to confirm your immigration status in the UK.

Section 4: Your previous qualifications

- 4.1** You are only eligible to apply for a scholarship if you have no previous higher education qualifications, attained in the UK. By previous higher education qualifications, we mean any of the following:
- Undergraduate Honours Degree – BA (Hons), BSc (Hons) or BEd (Hons)
 - Undergraduate Ordinary or Foundation Degree – BA, BSc, BEd, or Foundation Degree (FD)
 - Higher National Diploma (HND), Higher National Certificate (HNC), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) or Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
 - Any postgraduate qualification

Do you already hold any of the above qualifications, which were attained in the UK?

Yes **No**

Section 5: Your Open University study

- 5.1** Please give the subject you are interested in studying.

Subject

- 5.2** If you know which module(s) you are intending to study first, please give their name or code. If you are not sure what module to study, you are not required to complete this section.

Please note that if you have asylum seeker status when you start studying with us you will only be able to study on a stand-alone modular basis, but once granted leave in the UK you will be able to register onto a qualification and link your successfully completed credits.

Module name or code

Section 6: Computing requirements

- 6.1** To study you will need broadband internet access and a desktop or laptop computer with an up-to-date version of Windows (10 or 11) or macOS (11 'Big Sur' or higher). Please complete the section below to confirm which of the following you currently have.

PC/Laptop including up-to-date version of Windows (10 or 11) or macOS (11 'Big Sur' or higher)

Broadband internet access

Your answers in this section will not affect your eligibility for a scholarship or your prospects of selection. We are asking for this information to check you have digital access. If you are selected for a scholarship and don't already have digital access, we will offer support to ensure you can start your studies successfully.

Section 7: Terms and Conditions

- 7.1** I confirm that I have read, understand and accept the Terms and Conditions (available at <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/sanctuary-scholarship>) for applying for an Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship.

Section 8: Declarations

8.1 Read the declaration below carefully before signing it.

- The information given on this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I have read the Terms and Conditions and I understand the conditions of receiving an Open University Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship.
- I understand that the University may share limited information about me with those funding the scheme.
- I will inform The Open University immediately of any change in my circumstances that might affect my entitlement to an Open University Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship.
- I understand that if I give The Open University false information, or fail to give complete information, I may be prosecuted, and my scholarship withdrawn.
- I understand that The Open University will award scholarships by random selection and that there is no right of appeal should my application be unsuccessful.
- I understand if I am selected for a scholarship and have asylum seeker status I will only be able to register on a stand-alone modular basis up to a maximum of 120 credits per academic year, 360 credits in total; but once granted leave in the UK I will be able to register onto a qualification and link all my successfully completed credits.

Your signature (If completing electronically, typed signatures are accepted) **Date**

Section 9: Consent to contact

The Open University Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship is funded by philanthropic donations. If your application is successful, we may wish to contact you inviting you to attend events with donors and other recipients or to share your story for the purposes of promoting the scheme for the benefit of other students. We will not use personal data of any persons in any materials without prior consent. Your answers in this section will not affect your eligibility for a scholarship or your prospects of selection.

9.1 If my application is successful, I consent to The Open University contacting me regarding promotional events and material.

Yes **No**

9.2 Where did you hear about the Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship?

On The Open University website

On social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram)

Through traditional media (e.g. newspaper article, TV)

Word of mouth

Other, please specify:

9.3 What would an Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship mean to you?

To allow us to continue to run this truly valuable scheme we need to continue our fundraising efforts. We find that quotes or stories really help with this. We would really appreciate if you could tell us a little about your previous circumstances and explain what a scholarship would mean to you, to use in promotional material. All direct quotations will be anonymised. This section is optional and your answer will not affect your chances of selection.

Section 10: Application survey

To help us gather information about whether the Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship is making a difference, it would be helpful if you could answer the following questions as part of your application. If you are successful in securing a scholarship, we will ask you similar but relevant survey questions throughout your studies.

I am feeling confident about beginning my studies with the Open University.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

My course will bring a new focus and/or help me achieve my career ambitions.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

I would have studied with The Open University this year without this funding being available.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

It was easy to find information about this funding scheme.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

The information about this scheme was easy to understand.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

The application process was straightforward.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Undecided Agree Strongly Agree

Section 11: Checklist

11.1 Use the checklist to make sure that your application is complete. Remember to send copies of the evidence you supply, we cannot return originals to you.

Have you:

- Read the terms and conditions at <https://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding/sanctuary-scholarship?>
- Completed all required sections of the form?
- Provided supporting evidence of your immigration status?
- Signed and dated the declaration in Section 8?

Data Protection Legislation

The following statement describes who will use the information provided on this form and what they will use it for.

We will use the information you give on this form to process your Open University Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship application.

The Open University needs the information you give on this form to work out whether you are eligible for a scholarship and is the data controller for that information. The Open University will keep personal information about you so that we can audit the assessment of the Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship funding.

The data provided on this form will be retained by The Open University for a period of time based on the duration of your qualification.

As a data subject, you have a number of rights. If you wish to see the information the University holds about you, or if you wish for any information to be corrected, deleted or blocked ("restricted"), please contact us using the details opposite.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted on the details below.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not in accordance with the law, you can complain to the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). See www.ico.org.uk.

Open University Data Protection Officer
University Secretary's Office
PO Box 497
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA

Email: data-protection@open.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1908 653994

Please email your completed application and supporting evidence to:

Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk

Or, you can post a hard copy of your completed application with supporting evidence to:

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The Open University
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