

Student Fees

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Open Futures Creative Writing Scholarship 2026/27

- Eligible applicants may apply for a scholarship to fund their Open University MA in Creative Writing (F71), up to a maximum of 180 credits in total.
- The Open Futures Creative Writing Scholarship is open for students from a Black background, commencing study in the 2026/27 academic year (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027), who have a personal annual income of not more than £25,000 or who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
- Before making an application please ensure you have read the full Terms and Conditions available at <https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/creative-writing-scholarship>.
- Please note: Scholarship funds are limited. There are a maximum of 3 awards available for 2026/27. Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you success. To ensure support is allocated in accordance with the spirit of the fund, eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel who will determine which applicants are awarded a scholarship.
- Applications for the 2026/27 academic year will close at midday on **29 July 2026**. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.
- Successful applicants will be notified on or before 14 August 2026.

Completing the application

To be included in the selection process 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

1.2 I confirm that I have read, understand and accept the Terms and Conditions (available at <https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/creative-writing-scholarship>) for applying for an Open Futures Creative Writing Scholarship.

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 ordinarily resident in the UK and are eligible to pay a UK fee.
- You identify as being from a Black background.
- You intend to enrol on the MA in Creative Writing (F71) starting in the 2026/27 academic year (between 1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027).
- You have a personal annual income of not more than £25,000 or are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
- You fulfil the [entry requirements](#) for the MA in Creative Writing.
- You are able to demonstrate experience of, and passion for, creative writing.

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: <https://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-and-funding>. If you are planning on applying for any additional support, such as Disabled Students' Allowance, it is advisable to apply as early as possible to ensure all support is in place ready for when you commence study.

2.1 I confirm that I have one of the following ethnicities:

Black African

Black Caribbean

Black Other

Mixed – White and Black Caribbean

Mixed – White and Black African

Other mixed background (to include Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other), please state:

2.2 MA in Creative Writing entry requirements

I have read the [entry requirements](#) for the MA in Creative Writing (F71), and I confirm I meet these requirements.

You do not need to submit qualification evidence with this scholarship application, however when you register for the MA in Creative Writing you will be asked to provide evidence of your previous qualification(s).

2.3 Please list below the UK honours degree (or equivalent) you hold, and the classification.

UK honours degree (or equivalent) held:

Classification:

2.4 In no more than 500 words, please use this section to demonstrate your previous experience of, and passion for, creative writing. This could include details of creative writing higher education study you have completed (including grades achieved), or short courses or workshops you have attended. If your work has been featured in publications or performances, please also include details of these here.

Section 3: Financial eligibility

3.1 Are you basing your application on your qualifying benefit or your personal income?

Qualifying benefit **(go to Section 4)**

Personal income **(go to Section 5)**

Section 4: Qualifying benefits

Complete this section if you are basing your application on your qualifying benefit.

4.1 Tick which qualifying benefit you receive.

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*)



You need to provide evidence dated within six months of this application of the qualifying benefit you receive.

You can either:

- supply a full copy of your benefits award letter; or
- ask your Jobcentre Plus or local authority housing office to complete Section 4.2 below.

4.2 If you are not sending us a copy of a benefits award letter, a member of staff from the Jobcentre Plus or local authority housing office must sign this part of the form.

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that at the date of receipt of this form the claimant named below is receiving the benefit(s) and/or credit(s) indicated above.

Full name of recipient

Signature of certifying officer

Official stamp (stating authority's address)

Name (print)

Date

Now continue to Section 6. You don't need to complete Section 5.

Section 5: Personal income

Complete this section if you are basing your application on your personal income.



- In the table below, give details of your gross personal income for the last complete financial year (1 April – 31 March).
- Make sure you provide **supporting evidence** for each type of income you declare. Send **copies** of supporting evidence, we can't return originals. **Appendix 3** in the Terms & Conditions will help if you're not sure what evidence to provide.
- **Note:** If the total income you declare is nil, you must give an explanation of how you are supporting yourself and provide a letter from any persons supporting you to confirm this.

5.1 Personal income

Type of income (for the last complete financial year, 1 April – 31 March)	Gross amount received by you:
Employment income	£
Self-employment income	£
Retirement or disability pension	£
Benefits income	£
Unearned investment income (e.g. interest from bank or building society accounts, ISAs, shares)	£
Unearned income from property rental or lodgers	£
Other income (e.g. loans, bursaries, maintenance payments, redundancy payments received for yourself)	£
Total income for the last financial year	£

Section 6: Declaration

6.1 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 Futures Creative Writing Scholarship.
- I will inform The Open University immediately of any change in my circumstances that might affect my entitlement to an Open Futures Creative Writing 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.

Your signature

Date

Section 7: Consent to contact

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 Open Futures Creative Writing Scholarship 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.

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

Yes **No**

7.2 Where did you hear about the Open Futures Creative Writing 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:

7.3 What would an Open Futures Creative Writing 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 a statement explaining 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 8: Application survey

8.1 To help us gather information about whether this scheme 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 9: Checklist

9.1 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/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/creative-writing-scholarship?>

Completed all required sections of the form?

Provided supporting evidence of your personal income or qualifying benefit?

Signed and dated the declaration in Section 6?

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 Creative Writing 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 Open Futures Creative Writing 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 your completed application with supporting evidence to:

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The Open University
PO Box 6055
Milton Keynes
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The Open University Academic Services