

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 350 full fee waiver scholarships to successful applicants. The scholarship fund also provides a wraparound disability and careers support service, to ensure that students can fully take advantage of educational opportunities. We are pleased to offer a further 30 places in 2026/27.

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 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 30,000 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 2026/27 academic year
 - 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 2026/27 academic year (between 1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027)

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.
3. Application forms and supporting evidence submitted by email must be sent as file attachments (for example a PDF file, Word document, JPEG image). For security reasons we cannot accept evidence that has been sent as a clickable hyperlink requiring the opening and downloading of data (for example Google Drive or OneDrive links).

C. Scholarship Awards

4. The scholarship award will offer full fee waivers for up to 360 credits of study across the duration of your scholarship. Awards will be limited to a single qualification. The number of credits you study each year can vary as long as you do not exceed the maximum study intensity permitted in

each academic year, which is 120 credits. Fee waiver amounts will be calculated based on the fee amounts for which you are directly liable.

5. Study breaks up to two academic years are permitted. If you take a study break of two academic years and return in the following year, you will remain eligible for your scholarship funding. Study breaks of longer than two academic years 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 Discretionary 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 applicable [Fee Rules 2026/27](#).
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. Careers Support

13. All eligible applicants will be entitled to pre-entry careers information.
14. Successful applicants are also be entitled to:
 - Careers resources such as webpages, webinars and forums
 - Access to careers support for the duration of study and up to 3 years after leaving university
 - Access to work experience opportunities and job vacancies through our online platform, OpportunityHub

F. Applications

15. 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

16. The deadline for applications is midday on 15 July 2026. No further applications will be accepted after this date. This applies to all study which begins during the 2026/27 academic year (1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027).
17. If you would like a Welsh version of the application form or terms and conditions, you can request this by emailing Student Fees at fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk. Any forms submitted in Welsh will not be treated less favourably than those submitted in English.

Os hoffech fersiwn Gymraeg o'r ffurflen gais neu y telerau ac amodau, gallwch ofyn am hyn drwy e-bostio Ffioedd Myfyrwyr: fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk. Ni fydd ffurflenni a gyflwynir yn Gymraeg yn cael eu trin yn llai ffafriol na'r rhai a gyflwynir yn Saesneg.
18. 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.
19. 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 30 scholarships. The draw will be open to all eligible applications received.

20. Applications from students who have previously been awarded an Open University scholarship will not be considered.
21. Applications from student who are still serving in the armed forces will not be considered.
22. Successful applicants will be notified by email on or before 31 July 2026.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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 15 July 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.
26. If you reject the scholarship, fail to complete registration for study in the 2026/27 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.

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. The Open University may be required to share limited information about you and the scheme with our funders.
30. 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.
31. 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 as far as we are reasonably able to.
32. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.