

Student Fees

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Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students 2026/27

- Eligible applicants may apply for a scholarship to fund their Open University studies, up to a maximum of 120 credits per academic year, 360 credits in total.
- The Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students 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/scholarship-for-black-students>.
- Applicants who do not fulfil all the specified criteria should not apply; no discretion can be applied to the scheme's eligibility criteria.
- Applications for the 2026/27 academic year will close at midday on **24 June 2026**. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted. A completed application form and supporting evidence, including residency evidence where required, must be received by this date.
- Please note: Scholarship funds are limited. There are a maximum of 10 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.
- Successful applicants will be notified on or before 10 July 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

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** of the following criteria:

- You identify as being from a Black background.
- You have an annual household income of not more than £25,000 or are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.
- You are ordinarily resident in the UK and eligible for a UK fee.
- You hold no existing higher education qualification(s).
- You are a new student to The Open University.
- You intend to study towards an undergraduate OU qualification or module commencing in the 2026/27 academic year (between 1 August 2026 and 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, 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:

Section 3: Your previous qualifications

3.1 You are only eligible to apply for a scholarship if you have no previous higher education qualifications, attained in the UK or anywhere else in the world. By previous higher education qualifications, we mean any of the following:

- Undergraduate Honours Degree – e.g. BA (Hons), BSc (Hons)
- Undergraduate Ordinary or Foundation Degree – e.g. BA, BSc 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

I confirm that I do not already hold any of the above qualifications.

Section 4: Your UK fee eligibility

You are only eligible to apply for a scholarship if you are eligible for a UK fee. Please answer the following questions so that we can complete a fee assessment if required.

4.1 Which UK nation will you be undertaking your day-to-day life in on 1 September 2026?

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

If you will not be in a UK nation on this date please tell us the following:

Which country you will be in

Date you will return to the UK

UK nation you will return to

The reason you are there, for example visiting family

4.2 Have you been outside of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man between 1 September 2023 and 1 September 2026?

Yes

No

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us the country or countries you have been in, your arrival and departure dates and the purpose of your time there

4.3 What is your nationality?

Nationality

If you are a British national continue to Section 5, otherwise please complete the rest of Section 4.

4.4 What is your current UK immigration status?

Tell us as much information as possible e.g., if you've been granted limited leave to remain, tell us what type of limited leave it is.

Make sure you provide supporting evidence to confirm your residency status. Send copies of supporting evidence, we can't return originals. Appendix 2 in the Terms and Conditions will help if you're not sure what evidence to provide.



4.5 When did your current period of residence in the UK start?

4.6 Are you the family member of someone who has one of the below immigration statuses?

- No restriction on their stay in the UK
- Pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme

Yes

No

If you selected 'Yes', please tell us your relationship to your family member e.g., spouse or civil partner

4.7 When did you first enter the UK?

Section 5: Your Open University study

5.1 Please give the subject you are interested in studying.

Subject

5.2 If you are intending to study towards a qualification and know which one, please give the name or code of the qualification. If you are not sure or if you intend to study a module only, you are not required to complete Section 5.2.

Qualification name or code

5.3 What is your career motivation?

Move into employment

Change into a new career area

Develop or progress in current career

I am not studying for career purposes (go to Section 6)

Other, please specify:

5.4 What career are you pursuing?

Section 6: Financial eligibility

6.1 Are you basing your application on your qualifying benefit or your household income?

Qualifying benefit (go to Section 7)

Household income (go to Section 8)

Section 7: Qualifying benefits

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

7.1 Tick which qualifying benefit you or your spouse, partner or civil partner 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 or your partner receive. You can either:

- supply a full copy of your or your partner's benefits award letter; or
- ask your Jobcentre Plus or local authority housing office to complete Section 7.2 below.

7.2 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 on the previous page.

Full name of recipient

Signature of certifying officer

Official stamp (stating authority's address)

Name (print)

Date

Now continue to Section 9. You don't need to complete Section 8.

Section 8: Household income

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



- In the table below, give details of your gross household 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 and 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.

8.1 Household income

Type of income (for the last complete financial year, 1 April – 31 March)	Gross amount received: You	Gross amount received: Spouse, partner or civil partner
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 9: Your household

9.1 List all adults (aged 18 or over on the first day of the academic year of your module) other than yourself who live in your household and state each person's relationship to you (e.g. husband, wife, partner, civil partner).

Name

Relationship

Section 10: Terms and Conditions

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

Section 11: Declaration

Read the declaration in 11.1 carefully before signing it. If you have included details of benefits or income received by your spouse, partner or civil partner, this person should sign and date the declaration in 11.2 too.

11.1 Your declaration

- 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 Scholarship for Black Students.
- I will inform The Open University immediately of any change in my circumstances that might affect my entitlement to an Open University Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students.
- 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

(If completing electronically, typed signatures are accepted)

Date

11.2 Declaration by your spouse, partner or civil partner

- The information given on this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I agree to supply any further information relevant to this application that The Open University asks for.
- I understand that if I give The Open University false information, or fail to give complete information, this may lead to disciplinary procedures resulting in the withdrawal of the student's scholarship and possible expulsion from the University.

Signature (spouse, partner or civil partner)

(If completing electronically, typed signatures are accepted)

Date

Section 12: Consent to contact

The Open University Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students 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.

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

Yes **No**

12.2 Where did you hear about the Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students?

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:

12.3 What would an Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students 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 13: Application survey

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 14: Checklist

14.1 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/scholarship-for-black-students?>

Completed all required sections of the form?

Provided supporting evidence of your household income or qualifying benefit?

Signed and dated the declaration in Section 11?

Provided evidence of your UK immigration status, if applicable?

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 Scholarship for Black Students 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 Scholarship for Black Students 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:

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