

## **The Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarships**

People arriving into the UK seeking refuge from threats to their lives face many challenges, but they also have the opportunity to build a new life and a hopeful future for their families. Participation in the labour market is often the key for successful long-term integration. University study opportunities open doors to careers, benefit individuals, and address the UK's skills gap. These study opportunities need to cater flexibly to the transitional circumstances of those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

When a person has both the ambition and the chance to succeed, impossible dreams can become a reality. The opportunity to access higher education enables individuals to pursue their passions and provides a sense of purpose, identity, and achievement. It enables those seeking sanctuary in the UK to invest in their future and make substantial contributions to the society in which they make their new homes.

The Open University believes education should be open to everyone. Our Sanctuary Scholarships – part of the Open Futures Fund – are developed from our passionate advocacy for lifelong learning and our belief that accessible education is a powerful tool for social mobility, improving people's lives, and building better communities.

The Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarships will provide 10 students with a full fee waiver scholarship in academic year 2026/27.

## Terms & Conditions

These conditions contain the terms of the Open Futures Sanctuary Scholarship. 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. In order to qualify for a scholarship, you must meet **all** the following criteria:
  - Be 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, see [Appendix 1](#) for full details
  - Be ordinarily resident in the UK
  - Hold no existing UK higher education qualification(s)
  - Be a new student to The Open University in academic year 2026/27
  - Be studying an undergraduate Open University module commencing in the 2026/27 academic year
  - Be studying at a minimum study intensity of 25% (30 credits) per academic year.

### B. Supporting Evidence

2. You will need to provide evidence of your immigration status (see [Appendix 2](#) for full details).

### **C. Scholarship Awards**

3. Full fee waivers up to the value of 120 credits per academic year and 360 credits in total will be available for up to 10 eligible scholarship applicants.
4. The scholarship award will offer full fee waivers for up to 360 credits of study across the duration of your scholarship. The number of credits you study each year can vary as long as you meet the credit requirements. The minimum study intensity permitted in each academic year is 30 credits and the maximum is 120 credits. Fee waiver amounts will be calculated based on the fee amounts for which you are directly liable.
5. Fee waivers will be allocated to stand-alone modular study only until you have been granted leave in the UK; this means you can study modules that count towards a particular qualification but will not be able to register onto that qualification.
6. At the point you are granted leave in the UK you will be able to register onto the qualification you have been studying modules towards and link these modules so that they count towards your qualification.
7. If on completing the total credits needed to claim the qualification you have been working towards, you have not received the outcome of your application for asylum, you will be permitted to register onto that qualification and link the credits you have completed so that it can be awarded to you.
8. Study breaks of up to one academic year are permitted. If you take a study break of one academic year and return in the following year, you will remain eligible for your scholarship funding. Study breaks of longer than

one academic year 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](mailto:fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk). 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.

9. Decisions on exceptional awards will be made by the Senior Manager, Policy and Controls, Academic Services or their delegated authority in line with the eligibility criteria for Discretionary Fee Credits detailed in the [Fee Rules 2026/27](#).
10. Any awards made by The Open University as a result of inaccurate or false information submitted by the applicant will be recovered from the applicant.
11. Cash alternatives will not be available.

#### **D. Applications**

12. Applications can be submitted by email to [fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk](mailto:fees-fs-bursaries-scholarships@open.ac.uk) or by post to:

Student Fees

The Open University

PO Box 6055

Milton Keynes

MK10 1NH

13. The deadline for applications is midday on 22 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).
14. 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).
15. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.
16. 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.
17. 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 scholarships. The draw will be open to all

eligible applications received.

18. Applications from students who have previously been awarded an Open University scholarship will not be considered.
19. Successful applicants will be notified by email on or before 7 August 2026.
20. 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 and ongoing confirmation of each applicant's immigration status and right to remain in the UK.
21. Applications on behalf of another person will not be accepted. The Open University accepts no responsibility for applications that are lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete or cannot be delivered.
22. 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 22 July 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.
23. If an applicant rejects the scholarship, fails to complete their registration for study for which the award was made or the application is in breach of these terms and conditions, the award will be forfeited, and The Open University shall be entitled to select another recipient.
24. The successful scholarship applicants may be offered the opportunity to take part in promotional activity related to the Open Futures – Sanctuary

Scholarship such as attending fundraising events or taking part in forums.

25. 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.
26. By submitting your application, you agree to the collection, retention, usage and distribution of your personal information in order to process your application and contact you.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

## **Appendix 1 – Immigration Status**

Applicants must have one of the following immigration statuses granted by the UK Home Office:

- Asylum Seeker – you are currently seeking asylum within the UK or you are a Refused Asylum Seeker where your application for refugee status has been denied and a fresh claim is in process
- A person ordinarily resident in England and granted leave to enter or remain as a result of a failed application for asylum or humanitarian protection.

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

Please note that this scholarship is awarded on the understanding that you will continue to have an immigration status that allows you to study for the full duration of the modules needed to complete the maximum 360 credits funded by the scholarship.

If your immigration permission does change so that you are no longer permitted to study, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

You will be required to submit evidence of your status throughout your scholarship.

Failure to provide this evidence will result in your scholarship being cancelled.

## **Appendix 2 – Supporting Evidence to Confirm Your Immigration Status**

If you are an Asylum Seeker you will need to provide one of the following:

- A copy of the front and back of your application registration card (ARC)
- A copy of your Home Office documentation such as a letter regarding your application for asylum or a letter confirming you are receiving asylum support.

If you are a person ordinarily resident in England and granted leave to enter or remain as a result of a failed application for asylum or humanitarian protection you will need to provide the following:

- Home Office share code
- A copy of the ID page of your passport
- A copy of the Home Office letter which notified you of the outcome of your application for asylum or humanitarian protection.