

### Student Fees

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# Carers' Scholarship 2026/27

- Eligible applicants resident in England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland 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 Carers' Scholarship is open for all undergraduate module presentations which commence in the 2026/27 academic year (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027).
- 10 scholarships are available for 2026/27. Three of these scholarships are reserved for young carers aged 25 and under.
- Before making an application, please ensure you have read the full Terms and Conditions available at <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/carers>.
- **Applications for the 2026/27 academic year will close at midday on 17 June 2026. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.**

## 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

**Open University Personal Identifier (If you have one)**      **Date of birth**      **Age**

**Title**      **Forename(s)**      **Surname**

**Address**

**Postcode**      **Nationality**

**Email address**      **Telephone number**

## Eligibility Criteria

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

- You are ordinarily resident in the UK and are eligible to pay a UK fee.
- You are starting study with the OU for the first time.
- You intend to study towards an Open University undergraduate qualification or module starting in the 2026/27 academic year (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027).
- You intend to study a minimum of 30 credits per year.
- You are a carer or have previously been a carer within the last 2 years; where the person you cared for has passed away.
- You must be/were completing a minimum average of 15 hours per week of caring responsibilities.
- You have an annual household income of not more than £25,000 or are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

**Please note:** Scholarship funds are limited. There are a maximum of 10 awards available for the 2026/27 academic year. To ensure support is allocated in accordance with the spirit of the fund, eligible applications and supporting evidence will be reviewed by a panel who will make an assessment based upon the impact of the applicants' caring responsibilities. Awards will be made up to the maximum number of scholarships available. Successful applicants will be contacted by **3 July 2026**.

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.

## Section 2: Your Open University study

### 2.1 Please give the subject you are interested in.

Subject

### 2.2 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 2.2.

Qualification name or code

### 2.3 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 3**).

Other, please specify:

## 2.4 What career are you pursuing?

### Section 3: Your eligibility for a scholarship

#### 3.1 Caring responsibilities

Are you currently a carer?

**Yes (go to 3.3)**

**No (go to 3.2)**

#### 3.2 Have you been a carer in the last 2 years?

**Yes**

**No (you are not eligible for a scholarship)**

#### 3.3 How long have you been a carer for?

#### 3.4 How many people do you care for?

#### 3.5 Please provide details of the person who you are currently caring for or were caring for. If you care for more than one person, please enter the information of the person who you provide the most care to. Please then provide us with full information in respect of any other people you care for including: name, relationship and age in section 3.8.

Full name

Age

Relationship to you

#### 3.6 Do you live with the person you care for? If you were a carer in the last 2 years, please answer based on your caring responsibilities at the time.

**Yes**

**No**

#### 3.7 On average how many hours of care do you (or did you) provide per week?

- 3.8** Please explain the caring responsibilities you undertook or currently undertake, ensuring you take this opportunity to provide sufficient details of the impact your caring responsibilities have had on your life. It is also advisable to supply copies of supporting documentary evidence in relation to the person you care for, this may include their condition(s) and any other relevant information that will assist us in understanding the impact caring has on your day-to-day life. Examples of suggested evidence you could provide in support of your application are listed in Appendix 1 of the Terms and Conditions of the scheme.



## Section 4: Financial eligibility

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

Qualifying benefit (**go to Section 5**)

Household income (**go to Section 6**)

## Section 5: Qualifying benefits

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

### 5.1 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 5.2 below.

### 5.2 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 7. You don't need to complete Section 6.**

## Section 6: 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 2** 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.



### 6.1 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/ your partner)	£	£
<b>Total income for the last financial year</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>

## Section 7: Your household

7.1 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 8: Terms and Conditions

8.1 I confirm that I have read, understood and accept the Terms and Conditions (available at <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/carers>) for applying for an Open University Carers' Scholarship.

## Section 9: Declaration

Read the declaration in 9.1 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 9.2 too.

### 9.1 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 Carers' Scholarship.
- I will inform The Open University immediately of any change in my circumstances that might affect my entitlement to an Open University Carers' 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** (If completing electronically, typed signatures are accepted)      **Date**

### 9.2 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 10: Consent to contact

The Open University Carers' 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.

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

**Yes**

**No**

**10.2 Where did you hear about the Carers' Scholarship?**

Through an organisation for carers, please specify:

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:

## Section 10: Consent to contact (continued)

### 10.3 Are you a member of one of our partners?

**Yes (please indicate below)**                      **No**

Carers Trust

Carers UK

If you are a member and are selected for a scholarship, we would like to inform the applicable above named organisation(s) of your success, please tick this box if you **do not consent** to the release of this information.

### 10.4 What would a Carers' Scholarship mean to you?

To allow us to continue to run this truly valuable scheme we need to continue our fundraising efforts. We would really appreciate some words to describe what a scholarship would mean to you, to quote in promotional material. You may like to include how you think a scholarship could affect your life and future prospects. We are happy to publish your quotes anonymously if you would prefer.

## Section 11: 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 12: Checklist

**12.1 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 <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/choose/carers?>

Completed all required sections of the form?

Provided supporting evidence of your household income/qualifying benefit?

Provided supporting evidence of your caring responsibilities? We need to have a clear understanding of your circumstances. Provide as much information and evidence as you wish to share, ensuring you remain within the application limit outlined in the Terms and Conditions.

Signed and dated the declaration(s) in Section 9?

## 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 Carers' 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 Carers' 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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Open University Data Protection Officer  
University Secretary's Office  
PO Box 497  
The Open University Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes MK7 6AT  
Email: [data-protection@open.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@open.ac.uk)  
Telephone: +44 (0)1908 653994

**Please scan and email your completed application and supporting evidence to:**

[Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk](mailto:Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk)

**If this is not possible, then please post a hard copy of your completed application with supporting evidence to:**

Student Fees  
The Open University  
PO Box 6055  
Milton Keynes  
MK10 1NH

