Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund Terms & Conditions 2027/28

The Open University Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund

The Crowther Fund was established as a tribute to the late Lord Crowther, the University's first Chancellor. The fund is intended to help Open University (OU) graduates who want to build on their first degree by contributing towards further study, research or a period of voluntary work, either at the OU or another provider.

The Robert Beevers Memorial Fund is named after Dr Robert Beevers, one of The Open University's 'founding fathers.' This fund is intended for Open University research study and contributes to tuition fees or study-related costs.

Grants for both schemes are awarded by the Crowther Fund Awards Advisory Board and are limited to Open University honours degree graduates only.

Terms & Conditions

These conditions contain the terms of the Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund. They set out the rights and responsibilities of each party which will apply in relation to your application for the fund and, for successful applicants only, the receipt of your funding. Please read these conditions carefully before you apply for funding and make sure you understand them.

There is a single application process for both schemes, and all applications will be considered by the Crowther Fund Awards Advisory Board. Those successful in receiving an award for study with other providers, or those looking to complete non-research study with the OU, will receive a Crowther

Award. Those successful in receiving an award towards OU research study will receive a Beevers Award.

A. Eligibility

1. To qualify for these schemes, you must meet **all** the following criteria:
    - Be an Open University graduate who has completed and accepted their undergraduate honours degree qualification
    - Be applying for funding to assist with:
        - study or further education
        - formal supervised research proposals
        - projects which are either an extension of studies already undertaken or which you have been invited to participate because of your Open University studies
        - other activities such as study tours, special tuition, master classes and personal lines of study
2. The Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund are available to applicants worldwide and there is no age limit for applicants.

B. Supporting evidence

3. Applications from applicants who have previously received an award from the Crowther Fund or Beevers Fund and wishing to receive continuing support for a qualification, course of study, project or other activity must supply a progress report from a supervisor, tutor or other person acquainted with their work. Applicants who are studying towards a PhD, MPhil, MLit or BPhil must attach a report from their current supervisor to

their application.

4. 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. Crowther and Beevers fund awards

5. Awards from the Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund are intended primarily to assist in meeting expenses such as tuition and travel costs.
6. Successful applicants will be informed by email by 31 May 2027 and will be sent an Award Acceptance Form, to be completed and returned by post or email. The completed form must be received no later than 30 June 2027.
7. Successful applicants will need to provide receipts for costs they are claiming or proof of registration before an award can be made.
8. If the completed Award Acceptance Form is not received by 30 June 2027, payment will not be released.
9. Once an award has been made for a specific purpose, for example tuition fees, the Board will not approve re-allocation because of changed circumstances.
10. Awards are considered up to a maximum of £1,000 but most awards will be between £500 and £750 due to the limited funds available.

11. Any awards made by The Open University because of inaccurate or false information submitted by the applicant will be recovered from the applicant.

D. Applications

12. Applications may be submitted by email to ou-crowther-fund@open.ac.uk or by post to:

    Student Fees

    Crowther Fund

    The Open University

    PO Box 6055

    Milton Keynes

    MK10 1NH

13. The deadline for applications is midday on 24 February 2027. No further applications will be accepted after this date.

14. It is your responsibility to submit your completed application form by the advertised deadline. We reserve the right to request additional information from you. Failure to submit all required information may cause a processing delay and could lead to your application being declined.

15. Applications for the 2027/28 year can be made for study or projects that start between 1 May 2027 and 30 April 2028.

16. Claims for costs incurred before 1 May 2027 cannot be considered, with the only exception being retrospective claims for course fees for courses that started after 1 January 2027.

17. Please note that awards are made for one year at a time and the Board cannot guarantee continued support. Applications for further awards must be made each year.

18. The Board consider the following aspects within applications:

    - the level of honours degree held (taking credit transfer into account)
    - the overall quality of the application
    - the apparent need for funding
    - the goals/progression that the student would achieve

19. Applications are judged solely on their merits: the Crowther Fund and Beevers Fund is not to relieve financial hardship, help towards the cost of living or childcare costs.

20. If you would like a Welsh version of the application form or terms and conditions, you can request this by emailing Student Fees at ou-crowther-fund@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: ou-crowther-fund@open.ac.uk. Ni fydd ffurflenni a gyflwynir yn Gymraeg yn cael eu trin yn llai ffafriol na'r rhai a gyflwynir yn Saesneg.

21. The Crowther Fund Awards Advisory Board meeting will take place in April/May 2027. Successful applicants will be notified by email by the 31 May 2027.

22. 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.

23. 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 24 February 2027. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

24. 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.

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. 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 Board is final.

27. 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.

28. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.