

Sanctuary Scholarships Guidelines and Terms & Conditions

These Terms and Conditions apply to all those wishing to apply for a University of Reading Sanctuary Scholarship (**Sanctuary Scholarship**). By submitting a Sanctuary Scholarship application, you agree to comply with, and be bound, by these Terms and Conditions.

To be eligible to apply for a Sanctuary Scholarship, you must have been granted:

- a. a form of leave (leave to remain, limited leave to remain, discretionary leave to remain, humanitarian protection) as the result of an asylum application, or human rights application;
- b. be an asylum seeker;
- c. have settlement in the UK through the ARAP or ACRS schemes for Afghan refugees; or
- d. have entered the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Sponsorship (Homes for Ukraine) scheme, including Ukraine visa extensions.

In all cases you must fulfil the relevant eligibility criteria set out below.

Guidelines

1. The University of Reading (**University**) offers other funding schemes, such as the University of Reading Master's Scholarship scheme or funding offered by external sponsors for which students may be eligible, for more information see [the Undergraduate Scholarships page](#), [the Master's Scholarships page](#) or the [Sanctuary PhD Studentships page](#). This information relates only to the Sanctuary Scholarships.
2. Sanctuary Scholarships will be awarded by the University. Eligible applicants will need to submit a separate application for the awards and recipients will be selected at random, after the advice of an advisory panel with preference given for individuals who are local to the University having regards to achieving a balance between men and women.
3. **Types of Sanctuary Scholarship.** There are five different award types in the Sanctuary Scholarships. There are summarised below. Please note each award is subject to further specific eligibility criteria as set out later in these Terms and Conditions. The award types are:
 - a) **1 (one)** scholarship for students entering the International Foundation Programme (IFP) or a degree with an integrated International Foundation Year (IFY), who would normally have Home fees status, as defined by the University. This award varies depending on which programme students are entering:
 - i. If entering the IFP the tuition fees for the IFP are waived, and the student will receive a £5000 bursary for the IFP year, and £5000 for each further year of study, should they successfully apply to a part 1 entry undergraduate degree at the University, to start at the end of their IFP year.
 - ii. If entering a degree with an IFY, the tuition fees for the IFY *only* are waived and the student will receive a £5000 bursary for each further year of their degree.
 - b) **3 (three)** undergraduate bursary awards worth £5,000 each for each year of study;
 - c) **1 (one)** postgraduate taught bursary worth £10,000 (pro rata for part-time students);

- d) **2 (two)** scholarships comprising a tuition fee waiver and bursary of £14,200 for each year of study for new students studying undergraduate programmes; and
 - e) **2 (two)** scholarships comprising a tuition fee waiver and bursary of £14,200 for each year of study (pro rata for part-time students) students studying postgraduate taught programmes.
4. Fee waivers will be applied directly to the student's tuition fees at the beginning of each year of the programme. Fee waivers apply for the full duration of the programme and where that programme spans more than one year, fee waivers for subsequent years will only be applied if the student progresses to the next part of their programme. Bursary awards will be paid in three equal instalments in October, February and April, directly to the student's bank. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the bank details provided to the University remain correct. Bursaries will be paid for each year of study where a programme spans over more than one year. Bursaries for subsequent years will only be paid if the student progresses to the next part of their programme.
 5. Please note that bursaries payments are not payments to cover the whole tuition fee. They are a payment to help with the cost of study. Applicants will need to be able to cover the rest of the costs of studying at University.

Eligibility Criteria

6. To be eligible for a University of Reading Sanctuary Scholarship applicants must:
 - a) be granted a form of leave (temporary leave to remain, leave to remain, limited leave to remain, discretionary leave to remain, humanitarian protection) as the result of an asylum application or human rights application; **or** be an asylum seeker; **or** be granted settlement in the UK through the ARAP or ACRS schemes for Afghan refugees; **or** have a right to remain in the UK through under the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Sponsorship (Homes for Ukraine) scheme;
 - b) fulfil the following specific eligibility criteria as relevant to the award being applied for:
 - i. for both the undergraduate and postgraduate taught bursaries, applicants should qualify for Home fees status and be able to claim Student Funding Authority support/Postgraduate loans.
 - ii. for the full tuition fee waiver and bursary combined awards applicants should not qualify for Home fees status, and therefore not be able to claim Student Funding Authority support/postgraduate loan.
 - c) have applied to study full or part-time for one of the following University programmes, and have received either a conditional or unconditional offer:
 - i. an undergraduate degree (including Integrated Foundation Year and integrated masters level, excluding Degree Apprenticeship study); or
 - ii. a taught postgraduate degree of a minimum of 9 months (excluding those provided by Henley Business School from our Greenlands campus) duration;
 - d) currently reside in the UK and have made an application to the UK government for immigration permission in accordance with these terms and conditions, regardless of whether that application is pending or has resulted in a grant of leave; and

- e) have completed the application form for the Sanctuary Scholarships and all the appropriate application and enrolment processes of the University, including the provision of such evidence of compliance with the Eligibility Criteria as the University may reasonably require.
- 7. In order to give applicants greater certainty we will make Sanctuary Scholarship recipient selections before those awaiting the outcome of other qualifications are likely to transfer to an Unconditional offer. Where applicants still hold a Conditional offer only, the offer of a Scholarship will remain provisional until they fulfil the conditions of their offer to study at the University. This means that a waiting list may be utilised in case not all Sanctuary Scholarship offer recipients meet their offers.
- 8. Applicants for undergraduate and postgraduate awards need to have met all of the conditions of their offer to study by 3rd September 2026 in order to have their scholarship place confirmed. If applicants with provisional Scholarship awards fail to meet the conditions of their offer by this date, the Scholarship offer may be withdrawn.
- 9. Every attempt will be made to place Sanctuary Scholarship recipients on the programme applied for, however if the programme eligibility criteria is not met and there is a suitable Foundation programme available, an offer to transfer may be made by the University (in the case of Undergraduate applicant).
- 10. Some programmes require students to undertake work placements or study abroad which some applicants with current/outstanding asylum claims may be prohibited from participating in due to the terms of their visas. We therefore cannot offer Sanctuary Scholarships to students applying to study these programmes. Please email ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk if you are unsure if you may be prohibited from studying due to your status and work placements on the programme you have applied to study.
- 11. If you are applying for a programme that is considered of an equivalent level to a qualification that you already hold, you may not be eligible for support from the Student Finance Authorities. If it is your previous education barring you from Student Finance, rather than your immigration status, we could only consider you for one of our Sanctuary Scholarship Bursary Awards, rather than one of our Sanctuary Scholarships that includes a fee waiver. The tuition fees would need to be covered by yourself, if you are unable to get a student loan. Please contact the relevant Student Finance Authority if you have any questions about your eligibility for a student loan.
- 12. We often get more applications than scholarships available and so need to make a decision about who to select for the Sanctuary Scholarships. Decisions are made in line with paragraph 2 above.

Terms and Conditions

- 13. The Sanctuary Scholarships will only be offered to students who satisfy the Eligibility Criteria and comply with these Terms and Conditions.**
- 14. In applying for a Sanctuary Scholarship applicants must confirm they have read and accept these Terms and Conditions.**

15. Each Sanctuary Scholarship is non-transferrable and its continuation into future years of study only applies to programmes of more than one-year where the student remains registered for the same level of full time study. Completion or withdrawal from the programme will mean the end to the Sanctuary Scholarship.
16. Where a Sanctuary Scholarship recipient's asylum application is refused by the UK Government, the recipient will be allowed to study pending an appeal on their asylum claim.
17. The recipient must continue to have a right to reside and study in the UK and agree to provide their consent for the International Student Advisory Team to carry out right to study checks with the Home Office throughout their programme. Recipients must inform our International Student Advisory team immediately if they receive any notification of a change to their asylum status. The University reserves the right to suspend the recipient from their programme of study following notification from the Home Office a recipient no longer has the right to study.
18. Where a Sanctuary Scholarship recipient's asylum application is granted by the UK Government during the time they are enrolled on their programme, the recipient should immediately update the University and the relevant Student Funding Authority (SFA) as this will update their fee status and/or entitlement to Government financial support. Once the recipient has been reassessed, and the recipient becomes entitled to financial support from that SFA, the University reserves the right to adjust the recipient's Sanctuary Scholarship accordingly (for example to the level of support applicable to Forced Migrants with Home Fees status).
19. **The University's decision is final. The University reserves the right to withdraw the Sanctuary Scholarship and claim back any payments already applied, if a student is subsequently found to be ineligible or if these Terms and Conditions are not adhered to.**
20. In the event of a suspension of studies, fee waivers and bursaries will be removed for the period of suspension, and will resume once the student is fully enrolled again.
21. Where a recipient withdraws from the University, bursary payments will be stopped as per the University's advertised cut-off dates.
22. Sanctuary Scholarship entitlement is for the normal duration of the programme and entitlement is not extended if overall programme duration is altered through the recipient's suspension or withdrawal.
23. Students awarded a Sanctuary Scholarship may be required to participate in relevant University marketing activities about the scheme.
24. Sanctuary Scholarship applicants must adhere to any deadline and other application details as appear on www.reading.ac.uk/sanctuary-scholarships.
25. A maximum of one Sanctuary Scholarship will be awarded per applicant.
26. The University reserves the right to offer no Sanctuary Scholarships if no suitable applicants apply.
27. No further funds will be awarded other than the relevant Sanctuary Scholarship. Any other additional costs will be covered by the student. The University accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred in relation to the Sanctuary Scholarship.

28. Recipients must check that any other scholarship that they have been awarded allows for funding from multiple scholarships, fee waivers and/or bursaries. If a student is awarded multiple scholarships that cannot be held in conjunction, the Sanctuary Scholarships may be removed.

Any queries should be addressed to refugeescholarship@reading.ac.uk.