

Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine 2024/25



Frequently Asked Questions

The Open University in partnership with King's College London

A. Questions about the scholarship

1. What is the Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine?

The Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine is available for the academic year 2024/25, for students from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus who are displaced and/or at risk of persecution, violence and conflict. This scholarship is open to students studying a masters degree starting in October or November 2024, the scholarship will be prioritised for STEM subjects, in particular maths and physics. King's College London is the grant holder for this fund.

2. University partner

The Open University is working in partnership with King's College London. King's College London is the lead coordinating partner.

3. What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship award of up to £30,000 will comprise of a full tuition fee waiver and a living costs bursary, for a maximum of 3 years. The living costs bursary will vary depending on the cost of the masters degree being studied. The allocation will be confirmed to the successful

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student upon distribution of the award. Your living costs bursary may vary from year to year depending on your tuition fee costs for the year.

Please note this fund is only available for a maximum of 3 years, starting October 2024, and you will need to make other arrangements for any additional year(s) of your programme if your studies extend beyond 3 years.

4. Who can apply for a scholarship?

The scholarship is open to those who meet the scheme eligibility criteria and have registered, or will be registering, with The Open University to start a masters degree in the 2024/25 academic year starting in October or November 2024. Please see point 24 for the scholarship eligibility criteria.

You will need to meet the entry requirements for your chosen masters degree.

Eligible applications will be considered by the scholarships panel.

As part of the scholarship application process, we will undertake checks on your eligibility for the scheme (e.g., fee status, immigration, and enrolment onto the qualification).

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5. Will I automatically get a scholarship if I apply?

Applying for a scholarship does not guarantee that you will be successful. This is a competitive process and not all applications will be successful. All decisions by the scholarships panel are taken in good faith, based on the statements made on the application form and having considered the supporting evidence.

6. How will the scholarship be awarded?

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of need, this will be assessed via the information provided in your application form, personal statement and supplementary evidence. Please only submit a reference or a transcript.

B. Questions about scholarship eligibility

7. Which courses are eligible for the Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine?

Open University masters degrees are eligible. The scholarship will be prioritised for STEM subjects, in particular for maths and physics.

8. Am I eligible to apply?

Applicants must be a person normally domiciled in Belarus, Russia or Ukraine who are displaced and/or at risk of persecution, violence, or conflict. The Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from

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Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine is open to these groups to remedy the disadvantage faced by these particular groups of students in accessing higher education, following the war on Ukraine.

9. Is there an age limit for applicants?

There is no age limit for the scholarship.

10. Will I have to prove my current immigration status?

As a Higher Education Provider, we have a legal responsibility to ensure that everyone registered to study with us has the correct immigration permissions to do so. Unfortunately, we are unable to consider applications from students where their current immigration status is unclear or who do not currently hold an immigration status which allows study. You will be required to submit evidence of your current immigration status as part of your scholarship application.

11. Can I still apply for a scholarship if I am eligible for Student Finance?

Yes, applications for the Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine will be considered even if you are eligible for postgraduate funding through Student Finance.

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12. Can I apply for a scholarship if I have not yet registered with The Open University?

Yes, you can apply for a scholarship if you have not yet registered with The Open University. Registration for 2024/25 study opens late March 2024.

C. Questions about the application form/process

13. How do I apply for the Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine?

Eligible applicants should apply using the application form available to download from our website: <https://giving.open.ac.uk/displaced-students-scholarship>. When submitting the application, you must provide all relevant supporting evidence.

14. When is the application deadline?

The deadline for submitting an application to the Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine is 11:59pm on 1 April 2024. Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted.

15. Can I apply on behalf of a student?

Yes, you can apply on behalf of a student. However, you will need to know some specific information about the student in order to complete

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the application form and must get their permission before applying on their behalf.

16. Is there an advantage to submitting my application as quickly as possible?

There is no advantage for individuals who submit their applications first, so please take your time and fill in the application form carefully. We will not consider incomplete applications.

17. Can somebody help me fill out the application form?

In certain cases, help can be given to fill out the application form. First, please do read these FAQs for further details about the types of questions and relevant information required in the form. If further help is needed, please contact Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk.

18. What happens to all the personal data that I have included on the application form?

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. 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. All information will be stored securely, and access limited to The Open University, King's

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College London employees and partnership university scholarship panel members essential to administering the scholarship.

D. Questions about the process

19. What happens after I submit my application form?

After the deadline, applications are considered and shortlisted by a panel. Your reference or transcripts, and residency evidence in the form of a Biometric Residency Permit or Home Office letter, must have been received along with your application to Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk and received prior to the deadline of **11:59pm on 1 April 2024**.

20. How long after my application will I hear back?

We aim to contact the eligible candidates week commencing **3 June 2024** with a decision.

E. Miscellaneous questions

21. What should I do if my immigration status, or any of my details, change during the course of the application process?

You must notify us by emailing Fees-FS-Bursaries-Scholarships@open.ac.uk immediately if any of your circumstances change during the application process, in particular in respect of your

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immigration status. It is also important that you update us if you change your telephone contact number or email address during the application process.

22. Will receiving a living costs bursary affect my asylum support?

A living costs bursary can jeopardise asylum support and eligibility to access Legal Aid-funded legal representation (subject to income and capital assessment). Upon receipt of funds, there is a risk that the individual will be deemed not destitute and asylum support can be withdrawn. This could include the withdrawal of subsistence support and accommodation provided under Section 4 or 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 from the National Asylum Support Service (NASS). It is each applicant's responsibility to check how receiving a scholarship will affect their status.

23. Can I defer my scholarship?

Unfortunately, it is not normally possible to defer your scholarship.

24. What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, you must:

- be a person normally domiciled in Belarus, Russia or Ukraine who is displaced and/or at risk of persecution, violence or conflict

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- be unable to access or complete higher education in your home country for your chosen masters degree
- be ordinarily resident in the UK on 1 September 2024
- be enrolled or intend to enrol on an Open University masters qualification starting in the 2024/25 academic year, starting study in October or November 2024
- meet the entry requirements of your chosen masters degree.
- be studying a minimum of 60 credits per academic year
- complete the qualification in no more than 3 years

Please note, the university will undertake checks on your eligibility for the scheme.

25. How will the scholarship be processed to ensure it promotes equality, values diversity and fosters an inclusive culture?

Our equality scheme 2022-2026 sets out how The Open University are committed to developing an inclusive university community. Through our equality objectives we aim to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to promote and advance equality of opportunity and to promote and foster good relations between people. You can read the university's Equality Scheme and Objectives:

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<https://www.open.ac.uk/equality-diversity/content/equality-scheme-objectives>.

26. Examples of how the scholarship award will be allocated

	Annual Maximum	Tuition Fee Waiver	Living Costs
Year 1	£10,000	£3,500	£6,500
Year 2	£10,000	£4,750	£5,250
Year 3	£10,000	£2,900	£7,100
Total	£30,000	£11,150	£18,850

	Annual Maximum	Tuition Fee Waiver	Living Costs
Year 1	£15,000	£7,500	£7,500
Year 2	£15,000	£4,975	£10,025
Total	£30,000	£12,475	£17,525