

# Postgraduate Scholarship for Students Displaced from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine 2023/24

In partnership with King's College London

## Frequently asked questions

### 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 2023/24, 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 2023, with some scholarships prioritised for STEM subjects, in particular maths and physics. Kings 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 each scholarship cover?

Each scholarship award of up to £30K 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 for students depending on the cost of the masters degree being studied. Individual allocations will be confirmed, to each successful student upon allocation 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 September 2023, 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 scholarships are 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 2023/24 academic year starting in October or November 2023. Please see point 26 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).

#### **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 are the scholarships awarded?**

Scholarships 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.

### **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. A number of scholarships 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 Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine are 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 governmental loans through Student Finance.

## **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 2023/24 study opens mid to late March 2023.

## 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 online application form. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via this online application form.

### **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 24 March 2023. Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted.

### **15. Will I be able to save the online application form part way through and come back to it later?**

Once you begin, you will not be able to save the online application form and return to complete it later. Therefore, please allow at least 1 hour to complete the application form. Please have your personal statement and supporting information/evidence ready before you submit this form. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via this online application form.

### **16. 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 the online form and get their permission. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via the online application form.

### **17. 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 form carefully. We do not consider incomplete applications.

### **18. 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 [studentfees@open.ac.uk](mailto:studentfees@open.ac.uk).

#### **19. 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 Open University, King's College London employees and partnership university scholarship panel members essential to administering the scholarship.

### **Questions about the process**

#### **20. 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 emailed to [studentfees@open.ac.uk](mailto:studentfees@open.ac.uk) and received prior to the deadline of **11:59pm on 24 March 2023**.

#### **21. How long after my application will I hear back?**

We aim to contact all eligible candidates during the week commencing **5 June 2023** with a decision.

### **Miscellaneous questions**

#### **22. 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 [studentfees@open.ac.uk](mailto:studentfees@open.ac.uk) immediately if any of your circumstances change during the application process, in particular in respect of your immigration status. It is also important that you update us if you change your telephone contact number or email address during the application process.

### 23. Can I defer my scholarship?

Unfortunately, it is not normally possible to defer your scholarship. If you cannot take up your place in the 2023/24 academic year, you will be welcome to re-apply if the scholarship runs again in future academic years.

### 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.
- be unable to access or complete higher education in your home country for your chosen master's degree.
- be ordinarily resident in the UK on 1 September 2023
- be enrolled or intend to enrol on an Open University masters qualification starting in the 2023/24 academic year, starting study in October or November 2023.
- 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. Examples of how the scholarship award will be allocated

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

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