

2024 Widening Access Entrance Scholarships

Guidance for Applicants

What are Entrance Scholarships?

The University of Aberdeen is committed to attracting the very best students, regardless of their financial circumstances. Our Entrance Scholarship Scheme aims to help students support themselves during their time at university and is funded jointly by the University and the generosity of our Donors. Entrance scholarships are available to full-time, undergraduate students who must, in the first instance, meet specific widening access criteria and who can also demonstrate significant financial need. Scholarships vary from £1,000 to £4,000 and most are available for each year of study although there are some exceptions.

For more information about the scholarships available this year, their value, and any other specific criteria please find full details at: www.abdn.ac.uk/study/entrance-scholarships Please note applicants do not need to stipulate which scholarships they are applying for as eligible applicants will be matched to the most appropriate scholarship available.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply applicants must:

1. Have applied through UCAS to the University of Aberdeen for a place on a full-time undergraduate degree programme, starting in September 2024 and have firmly accepted either a conditional or unconditional offer.
2. Meet one or more of the widening access criteria as set out in the University's contextualised admissions policy: [Widening access criteria](#)
3. Have applied to SAAS for the full scholarship and bursary.
4. Have evidence of meeting Widening Access criteria (other than SIMD20 and Rural), if not mentioned in UCAS reference.
5. Be domiciled in Scotland and classified by the University of Aberdeen as Home Fees. The offer on UCAS will be used to verify Fees Status and the declared Area of Permanent Residence.

Please note, these Entrance Scholarships are **not available to graduate students** undertaking further undergraduate degree study.

How do I to apply?

To apply complete the online application form [Entrance Scholarship Scheme 2024 | University of Aberdeen \(geckoform.com\)](#)

The closing date for applications is:

Friday 17 May 2024

How do I complete the Application?

SAAS Application - Tick the box which applies to your circumstances as regards SAAS funding (note you must have applied to SAAS before applying for the scholarships).

Personal details - Make sure that you provide your name, home address and a valid email address. We will use this email address to confirm receipt of your application and for any future correspondence about your application.

UCAS Personal ID Number– This is a 10-digit number provided by UCAS. Inputting the correct UCAS ID Number is essential as we will use this to verify your eligibility to apply. Please note that applications that do not contain an accurate UCAS personal ID will not be considered.

High School/College - Select your most recent place of study from the dropdown list.

End of Studies – Let us know when you left school/college, or when you will finish any current studies.

Degree Applied For – Tell us which of our degrees you have applied to.

Widening Access Criteria

Please select all the widening access criteria that apply to you.

Your home must be in Scotland and your fee classification attached to your offer of admission must be Home Fees. The following guidance should help:

1. **SIMD20 Postcode:** You can check if your home postcode is in an SIMD 20 area on the [SIMD20 Postcode Checker | Study Here | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)

2. **Care Experienced:** If at some point in your life you have been cared for by a local authority and the state then you are said to be Care Experienced. This can include anyone who has been in residential care (i.e. a Children's Home), anyone who has been in Foster Care (i.e. living with a foster family), someone who has been adopted and anyone who has been in the care of the local authority in their own home (i.e. under a statutory care/protection order).
- 2a. This question just asks whether you currently live out with your family home, for example in a residential children's home.
3. **Remote and Rural Area:** You can check if your home address is in one of these target areas by visiting the urban rural classification webpages on the [Scottish Government website](#). The site contains a downloadable map that shows where each of these different areas are in Scotland and a look-up file that you can use to check if your postcode/home address is in one of the target areas.
4. **Caring Responsibility:** A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support (Carer's Trust) and receives no payment for the care given. If you provide an unpaid caring role, please tick this box, and tell us about your situation in your personal statement.
5. **Estranged from family:** Applicants who have no contact, and receive no support, from their families are referred to as being "Estranged". In order to qualify under these criteria, you will have to have been estranged from your family for a sustained period of time (at least a 12-month period). You will also have to be expecting to receive no support from extended family during your time at university. Please tick this box if you think you meet these criteria and tell us about your situation in your personal statement.
6. **Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community:** Tick this box if you identify as belonging to the Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community.
7. **Free School Meal Entitlement:** If you are/were in receipt of free school meals whilst you are/were at secondary school then please tick this box.
8. **Education Maintenance Allowance:** If you are/were in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance, whilst you are/were at secondary school, then please tick this box.

9. **Physical or Mental Health Issue:** If a health issue has impacted negatively on your education in the senior phase (or throughout the majority of your secondary education) then tick this box and let us know the details in your personal statement.
10. **Refugee/Asylum Awarded (Home fee status):** Tick this box if you have been granted/awarded Refugee / Asylum status. This box is not applicable if you have applied but not yet heard the outcome of your application. More information can be found in Paragraph 7 in the Fee Status Guidance for Scotland at [UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Scotland: fee status](#)
11. **Applicants whose parent(s) have had a custodial sentence:** If either of your parents had (or have a current) custodial sentence then tick this box. You can provide more information in your personal statement.
12. **Applicants who have parents in the Armed Forces or who have themselves served in the Armed Forces:** Please tick this box if this applies to you or your parents.
13. **Any Other Exceptional Circumstances:** Please tick this box if you feel that there are any other exceptional circumstances not covered above that mean you should be considered for an entrance scholarship. You must provide details of these in your Motivations for Applying statement.

Motivations for applying for a Widening Access Entrance Scholarship

This section gives you an opportunity to provide any additional information about yourself which you think will support your application, particularly in relation to the widening access criteria above. Please do not replicate your UCAS personal statement as we have access to this already. Please detail any personal, family, or financial circumstances that you feel have had an impact on your education and ability to prepare for undergraduate level study, especially any circumstances which have arisen since your UCAS application was submitted.

You can also highlight any relevant personal characteristics: enthusiasm; a high degree of motivation; determination to succeed; awareness of and interest in your chosen field of study; strong commitment to self-development; pro-active and committed approach to education.

How will my data be used?

Please see our website [Enquirers and Applicants | About | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#) which explains how the University handles applicant's data.

How will my application be assessed?

All eligible applications will be considered by the Scholarship Panel that is drawn from both Academic and Professional Services staff who have an interest / expertise in and / or specialist knowledge of student support and widening access issues.

Incomplete applications will not be submitted to the Panel for consideration.

On the basis that all applications under consideration by the Scholarship Panel, meet at least one of the Widening Access criteria, the Panel will make decisions thereafter based first and foremost on financial need – so an applicant's financial circumstances – and thereafter take into account personal circumstances, educational background and other relevant information given in the application.

We may contact you to request supplementary documentation in order to further verify or clarify statements / documents submitted with your application.

Some Widening Access Entrance Scholarships are only available to applicants from a particular region, studying a specific subject, or who demonstrate specific personal characteristics. These conditions form part of the requirements set by our Donors.

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

The Scholarship Panel will meet in early June 2024 and applicants will be notified in late June/early July 2024.

To be awarded a Scholarship, you must be commencing your degree programme in September 2024. Our Scholarships can only be held by students registered at the University of Aberdeen – they cannot be transferred to other institutions.

If my application is successful, when will I receive my scholarship payment?

To receive your Scholarship, you must have commenced your degree programme in September 2024 and you must be a registered student of the University of Aberdeen. Verification checks will be

undertaken during October 2024 to enable the Scholarship payment to be made no later than 30 November 2024. Our Scholarships can only be held by students registered at the University of Aberdeen – they cannot be transferred to other institutions.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need any advice on applying to the Entrance Scholarship Scheme, please email: entrance.scholarships@abdn.ac.uk where we will be happy to help.