

Entrance Scholarships: Guidelines for Applicants

The University of Aberdeen offers up to 30 Entrance Scholarships of £1000 - £3000 per annum, (unless otherwise stated) to students who meet specific Widening Access criteria and/or who also demonstrate financial need, while they study for an undergraduate degree at the University. Depending on the length of the course, scholarship holders will therefore receive between £3000 and £15000 to help support them during their studies. The values of the scholarships available this year (2020) are indicated on our website: www.abdn.ac.uk/study/entrance-scholarships

You should note that only applicants domiciled in Scotland and classified as Home Fees are eligible to apply for an Entrance Scholarship.

For the majority of our scholarships, the Scholarship Panel will score each application based on the Widening Access and financial criteria described below. Those applications that meet at least 1 of the criteria will be assessed at a full meeting of the Scholarship Panel. Financial and personal circumstance of the applicant can play an important part in the selection process. (Please see the guidance below on the Personal Statement and Financial and Family Circumstances sections.)

To be considered for a Scholarship you will need to have applied to the University of Aberdeen for a place starting in September 2020; to be awarded a Scholarship you must receive and then firmly accept an offer, either conditional or unconditional, of a place at the University. University of Aberdeen Scholarships can only be held by students of the University – they cannot be transferred to other institutions.

Scholarships are available for all full-time undergraduate areas of study, (MA, LLB, BSc, MSci, MChem, MEng, BEng, BScEng, MBChB, Bachelor of Divinity, Bachelor of Theology, MA Primary Education, BMus), but not the PGDE education programmes. The Scholarships Panel will make the final decisions on allocation of the awards. In making the decision, the panel will take into account, first and foremost, the criteria noted below, but also personal circumstances, educational background and other relevant information given in the personal statement, as well as information which may be sought from a referee.

Scholarships are only paid while you are studying at the University of Aberdeen or studying elsewhere as part of a recognised exchange programme which will not add to the length of your degree. Scholarships will not be paid to language students on their year abroad or to students on paid placements, but will resume on return to degree study.

Widening Access Criteria:

As mentioned above the University's Scholarship Selection Panel will score each application based on the number of individual Widening Access criteria that each applicant meets. There are 17 criteria which are as follows:

1. Home address is in a Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 20 (Quintile 1) postcode area.*
2. Home address is in a Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 40 (Quintile 2) postcode areas.*
3. The applicant has experience of being in Care.
4. The applicant has engaged in one of the following programmes; Schools for Higher Education (e.g. ASPIRE North) or Access to High Demand Professions Programme (REACH or ACES) whilst at secondary school.
5. The applicant is an unpaid carer.
6. The applicant is the first in their immediate family to attend a Higher Education institution.
7. The applicant has been in receipt of Free School Meals.
8. The applicant has been in receipt of Education Maintenance Award.
9. The applicant is estranged from their family and will receive no support from them whilst they are at University.
10. The applicant has had a Mental Health issue that has impacted upon their education.
11. The applicant has had a Physical Health issue or illness that has impacted upon their education.
12. The applicant's home address is in an area that is considered to be (4) Remote Small Town, (5) Very Remote Small Town, (7) Remote Rural, (8) Very Remote Rural as classified by the Scottish Government
8 fold Urban Rural Classification
(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification>)
13. That prior to secondary school, the applicant was not schooled in English. (E.g. the applicant did not speak English when starting secondary school).
14. That the parent, or legal guardian, of the applicant has received a custodial sentence, either in the past, or at the time the applicant applies.
15. That the parent, or legal guardian, of the applicant previously served (or is currently serving) in the British Military.

16. That the parent or legal guardian of the applicant (or the applicant) is a British Military veteran or early service leaver.

17. The applicant presents documentation which demonstrates a significant financial need.

(* You can check if your home postcode is in a SIMD 20 / 40 area at the following Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>)

More information on each of these criteria can be obtained from the University's Widening Participation Unit. Please contact them the team via the contact details given below if you have any questions.

Only those applications who meet 1 or more of the criteria will be put forward for selection by the panel.

Some of the University Entrance Scholarships are limited by specific criteria or subject areas. These are often part of the requirements as set by the funders of that award. Please see the list of awards available on the application form. (Please note that this list changes on an annual basis).

How we check the Widening Participation Criteria:

The University Scholarship Panel can check if an applicant meets some of the widening access criteria using the information supplied in the UCAS application. (Please note the importance of supplying an accurate UCAS Personal ID number when completing the online application form).

The following criteria will be checked using information supplied by the applicant on their UCAS forms: 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12.

The following criteria will be checked using the information supplied by the applicant in their Scholarship application form:

5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Please note the importance of supplying information for each criteria – an applicant may miss out on being considered for a scholarship they are eligible to receive if they do not complete the each section. The University has no way of checking criteria 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13 without information from the applicant.

How to apply:

Complete the online application form at the following web address: www.abdn.ac.uk/study/entrance-scholarships

You will receive correspondence acknowledging receipt of your application.

Personal Reference:

You will need to supply contact details for someone who can provide a personal reference that supports your applications. As stated on the online form you must provide the following details for your referee: Full Name and Email Address.

Your referee should be someone who is familiar with your circumstances and your recent studies – or with your intellectual capabilities – whether at school, college, and an access course on in employment. Someone from your school or college (normally but not necessarily the Head Teacher or Principal) or someone from your place of work who has a supervisory role would be a satisfactory referee; someone in a responsible position who know you well would be equally appropriate.

The University reserves the right to contact your referee at any point during the application process in order to confirm the information you have supplied.

Timetable:

The closing date for applications is the 18th of May 2020. After this date the online form will no longer be available on the University website.

Please note that applications that do not contain an accurate UCAS personal ID number or correct referee contact details will not be assessed or considered. A second application from an applicant whose form has already been rejected will not be possible.

Notification of Awards:

You will be told whether your application has been successful by email or post at your UCAS correspondence address (or email address) by the 6th of July. If your application has been successful, the award will be subject to your successful admission to the University.

Completing the form:**Section 1 – Personal details**

Make sure that you provide your name, address and an accurate UCAS number in this section. You should supply the name of the School, College or other educational institution, which you are attending or have attended most recently and the name of the scholarship or scholarships you are applying for. Please note, it is not necessary to list every award you wish to be considered for – the panel will put you forward for any or all appropriate scholarships.

Section 2 – Eligibility Criteria

Please provide information for eligibility criteria 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 in this section. This information you provide in this section will help us to determine your eligibility for our scholarships.

The information required for eligibility criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 will be obtained from your UCAS application form.

Section 3 – Financial information and financial circumstances

If you already meet one or more of the criteria noted above you are not required to complete this section of the form, though you may do so if you feel it strengthens your application. Similarly, if you do not meet any of the other criteria noted above you may make an application purely on the basis of your financial circumstances, but you must provide documentary evidence.

If your household is in receipt of Family Tax Credit, School Meals Subsidy, Income Support, DSS Benefits, Disability Allowances or Income from Savings, please provide evidence via the upload facility. You are encouraged to supply information relating to all sources of household income and expenditure. A copy of the Inland Revenue TC602 document detailing Tax Credits Awarded is useful, however if this is not applicable, copies of other paperwork demonstrating income should be submitted.

Financial Circumstances

You should provide a detailed description of your financial and family circumstances and, where applicable, indicate any other factors which you feel are relevant to your application. If applicable, please include details of the numbers of dependents in your household.

Please note that if you wish to supply further information or documentation, you can do so by sending it to the following email address: entrance.scholarships@abdn.ac.uk

Section 4 – Sponsorships, Scholarships & Prizes

If you have applied for, or already been awarded a Scholarship, or have applied for or gained a scholarship to support your undergraduate studies, please give details of the source(s) and amount(s) involved.

List any prize or award you have gained for academic performance or in employment, or for other skills or achievements, whether in school for college, or outside.

Section 5 - Personal Statement

As with the personal statement in your UCAS application, you should tell us why you have chosen the course that you applied for and something about your experience and interests. You should say

something about why you are interested in studying at Aberdeen and give reasons why you should be considered for the award of a Scholarship.

Please detail any circumstances that you feel have had an impact on your education and ability to prepare for undergraduate level study.

Please note that if you require further space for Section 5, please send a separate document to the following email address: entrance.scholarships@abdn.ac.uk

Additional information and changing circumstances:

If you, or your referee, wishes to supply additional information in support of your application please send a separate letter, email or sheet to the following email address: entrance.scholarships@abdn.ac.uk

If your circumstances change after the application form has been submitted, and you think that this might have an impact on your chances of getting into University or being awarded a scholarship please contact the Student Recruitment and Admissions Service.