

2021 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 meet specific widening access criteria and who have demonstrated significant financial need. Scholarships vary from £500 to £4000 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. Be domiciled in Scotland and classified by the University of Aberdeen as Home Fees.
2. Have applied through UCAS to the University of Aberdeen for a place on a full-time undergraduate degree programme, (excluding PGDE education programmes and graduate only entry programmes), starting in September 2021 and have firmly accepted a conditional or unconditional offer.
3. Meet one or more of the widening access criteria as set out in the University's contextualised admissions policy: [Widening access criteria | Study Here | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/entrance-scholarships)
4. Have applied to or be in the process of applying to the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

How do I to apply?

To apply complete the online application form [Entrance Scholarship 2021 | University of Aberdeen \(geckoform.com\)](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/entrance-scholarships) The Closing Date for Applications is:

17 September 2021.

How do I complete the Application Form?

Personal details - Make sure that you provide your name 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.

SAAS Reference Number. This is an 8-digit number and will be given to you when you apply to SAAS. If you have not applied to SAAS please do so as soon as possible. You can provide your Student Support Number at a later date by emailing entrance.scholarships@abdn.ac.uk

Widening Access Criteria

Please tick all the widening access criteria that apply to you. The following guidance should help:

- 1. SIMD20 or SIMD40 Postcode:** You can check if your home postcode is in a SIMD 20 or SIMD 40 area on the [Scottish Government website](#).
- 2. Care Experienced:** If you have been cared for by a local authority or the state then you are care experienced. This includes 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).
- 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. Unpaid Caring Role:** An unpaid carer is anyone who cares for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support 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 this 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 this 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 Meals:** If you were in receipt of free school meals whilst you were at secondary school then please tick this box.
8. **Education Maintenance Allowance:** If you were in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance, whilst you were at secondary school, then please tick this box.
9. **Mental Health Issues:** If a personal Mental 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. **Physical Health Issue:** If a personal Physical 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.
11. **Refugee/Asylum status:** Tick this box if you have been granted Refugee / Asylum status.
12. **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.
13. **Applicants who have parents in British Military Service or who have themselves been in British Military Service:** Please tick this box if this applies to you or your parents.
14. **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 personal statement.

Financial Circumstances

Please indicate your estimated household income as per the guidelines set out by SAAS at [Household income \(saas.gov.uk\)](https://www.saas.gov.uk/income).

In addition to the above estimate, please provide a detailed description of your financial circumstances. We are particularly interested in whether you have been awarded one of the SAAS Bursaries: the Independent Student Bursary (ISB); the Young Student Bursary (YSB) or a Care Experienced Bursary (CESB). Please let us know if your family receive Universal Credit; Family Tax Credits; School Meals Subsidy; Income Support; DSS Benefits; Disability Allowances.

Personal Statement

This section gives you an opportunity to provide any additional information about yourself which you think will support your application. In particular it is useful to have additional information relating to items 4, 5, 9, 10 and 14 above. 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.

Academic Potential

Please list any prizes, awards, or achievements relevant to your application.

How will my Application be Assessed?

All eligible applications will be considered by a diverse panel drawn from both Academic and Administrative staff who have an interest in and/or specialist knowledge of student support and widening access issues.

The Scholarship Panel will make its decisions based on applicants' financial circumstances taking in to account personal circumstances, educational background and other relevant information given in the application.

We may contact you to request supplementary documentation which verifies statements made in your application.

Some 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?

You will be notified of the panel's decision by email by the end of October 2021 with a view to making initial scholarship payments before the end of the first half session.

To be awarded a Scholarship you must have commenced your degree programme in September 2021. 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.