2021 Robertson Trust Scholarships: Guidance for Applicants

What are the Robertson Trust Scholarships?

The Robertson Trust’s Journey to Success Scholarship scheme helps promising youngsters to overcome financial and social barriers to gain the university education they deserve and the career they aspire to.

The University works in partnership with the Robertson Trust to identify up to six applicants who meet specific widening access criteria. Applicants must also demonstrate significant financial need, strong academic ability and exhibit a commitment to learning and self-development.

Each Scholarship is valued at £4,000 per year.

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. Aged between 16 and 25 years.
3. Have applied through UCAS to the University of Aberdeen for a place on an undergraduate degree programme, starting in September 2021 and have received and accepted either a conditional or unconditional offer.
4. Only applicants to first degrees will be considered therefore PGDE and Graduate LLB applicants are not eligible.
5. 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)

How do I to apply?

To apply complete the online application form Robertson Trust Scholarship 2021 | University of Aberdeen (geckoform.com)

The Closing Date for Applications is:

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.

**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](https://www.gov.scot). 
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](https://www.gov.scot). 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.

**Financial Circumstances**

Please indicate you estimated household income as per the guidelines set out by SAAS at [Household income (saas.gov.uk)](https://www.sasa.gov.uk). 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 University 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 University Panel will shortlist 6 applicants who meet the Trust’s criteria of:

- Demonstrate financial need; Clear indication of financial need i.e. evidence of low income, receipt of EMA/Free School Meals, entitlement to maximum amount of SAAS;
- Show strong academic ability; it is expected that recipients of the award are high achievers.
- Exhibit commitment to learning and a keenness to participate on the Robertson Trusts self-development programme, The Journey to Success.
- Evidence of socio-economic challenges or care experience impacting on education.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by 2nd July 2021 and invited to apply directly to the Robertson Trust by submitting a second application form by the 12th July 2021. The Robertson Trust will make the final decision on the award of the Scholarships.

Please note: All applicants who are not shortlisted but who have met the eligibility criteria will automatically be put forward for the University's main Entrance Scholarship Scheme. There is no need to submit a second application.
When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of the application process by the Robertson Trust by the end of October 2021.

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.