

Newcastle University Sanctuary Scholarships Scheme

Newcastle University offers three Sanctuary Scholarship awards each year to support students from asylum-seeking and refugee backgrounds to study for an undergraduate, postgraduate taught or postgraduate research degree. The awards are available for the full duration of the student's study, cover full tuition fees and provide a bursary for living expenses.

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility criteria

1. To be considered for awards, applicants must have been offered a place to study on their chosen degree programme at the University's Newcastle city centre campus for the 2020/21 academic year. Priority will be given to applicants applying for their first degree. Undergraduate applicants may apply directly to the University instead of applying through UCAS.
2. The following categories of applicants can apply under this scheme:
 - a. asylum seekers and refugees
 - b. children of asylum seekers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (e.g. children migrants under 18)*
3. Applicants must be living in the North East of England (Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Northumberland, Cleveland and North Cumbria) at the time that they apply for consideration under the scheme.
4. The applicants predicted grades must meet the entry requirements for the degree concerned.
5. Applicants must meet the English language criteria for their course or have relevant qualifications to indicate their English language competency.
6. Personal circumstances will be taken into account if there is good reason for criterion 4 or 5 not being met.
7. Applicants must be unable to access mainstream funding, for example from Student Finance England or a local authority grant.
8. All applicants must provide acceptable and verifiable proof of eligibility claims as requested by the University. If an applicant is unable to provide such evidence by the stated deadline, the applicant's application will be rejected.
9. Scholarships will be provided for the normal duration of the student's study and will be renewed annually. Students will be funded for one additional year of Sanctuary Scholarship payments in the case of transferring course or should they need to repeat a year. Should students withdraw or suspend their studies any future payments will be suspended.
10. To receive awards applicants must become registered students at Newcastle University in the 2020/21 academic year for a full-time, award-bearing degree programme.
11. Scholarships will not be confirmed unless applicants satisfy all conditions related to their scholarship offer, even if they are still accepted to study at Newcastle University.
12. Once scholarship awards are issued, applicants must accept their scholarship offer within the timeframe specified in their scholarship offer letter.

13. Applicants applying for part-time courses may be considered for awards. The applicant's personal circumstances will be taken into consideration in such cases.
14. Awards may be deferred to later academic years. The applicant's personal circumstances will be taken into account if a request for deferral is made.
15. Current Newcastle University students are eligible to apply for awards, however, awards cannot be made retrospectively.
16. The following applicants are not eligible to apply for Sanctuary scholarship awards:
 - Applicants for MB BS and BDS courses
 - Study abroad and exchange students
 - Applicants for non-degree awards (Higher Education Diploma, Higher Education Certificate, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma)

Selection

17. Successful applicants will be selected based on information provided on the Sanctuary Scholarship application form and referee report provided.
18. A selection panel will meet to decide upon applications and allocation of the NU Sanctuary Scholarship Fund. This will normally comprise of the Dean of Social Justice, the Dean of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, the Director of Student Recruitment, Admissions and Progress and the Director of International Affairs.
19. The selection panel will select applicants for interview and will take into consideration a range of criteria. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview following the meeting of the selection panel.

Value of awards and payments

20. The awards cover the students' full tuition fees and provide a bursary for living expenses with a maximum amount of £12,500 for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students and £14,777 for postgraduate research students. The bursary is unlikely to cover additional costs, i.e. legal fees, relocation costs, or family and dependents etc.
21. The bursary will be paid in three instalments, in October, in January and in April, and will be made direct to the student's nominated UK bank account; the precise value of each instalment will be determined by the University and will depend on individual circumstances.
22. If successful, asylum seekers on Section 95 support (housing provided alongside £36.95 per week) will be awarded a bursary up to a maximum value of £2,500/year to cover local travel as well as funds for books and stationary: the precise value of this support will be determined by the University and will depend on individual circumstances.
23. The University reserves the right to vary all or any scholarship awards at its sole discretion.
24. The University's decision on all Newcastle University Sanctuary Scholarships and interpretation of rules and regulations shall be final: appeals will not be considered.

Further Enquiries:

Any enquiries regarding this scholarship should be sent to: scholarship.applications@ncl.ac.uk,
Tel: +44 191 208 5537/8107

*Applicants who have been granted Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave to Remain as a result of an application for asylum, or the children of a parent in this position, may also be considered.