

**Newcastle University**  
**School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics**  
BLACK ACADEMIC ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
Eligibility Criteria and Application Guidelines

This scholarship responds to Leading Route's [The Broken Pipeline](#) report, which reveals that inequalities and bias within higher education are substantially disadvantaging Black students and impacting their access to the funding required to support their higher education. The [School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics](#) is offering a funded place to a Black student wishing to launch their postgraduate career via any of the School's research or taught Masters programme.

Successful applicants will join our thriving School which was ranked third in the UK for English Language and Literature in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, sixth for research power in Linguistics. We have an energetic, creative and well-resourced postgraduate community within the School, and we hope successful applicants would contribute to this culture via participation in the Postgraduate Culture Group. Award holders will benefit from expert teaching and supervision. They will have the opportunity to work within the University Library's [Special Collections](#), with the wide range of linguistic corpora created by the School and with our partner organizations, including [National Museums Northern Ireland](#), [Northern Stage](#), [Wordsworth Trust](#), [Seven Stories: the National Centre for Children's Books](#) and [the Word: the National Centre for the Written Word](#).

#### ELIGIBILITY

You should be from one of the following categories of ethnicity: Black African; Black Caribbean; Black Other; Mixed – White and Black Caribbean; Mixed – White and Black African; or Other mixed background (to include Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other).

To be considered for an award applicants must be domiciled in the UK and qualify for Home student tuition fees.

You must also have been offered and accepted a place on your chosen Masters programme for 2021-22 to be eligible for the scholarship.

- [MA in English Literature \(including the pathway in Children's Literature\)](#)
- [MA in Creative Writing](#)
- [MA in Writing Poetry](#)
- [MA in Linguistics](#)
- MLitt (Masters by Research) in [English Literature](#)
- MLitt in English [Language](#)
- MLitt in [Linguistics](#)

Please enter the reference code 'SELLL21' into the 'Studentship/Partnership Reference' field in the 'Programme of Study' section of the application form.

**(Applicants must allow at least 10 working days for their application to be processed and the offer to reach them).**

Scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants should have an achieved or be predicted to achieve a **first-class or high 2:1** undergraduate degree or, where relevant, a lower qualification with professional practice that provides equivalent academic and research skills. Applicants are expected to outline why Newcastle University is the best place to undertake

Postgraduate study and how Masters level study will lead to doctoral study or otherwise support their future career aspirations.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applicants must submit the following documents to Scott Burdon ([scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk)) by the deadline:
  - An up-to-date CV (no more than 2 pages in length)
  - A transcript of undergraduate marks
  - A proposal for funding of 750 words (excluding bibliographies/list of references)\*

## AND

2. Applicants must ask one academic referee to send a reference letter to Scott Burdon by the deadline. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that referees meet this deadline.** Your reference should be from those who are best placed to comment in detail on your undergraduate work and potential for postgraduate study. Referees will be asked to comment on past performance, deservedness for funding, predicted results (if applicable), as well as their potential and preparedness for postgraduate study.

\*The proposal for funding should, where relevant, consider the following questions:

- Why is the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University the best place for you to embark on postgraduate research (e.g. in terms of resources, research strength, research Centres and Institutes)?
- How have your undergraduate studies – or equivalent professional experience – prepared you for your chosen Masters programme?
- How do you intend to use the Masters programme to further your area of research interest? (e.g. What modules will you take? How will you structure MLitt assignments? What will be the focus of your dissertation?)
- How will your chosen Masters programme aid your career development:
  - How do you envisage your Masters programme leading to an application for a Research Council funded PhD?
  - If you are interested in a career outside of academia, how do you envisage your Masters programme supporting your future career plans? For example:
    - What skills would you hope to acquire from PG study?
    - How will you contribute to the School's postgraduate community?

Shortlisted applicants may be invited for interview, with all successful and unsuccessful applicants notified by the end of July.

## CONTACT

Scott Burdon – [scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:scott.burdon@newcastle.ac.uk)

## DEADLINE

The deadline for applications and references is **5pm on the 9th of July 2021**  
Applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered.