Student Financial Support Team

Newcastle University

2018/19

Information for UK Undergraduate Students
This information sheet is for UK undergraduate 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 entry students only

1. UK undergraduate students paying at least £9,000 fees (and so classed as ‘Home’ for fee purposes) who commenced studies in 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19 at Newcastle University are eligible to be considered for Opportunity Scholarships.

2. To be eligible for Opportunity Scholarships in 2018/19 students must have a household income figure at or below £35,000.

3. Students can only be awarded Opportunity Scholarships as a result of standard income assessments. There are no exceptions. Assessments are undertaken by Student Finance England (SFE), Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or the Student Awards Agency for Scotland.

4. Students must apply to SFE (or equivalent) for national support using the Student Finance application form and must opt for ‘income assessment’ to be considered for Opportunity Scholarships. No further action needs to be taken to be assessed for Opportunity Scholarships.

5. If students and/or their ‘sponsors’ (e.g. parents) indicate on the Student Finance application that no data should be released by SFE (or equivalent) to the University then students cannot be considered by the University and no scholarships can be awarded.

6. Students who think that they might qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship, but are unsure if they have provided consent to share household income information with the University for scholarship assessment purposes should contact the Student Loans Company (SLC) Higher Education Bursary Support Scheme (HEBBS) staff on 0300 100 0612.

7. Students must check that ‘Newcastle University’ is their chosen Higher Education Provider (HEP) on their student finance application otherwise they cannot be considered for any of our scholarships. SFE (or equivalent) must be contacted to change the place of study to Newcastle before a student can be considered for a scholarship award.

8. Student’s household income details are passed to the SLC to check against Newcastle University scholarship rules. If a student is eligible then a member of staff from the Newcastle University Financial Support Team will issue an award letter or email via the SLC. The award letter or email will be sent to either of these student’s registered SLC correspondence addresses. A copy will also appear within students online SLC accounts under the ‘correspondence’ section. Students should contact us if they consider themselves to meet all of the eligibility criteria, but have not received an award letter or email by mid-November 2018.

9. For independent students only, SFE (or equivalent) will consider household income to be their personal income or their personal income and their partner’s income. Student Finance assess whether a student is classed as an independent student and not the University. Any enquiries regarding change of status should be directed to SFE (or equivalent).
10. Students eligible for Opportunity Scholarships will receive the following awards:

**Students with household income at or below £25,000**
- £2,000 cash bursary each year

**Students with household income between £25,001 - £35,000**
- £1,000 cash bursary each year

11. Eligibility for Opportunity Scholarships is reassessed each year, based on SFE (or equivalent) income assessment. Previous years income assessments or previous scholarship entitlements are not relevant when assessing a student's eligibility for the current academic year.

12. Students approved for Opportunity Scholarships will receive cash bursary payments in the following instalments:

- 40% - 21st November 2018
- 30% - 13th February 2019
- 30% - 22nd May 2019

Any cash bursaries of £500 or less will be paid in two equal instalments in November and February.

There will be no early payments or exceptions to the above payment dates. Students should allow two working days for potential delays and should carefully check all of the bank accounts that they hold before contacting the University regarding any non-payment.

13. Work placement students on the Business Accounting & Finance course will have a reduced tuition fee liability of £6,508 or £6,333 in years 2, 3 and 4. If these students are awarded Opportunity Scholarships then the students with household income at or below £25,000 will receive pro rata cash bursaries of £1,332 in years 2, 3 and 4. Students with household income between £25,001 - £35,000 will receive pro rata cash bursaries of £666 in years 2, 3 and 4.

14. All other placement year students will receive either £8,000, £7,865, £7,650 or £7,200 tuition fee discounts and therefore cannot be considered for Opportunity Scholarships during their placement year. Partial placement year students will be liable to pay £9,000 (or greater) tuition fees and therefore will be considered for full scholarships.

15. Students who apply for SFE (or equivalent) income assessment after 7th November 2018 or who provide details to Newcastle University after this date, will receive backdated cash bursary payments 10 working days after the scholarship has been approved.

16. Students who withdraw or suspend their studies during the academic year will have their future cash bursary payments cancelled, but will not normally be asked to repay instalments already processed.
17. SFE (or equivalent) may reassess household income during the academic year, which could lead to Opportunity Scholarships being cancelled. In such cases all future cash bursaries will be cancelled, although bursary payments already processed do not normally have to be repaid. If a student’s household income moves between the income brackets listed then their scholarship will be increased or reduced accordingly.

18. Acting on Government guidelines, the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) states that students with a previous first degree cannot be considered for Opportunity Scholarships or any other schemes through our Access Agreement.

19. Due to Government guidelines, students receiving full or part non-income assessed tuition fee payment by the NHS as a grant (e.g. Speech and Language Science, Dental Hygiene and final year MBBS & BDS students) are not eligible for Opportunity Scholarships.

20. Speech and Language Sciences students commencing study in either 2017/18 or 2018/19 will not receive NHS funding and therefore are eligible to be considered for Opportunity Scholarships.

21. Medical students transferring from Durham University will be considered for the scholarship or bursary scheme based upon their year of entry at Durham University (e.g. students who commenced study at Durham in 2015 will be considered for our 2015 entry scholarship schemes).

22. Students repeating a year, or part of a year, and studying less than 70 credits will have reduced tuition fee liabilities and therefore will receive pro rata Opportunity Scholarships (e.g. 50% tuition fee liability = 50% scholarship). Students will only receive pro rata cash bursaries if they are registered on an undergraduate course at the time of processing scholarship payments.

23. 2014, 2015 & 2016 entry students eligible for the Promise Scholarship cannot be considered for Opportunity Scholarships. However, students can receive both the Access Scholarship and the Opportunity Scholarship if they meet the relevant criteria.

24. Final year students will not be awarded, or receive backdated payments for Opportunity Scholarships after the final Friday of the undergraduate third term (usually mid-June) has passed.