

The Sanctuary Hub Sanctuary Scholarships

Pathway 2 – July 2022



1. Questions about the Sanctuary Scholarships

1.1 What is the Sanctuary Hub

The Sanctuary Hub brings together research, advocacy, and policy development with the aim of supporting forcefully displaced students and academics from around the world. The Sanctuary Hub, led by King's College London, involves collaboration with university partners, local councils, NGOs and charities. We work with university partners and strategic university partners.

1.2 What are the Sanctuary Hub Strategic University Partners?

The Sanctuary Hub network is comprised of the following strategic university partners: King's College London, Leicester University and Newcastle University. King's College London is the lead coordinating partner.

1.2 What are the Sanctuary Scholarships?

Sanctuary Scholarships are usually available for forced migrants with refugee and/or asylum-seeking immigration status (eg [KCL Sanctuary Scholarships](#)). As such, a number of recent forced migrants now seeking sanctuary, are not eligible for pre-existing Sanctuary schemes. The Sanctuary Hub is proud to announce that we will be expanding our Sanctuary Scholarships for forcefully displaced migrants in 2022.

A new stream of 3 to 5 scholarships, per Strategic University Partner, will be available in the academic year 2022-23, for students from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus who are displaced and/or at risk of persecution, violence and conflict¹. These scholarships are open to students at all levels (Bachelors, Masters, PhD), across the Sanctuary Hub Strategic University Partner network, with some scholarships prioritised for STEM subjects, in particular Maths and Physics. King's College London is the grant-holder for this fund.

1.3 What does each scholarship allow?

Each scholarship will comprise of a full tuition fee waiver and a living costs bursary, for a maximum of 3 years, starting September 2022. The scholarship can cover:

- a) Home Tuition Fees² anticipated in the region of:
 - a. Undergraduate (Bachelors), £9,250 per annum
 - b. Postgraduate Taught (Masters), £11,040 per annum
 - c. Postgraduate Research (PhD), 7,050 per annum

Where required, your university may be able to top up the donation (which covers home level tuition fees) for students who have to pay international fees.

¹ This action is taken a proportionate means of overcoming the disadvantage connected with these nationalities and to enable or encourage participation in higher education for these groups.

² Tuition fees vary across institutions and programmes, a King's 'average' fee is used here for illustrative purposes. Individual allocations will be confirmed, in writing, to each successful student upon allocation of the award.

- b) Living bursary that is at least equivalent to a full maintenance loan from Student Finance England, to cover living expenses. This will be in the region £8,000 - £14,000 per annum depending on your circumstances. Individual allocations will be confirmed, in writing, to each successful student upon allocation of the award.

Please note this fund can only cover 3 years' of tuition fees and you will need to make other arrangements for any additional year(s) of your programme if your degree includes a Year Abroad or Placement/Industry year, or if you interrupt your studies.

1.4 Who can apply to the scholarships?

Sept 2022 entry: The scholarships are currently open to those who are already holding offers to start a degree course in September 2022. You may apply if you have a conditional offer or unconditional offer to study for a degree at any of the strategic university partners within the Sanctuary Hub network.

If you hold an offer at another university, please note you are not eligible for this scheme. We recommend you check your own university's sanctuary scholarships or see [REUK](#) for further guidance.

Jan 2023 and Sept 2023 entry: Further scholarship opportunities will be available later in the year for students starting their degrees after September 2022.

As part of the scholarship process, your university will undertake checks on your eligibility for the scheme (e.g. fee status, immigration, and offer conditions for admission).

1.5 Will I automatically get a scholarship if I apply?

Applying for a scholarship does not guarantee that it will be successful. This is a competitive process and not all applications will be successful. All decisions by the Sanctuary Hub are taken in good faith, based on the statements made on the application form and having considered the supporting evidence.

1.6 How are scholarships awarded?

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the application form, a personal statement and supplementary evidence. Please only submit a reference or a transcript. If you cannot supply a reference or a transcript, you may select to have an interview. These will be held online, during the first two weeks of August.

2. Questions about scholarship eligibility

2.1 Which courses are eligible for pathway 2 of the Sanctuary Scholarships?

All undergraduate (Bachelors), postgraduate taught (Masters) and postgraduate research (PhD) course are eligible. A number of scholarships will be prioritised for STEM subjects, in particular for Maths and Physics. We are not currently able to support pre-university Foundation programmes, Summer Schools, Study Abroad or Exchange programmes.

2.2 Am I eligible to apply?

Applicants must be a person normally domiciled in Ukraine, Russia or Belarus who are displaced and/or at risk of persecution, violence or conflict. Pathway 2 scholarships are open to these groups to remedy the disadvantage faced by these particular groups of students in accessing higher education, following the war on Ukraine.

2.3 Is there an age limit for applicants?

There is no age limit for the scholarship.

2.4 Can I apply if I do not know what my current immigration status is?

If you are unsure about your current immigration status, please speak to your university's Student Visa and International Advice team ([KCL Visa & International Student Advice team](#))

2.5 Will I have to prove my current immigration status?

If you are shortlisted, we may need to discuss your immigration history and status with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). As a Higher Education Provider, we have a legal responsibility to ensure that everyone registered to study with us has the correct immigration permissions to do so. Unfortunately, we are unable to consider applications from students where their current immigration status is unclear or who do not currently hold an immigration status which allows study.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to obtain your immigration history from UKVI via the UKVI consent form.

After the deadline for applications, we will contact UKVI who should respond to us with your immigration history and status within 7 days. We will send shortlisted applicants a copy of these checks so you can respond to us if you think there are errors. You will be set a deadline to notify us of any errors. If you miss this deadline, we will assess your application based on the information received in the immigration check.

2.6 Can I still apply for a scholarship if I am eligible for Student Finance?

Yes - applications for pathway 2 scholarships will be considered even if you are eligible for governmental loans through Student Finance. In the event of oversubscription, priority will be given for those students who cannot access governmental loans.

2.7 Can I still apply if I have not yet received any offers from any universities?

No, applicants should have already been offered a university place at at least one university within the Sanctuary Hub network. If you have applied but are still awaiting an offer, please make that clear on the application form.

2.8 Can I apply if I am an asylum seeker or refugee living in the UK?

Yes. If you are an asylum seeker you may also consider applying to our existing [Sanctuary Scholarships](#) which are open to the following immigration statuses: *"granted a temporary form of leave (limited leave to remain, discretionary leave to remain) as the result of an asylum application or human rights application, or, an asylum seeker, child of an asylum seeker or an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child. Please note if you have refugee status you are able to access Home Fees and loans from Student Finance England. Please see the UKCISA website for further information on tuition fees and student finance."*

2.9 Can I still apply if I have applied for other scholarships as well?

We actively encourage applicants to apply to as many sources of funding as possible. Securing alternative funding does not exclude you from applying and will not negatively impact your application. Please note down on the application form if you have applied, or been successful in gaining, another scholarship.

3. Questions about the application form/process.

3.1 How do I apply for the Sanctuary Scholarship (pathway 2)?

Eligible applicants should apply using the online application form. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via this online application form.

3.2 When is the application deadline?

The application deadline will be clearly stated on the application form. We are unable to accept applications after this deadline.

3.3 Will I be able to save the online application form part way through and come back to it later?

Once you begin, you will not be able to save the online application form and return to complete it later. Therefore, please allow at least 1 hour to complete the form. Please have your personal statement and supporting information ready before you submit this form. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via this online application form.

3.4 Can I apply on behalf of a student?

Yes, you can apply on behalf of a student. However, you will need to know some specific information about the student in order to complete the online form and get their permission. Please be advised that we will only accept applications via the online application form.

3.5 Is there an advantage to submitting my application as quickly as possible?

There is no advantage for individuals who submit their applications first, so please take your time and fill in the form carefully. We do not consider incomplete applications.

3.6 Can somebody help me fill out the application form

In certain cases, help can be given to fill out the application form. First, please do read these FAQs for further details about the types of questions and relevant information required in the form. If further help is needed, please contact sanctuary@kcl.ac.uk.

3.7 I do not have access to a computer/the internet. How can I still apply?

Our preference is that you apply using the online application form. You may be able to use a computer/the internet at your local library, college, or community centre. In exceptional circumstances we can post a hardcopy of the application form for you to fill out and return. However, the deadline for returned hard copies is the same as the online application deadline.

3.8 What happens to all the personal data that I have included on the application form?

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act (2018). You can read the university's privacy policy <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/terms/privacy>. All information will be stored securely, and access limited to university employees essential to administering the scholarship. All your responses will be deleted from our records in line with the University's published records and information retention schedule.

4. Questions about the process.

4.1 What happens after I submit my application form?

After the deadline, applications are considered and shortlisted by each university in the Sanctuary Hub partnership. If you are not able to upload transcripts or a reference, you will be invited to attend an interview to verify the information you have provided in your application. Applicants may then be requested to evidence their current immigration status with documentation such as a Biometric Residence Permit, Home Office letters, or a solicitor's letter.

4.2 If I cannot provide a reference or transcript, when and where will the interviews take place?

Interviews will be held online (via an online platform like Zoom or Microsoft Teams).

4.3 Who will interview me?

You will be interviewed by Sanctuary Hub academic panel members and/or one representative from a Widening Participation team.

Some things to think about for an online interview: - make sure you have a good internet connection, and a quiet space.

Be ready for questions:

We want to get to know you better, and we use the interview to do this. You will not be asked any questions that are designed to 'trick' you. Instead, we may want to know what you are good at, what you like, and what your plans are. Think about why you want to study your course and what you enjoy most about your current studies. Some questions may be about what you have written on your application form. Other questions may be about your history, interests, and passions. You will also have an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Practice:

It is a good idea to have a practice interview with a teacher, support worker, or family member.

I am feeling anxious about the interview, what can I do?

It is completely understandable if you feel anxious about being interviewed, especially if it is your first interview experience. The interviewers will know that you may be nervous and will take this into account when making their decision.

4.4 How long after my application and interview will I hear back?

We aim to contact all candidates **during the week commencing 22 August** with a decision.

5. Miscellaneous questions

5.1 What should I do if my immigration status - or any of my details - change during the course of the application process?

You must notify the university immediately if any of your circumstances change during the application process, in particular in respect to your immigration status. It is also important that you update us if you change your telephone contact number or email address during the application process.

5.2 Can I defer my scholarship?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to defer your scholarship. If you cannot take up your place you will be invited to re-apply to the next round of scholarships.