Newcastle University Sanctuary Scholarship

Newcastle University offers three Sanctuary Scholarship awards each year to support students from asylum-seeking 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.

Eligibility criteria

1. The following applicants are welcome to apply under this scheme:
   a. asylum seekers
   b. children of asylum seekers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (e.g. children migrants under 18)*
   c. applicants with refugee status (ineligible for Student Finance government funding)

**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, will also be considered.*

2. Applicants must be living in the UK at the time that they apply for consideration under the scheme. Priority will be given to applicants from the North East of England (Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Northumberland, Cleveland and North Cumbria). You can search for other sanctuary scholarships near you using the displaced student portal.

3. Applicants must hold an offer from Newcastle University for an eligible undergraduate or postgraduate taught degree programme to be considered for a Sanctuary Scholarship. See UCAS guidance on how to apply for undergraduate study and the University's application guide for postgraduate study.

Priority will be given to those who have not had the opportunity to access higher education to date.

Applicants who hold qualifications from outside the UK are welcome to use our International Webpages. Start by Selecting your Country to find the typical Undergraduate and Postgraduate entry requirements before you apply to Newcastle.

Should you have any further questions about our entry requirements, please do get in touch via the below links;

Enquiries about Undergraduate Study
Enquiries about Postgraduate Study

4. Applicants must meet the English language criteria for their course or have relevant qualifications to indicate their English language competency. Find out more about English language support.
Personal circumstances will be considered if there is good reason for criterion 3 or 4 not being met.

5. Applicants must be unable to access mainstream funding, for example from Student Finance England or a local authority grant.

These criteria have been discussed and agreed with the Asylum and Migration Justice Forum.

Terms and Conditions

1. All applicants must provide acceptable and verifiable proof of eligibility claims as requested by the University.

2. 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. Students are required to inform the University **at the earliest opportunity** of any change of circumstance relating to their studies that may affect their funding**.**

3. To receive awards applicants must become registered students at Newcastle University in the upcoming academic year for a full-time, award-bearing degree programme.

4. 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.

5. Once scholarship awards are issued, applicants must accept their scholarship offer within the timeframe specified in their scholarship offer letter.

6. Applicants applying for part-time courses may be considered for awards. The applicant's personal circumstances will be taken into consideration in such cases.

7. The following applicants are not eligible to apply for Sanctuary scholarship awards:

    - Current students
    - Study abroad and exchange students
    - Applicants for doctorate level programmes, e.g. PhD study
    - Applicants for non-degree awards (Higher Education Diploma, Higher Education Certificate, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma)

8. The University's decision on all Newcastle University Sanctuary Scholarships and interpretation of rules and regulations shall be final: appeals will not be considered.

How to apply

Applications for the Sanctuary Scholarship must be made using our **online form.**

Applicants will be required to upload proof of their immigration status and a reference. The reference should be from someone who has known the applicant for a significant period of time and who is aware of their personal circumstances.

The reference letter is an important part of the selection process and must address the below points, as well as any other information you believe should be taken into consideration by the selection panel;

- What are the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and what barriers have they overcome to continue their education?
- How well suited is the applicant to the higher education course they plan to undertake, and how realistic are the applicant's ambitions?
- What contribution, to your knowledge, has the applicant made to their community, or to school/college life (if applicable)?
- Is there any other information that you believe is relevant to this application?
- How do you think the applicant would benefit from the support offered by the NU Sanctuary Scholarship?

Applications will only be considered if they are accompanied by a reference that is signed, dated, and on letterhead.

Selection

Successful applicants will be selected based on information provided on the Sanctuary Scholarship application form and referee report provided. When evaluating a Sanctuary Scholarship application, key factors considered include the strength of the personal statement and reference, the level of disruption the student has faced in accessing higher education, their commitment to completing their studies, and the clarity of their future plans.

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 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, the Professor of Practice for Student Success and Progression and the Academic Registrar.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview following the meeting of the selection panel.

Value of awards and payments

1. The awards cover the students' full tuition fees and provide a bursary for living expenses with a maximum value of up to £17,457.00 per year. The bursary is not intended to cover additional costs, i.e. legal fees, relocation costs, or support for family and dependents etc.

2. The bursary will be paid monthly 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.

3. If successful, asylum seekers on Section 95 support (housing provided alongside £49.18 per week) will be awarded a bursary up to a maximum value of £3,000/year to cover local travel as well as funds for books

and stationery: the precise value of this support will be determined by the University and will depend on individual circumstances.

4. The University reserves the right to vary all or any scholarship awards at its sole discretion.

Further Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this scholarship should be sent to: **scholarship.applications@ncl.ac.uk**,
Tel: +44 191 208 4488