

The Michael Perham Sanctuary Scholarship 2021/22

Introduction

Named after the former Bishop of Gloucester and University Pro Chancellor, the late Rt. Revd Michael Perham, this scholarship has been established in recognition of the additional challenges and barriers in accessing higher education faced by refugees and people seeking asylum, and their dependents. The University of Gloucestershire will offer a Sanctuary Scholarship for one new undergraduate student per academic year. The scholarship will cover full tuition fees and up to £10,000 per year, which may take the form of a bursary or funding for additional support, dependent on the successful applicant's circumstances.

Eligibility

Eligible students will:

- be resident in the UK
- have been granted Refugee or Humanitarian Protection status, Discretionary Leave to Remain or Limited Leave to Remain or be seeking asylum within the UK, OR be a dependent of someone granted Refugee or Humanitarian Protection status, Discretionary Leave to Remain or Limited Leave to Remain or seeking asylum within the UK
- if seeking asylum, must have submitted a request for asylum to the UK Home Office before applying to the University of Gloucestershire
- have applied to begin studies on an undergraduate degree course at the University of Gloucestershire. Information on the undergraduate courses available may be found at <https://www.glos.ac.uk/study/Pages/study-with-us.aspx>. Applications for a place on a course may be made via UCAS before 15 January 2021 (<https://www.ucas.com/students>) or via UCAS Extra after this date (<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices>)
- have completed the Sanctuary Scholarship application by 30 May 2021 and be able to provide evidence confirming immigration status
- be able to provide a reference in support of their application from a school, college, current/former employer, community or voluntary group

Selection Process

Applications for the Sanctuary Scholarship will be assessed by a Selection Panel (composed of representatives from Academic Schools, the Student Services Department, and the Student Admissions Team) against set criteria based on:

- predicted/confirmed academic results, or an assessment of competency for the selected course
- personal statement covering why you would like to apply for this programme and your future career aspirations
- reference in support of your application
- we may also ask you to attend an interview with members of the Sanctuary Scholarship Admissions and Mentoring Team, plus, in some circumstances, the Course Leader of your preferred degree programme.

Priority for support of up to £10,000 per annum will be given to suitable applicants who:

- are unable to access funding through UK Student Finance due to their immigration status
- are resident within the county of Gloucestershire at the time of application

If there are no suitable applicants who are not eligible for UK Student Finance, then applications from those whose immigration status does entitle them to UK Student Finance will be considered (for example, applicants with Refugee status). In such a case, a tuition fee waiver and support of up to £3,000 per annum may be awarded. Priority for this form of support would be given to suitable applicants:

- whose individual circumstances may otherwise prevent them from accessing higher education
- are resident within the county of Gloucestershire at the time of application

Conditions of Scholarship

Award holders are required to:

- meet the university's standards of engagement and are required to progress to the next level of study each year
- attend at least one meeting a semester with their appointed named contact within the University's Sanctuary Scholarship Admissions and Mentoring Team
- inform the University immediately of any changes to their immigration status

Costs to consider

Applicants are encouraged to consider how they would meet their costs of living for the duration of their studies, as these costs may exceed the bursary amount. Costs applicants should consider may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- accommodation, household bills and subsistence
- travel to and from university
- travel to work experience or placements if this is a requirement of your intended course
- childcare costs if applicable (for example, nursery/childminder fees or breakfast/after-school clubs). Please consider that these costs may be greater if your intended course has a high number of contact hours or involves work experience or placements
- IT equipment such as a computer or laptop, or other equipment needed for your intended course
- books (library resources are available to all students, but you may wish to purchase some of your own)
- fieldtrips if these are part of your intended course

Further information

- The Scholarship cannot be deferred prior to entry.
- If the award holder is unable to take up the offer of a place, a fresh application for the Scholarship will need to be submitted with any future UCAS application.
- If there are no suitable applications for the Scholarship by the closing date, late applications may be considered
- If an application is unsuccessful, candidates are welcome to reapply in subsequent years.

Making an application

If you believe that you are eligible to apply for the Sanctuary Scholarship, please [click here](#) for an application form.

All completed applications must be returned by 30 May 2021. The successful candidate will be notified by 30 June 2021.

"I am sincerely honoured to be a recipient of the Sanctuary Scholarship. I am grateful for your generosity both financially and morally. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to attend the university as I am a parent-of-three and I have a limited leave to remain without resource to public funds, which means I am not entitled to a student loan. It was an obstacle that the scholarship helped me overcome.

I have always wanted to be a mental health nurse, and I have always thought that I wouldn't be able to go back to school and so I almost gave up. But I soon decided to do something with myself and I applied for the university, unknowing that I wasn't entitled to a student loan. Luckily, someone told me about the scholarship which I applied for not thinking I would be getting it.

When I found out I had got the scholarship I was over the moon. This scholarship has allowed me to pursue my dream while being able to look after my family and spend time with them without worrying how I am going to pay for my school fees and their childcare (the scholarship also funded the childcare).

I hope that many others in my situation will be able to have this opportunity as it can be helpful for those who may not be able to afford school or cannot take out a student loan."

Dupe Ogunfeitimi, student on BSc Nursing (Mental Health) and recipient of the Michael Perham Sanctuary Scholarship

