

Asylum Seekers/Refugees/Humanitarian Protection

The rules and regulations in this document are complicated and subject to change, therefore please seek advice if you have any doubts about your circumstances.

I am an Asylum Seeker – what funding might I receive?

If you are a postgraduate student, please visit our PG Funding factsheets in this series for more information (www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/).

Student Finance information for undergraduate students can be found below:

Student Finance

Unfortunately asylum seekers do not fulfil the 'settled status' criteria required by Student Finance in order to qualify for Student Support. Therefore, you will need to ensure that you have secured enough money to pay your own tuition fees (this applies to both full-time and part-time students).

For 2021 entry, full-time undergraduate tuition fees are £9,250 per year (and may increase) therefore you will need to ensure that you have a funding plan in place for each year of your course before commencing your studies. Please see our other factsheets in this series for alternative funding sources (www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/).

Figures for tuition fees and the government maintenance loan for 2022 entry have not been confirmed by the UK government. Once these figures have been announced, student finance information will be updated on our finance web pages: www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/student-finance/.

Long Residence Regulation

Students who have lived in the UK for a substantial period of their life may however qualify for Student Finance under the Long Residence regulation. To qualify for financial support you need to be:

- Under 18 years of age and have lived in the UK for at least 7 year prior to the first day of the academic year of your course
- Aged 18 years or above and have spent either half your life in the UK or at least 20 years in the UK prior to the first day of the first academic year of your course

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-fee-status>

Tuition Fee Concession

The University of Manchester currently offers a tuition fee concession to asylum seekers applying for admission to the University (please note that this does not include Medicine

or Dentistry courses). If awarded, eligible students will pay the home rate of tuition fee while their application is under consideration by the Home Office, provided they have proof that an application for asylum in the UK has been made. This is usually the original Standard Acknowledgement Letter or a NASS card issued by the Home Office.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/tuition-fees/assessments/tuition-fee-concessions/>

If a decision is made regarding your case (either before or during the course) and the decision grants either refugee status or humanitarian protection, you may become eligible for Student Finance from the start of the following academic year. Please see below for further information.

I am a refugee – what funding might I receive?

Refugees are entitled to financial support and home fees of £9,250 per year but must be:

- A refugee (or the spouse/child of such a refugee) recognised by the UK Government on the first day of an academic year of the course
- Ordinarily a resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of your course and have not ceased to be ordinarily resident

My* status has changed to full Refugee Status part way through my course – can I receive Student Finance?

If you receive Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) based on your Asylum Application part way through your course then you may be eligible for:

Living cost support (which is payable in the following academic quarters).

Fee assistance: if your status changes within the first three months of the start of your course (usually defined as 1st September) you should qualify for assistance during that year however if this occurs after three months, you will have to fund your tuition fees yourself for that year. In all cases you should qualify for assistance in any subsequent years.

You should contact Student Finance as soon as you receive notification from the Home Office.

NB. To qualify as the child of a refugee you must have been under 18 on the date on which the refugee made the application for asylum. To qualify as the spouse you must have been married at the time the refugee made the application for asylum.

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-fee-status#layer-6082>

contact Student Finance to see how you may be affected.

I* have been granted Humanitarian Protection (HP) – can I receive Student Finance?

With HP you are not entitled to the same immediate entitlement to student support as those with full refugee status. You must meet the three year residence requirement before the first day of the first academic year of the course in to qualify for home fees - the first day is usually the 1st September.

If you have started your course before 1 August 2019, you should continue to pay home fees for the duration of your course—however, you should check this to ensure that you won't be charged overseas fees.

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/1300/Home-fees-in-England-for-people-with-Humanitarian-Protection-and-their-families>

The level of Student Support will depend on the date you are granted HP. If you are awarded HP before the start of your course you will be eligible for full Student Support for the whole of that course. You must have your status confirmed in writing by the Home Office.

If you are awarded HP status after the course starts you will be eligible for:

Living cost support (which is payable in the following academic quarters)

Fee assistance: if your status changes within the first three months of the start of your course (usually defined as 1st September) you should qualify for assistance during that year however if this occurs after 3 months, you will have to fund your tuition fees yourself for that year. In all cases you should qualify for assistance in any subsequent years.

I've been granted Discretionary Leave. Am I entitled to any funding?

Students who register for a Higher Education course with Discretionary Leave are no longer entitled to any funding from Student Finance England or the NHS Grants Unit (unless you meet the requirements of the long residency regulation—see previously). Therefore you will need to self-fund your education and living expenses. Please see our other factsheets in this series for alternative funding options:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/

What happens when my permission to stay in the UK is due to expire?

You may remain eligible for Student Support if you can show that you applied to extend or change your immigration status before your permission expired, even if you are still waiting for a decision on that application. This also applies if you are in the process of appealing against a Home Office decision to refuse you further immigration permission to remain in the UK.

I have gained British citizenship—what should I do?

If you are now a British citizen, your fee status and eligibility for student financial support may change. You should

Welfare Benefits

The regulations surrounding Welfare Benefits are extremely complex and only students with very specific circumstances are eligible to claim them. If you have full Refugee Status, benefit rules are similar to Home students. For further information please visit:

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Full-time-students-and-benefits/Who-is-a-full-time-student-for-benefit-purposes>

Are there any other funding options available to me?

Article 26 Scholarship

The University offers five Article 26 Scholarships for undergraduate study starting in September 2020. The scholarship is intended to help those seeking sanctuary in the UK to progress into higher education. Further information is available at:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/asylum/

NB. The deadline for the Article 26 Scholarship for undergraduate study starting in 2021 has passed. Applications for 2022 entry will open in autumn 2021 and close in early 2022.

Helen Kennedy Foundation's Article 26 Awards

These awards can offer assistance to help make higher education a reality for talented students. Further information is available at:

<http://article26.hkf.org.uk/hkf>

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA)

For refugee academics, CARA can provide further information and advice:

www.cara.ngo/

Star Action for Refugees (STAR)

STAR have provided a list of scholarship opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers on their website:

<https://star-network.org.uk/access-to-university/scholarships/>

Useful Links:

Manchester Community Central

www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/home

Manchester Refugee Support Network

www.mrsn.org.uk/

The above organisations hold a directory of Manchester voluntary/community groups and services which can provide further assistance and advice.

Refugee Council:

Works with asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

Tel: 0808 196 7272

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Women's Association:

For advice and guidance on education, employment, health and social care specifically for Refugee women.

Tel: 020 7923 2412

www.refugeewomen.org.uk

Coram Children's Legal Centre:

For legal advice and help if you are confused over your immigration status.

<https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/>

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):

Tel: 020 7788 9214 (Mon-Fri, 1pm-4pm).

UKCISA answer about 10,000 calls annually, so their telephone advice line is very busy. They ask that you try to find the information on their website first. If you do have difficulty getting through to their advice line, please keep trying, and you should get through eventually.

www.ukcisa.org.uk/

and:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/
Government-Student-Support](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Government-Student-Support)

If your query isn't answered here, please contact article.26@manchester.ac.uk

Please note that the information in this guide is intended for Students applying for finance through the Student Finance England system, if you have applied for funding through the Welsh, Irish, Scottish or EU systems the regulations may differ.

We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate however, we cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.

** Or your spouse/civil partner/parent(s)*