

Northumbria University Undergraduate Sanctuary Scholarship Guidance Notes

September 2025 Entry

Northumbria University is pleased to announce the Sanctuary Scholarship, for those seeking asylum in the UK.

This opportunity will award three outstanding students with a **£3,000** per year contribution towards studies, as well as a full **100% fee waiver** for a wide range of eligible Full-Time Undergraduate courses, beginning in September 2025. The scholarship will be awarded for a maximum of three years while you remain eligible and continue to make satisfactory progress on the course of study.

Terms and Conditions

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria and be in a position to verify their circumstances in order to apply.

You will be able to apply for a Sanctuary Scholarship if you meet all of the below criteria:

- You must be currently seeking asylum in the UK, or you must be a dependant, spouse or civil partner* of someone currently seeking asylum in the UK
- You must have received a conditional or unconditional offer on a Full-Time Undergraduate course at Northumbria University and be starting at Level 4, the first year of a three year Undergraduate Degree, in **September 2025**
- Your offer must have been received prior to the application deadline date of **Friday 25 April 2025**
- You have met all the conditions of your course, including English Language competency requirements
- You **must** be living in the North East of England (Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Northumberland, Cleveland and North Cumbria) at the time of application
- You must be **unable** to access UK student finance (tuition fee loans and/or maintenance loans) by virtue of your immigration status

** Your spouse or civil partner must have been your spouse or civil partner on the date that your asylum application was made. Dependent children or step-children must have been aged 18 or under on the date that your asylum application was made.*

Please **do not** apply for a Sanctuary Scholarship if you:

- Are applying from outside of the UK
- Are not currently seeking asylum in the UK
- Have not applied for a Full-Time Undergraduate Degree at Northumbria University or received an offer – Foundation Year students are not eligible
- Are not currently living in the North-East of England

Applications submitted which do not meet all the terms and conditions will **not** be considered. Please email scholarships@northumbria.ac.uk if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

Aspiring Dreams, a lived experience organisation is supporting those from disadvantaged backgrounds including those seeking asylum. Aspiring Dreams offer help and guidance and will gladly assist anyone wishing to apply for a Sanctuary Scholarship. Please contact [Arooba](#) for further information.

You must be able to provide evidence that your asylum application is under consideration by the Home Office and provide up-to-date documentary evidence of your current permission, also showing that you have no restriction on your right to study in the UK (for example, Immigration Bail or other documents)

The above criteria are subject to change at any time, in line with any relevant Home Office changes.

Completing the Application Form – Key Points

Read the guidance notes fully before completing the application form. Please note that the information you provide in the form will be held and processed in accordance with our Data Protection Policy.

- Please supply your full name including middle names
- Please supply your **eight digit** Northumbria Application ID (student number) – this will begin 25 as you are applying in the academic year 2025/26. We will not consider any applications which do not use this format
- The address provided must be in the UK. **Do not** provide an overseas address as your application will not be considered
- Please select the correct level of study and the course on which you have applied. Please include the full course title

Application Questions

- An interruption to Education –
 - This question addresses your education history. Please explain in full any interruptions you have had to your education and how your education has directly been affected. Please include what steps have you taken to try and overcome barriers you have faced. If you have been unable to access Higher Education in the past, please explain the reasons why.
- Rationale for Higher Education –
 - This question explores your future goals and ambitions and how your chosen course will support you in achieving these goals. Please include why you have chosen Northumbria University and why you have chosen your specific course. Make sure to explain in full your ambitions and how the Sanctuary Scholarship will help you in your future achievements.

Selection Process

- There is a competitive selection process for this scholarship scheme and not all applications will be successful. A selection panel will consider all eligible scholarship applications and shortlist for interview. Scholarships will be awarded based on the scholarship application form, relevant documentation and interview - course application forms will **not** be considered when awarding scholarships
- Those shortlisted will then be required to attend an interview in Newcastle Upon Tyne
- Applicants attending an interview will be asked to provide copies of documentation relevant to your current immigration status, such as Home Office letters

Northumbria University recognises the unique and difficult circumstances students who are seeking asylum may experience and the challenges this may create in accessing Higher Education. As such, the University offers a range of pre-entry services through [NU Belong](#) to any students seeking asylum considering university, including application support.

The deadline to apply for this award is Friday 25 April 2025.