

Warm Welcome Scholarship Scheme

Introduction for HEPs

1. The Warm Welcome Scholarship Scheme



HM Government

- Part of “Operation Warm Welcome” (announced by UK Government, September 2021)
- Aims to meet needs of different groups with links to Afghanistan in the UK to
 - rebuild lives
 - find work
 - pursue education
 - integrate with local communities
- Provides scholarships giving access to higher education.
- Government funding from the Department for Education (DfE).
- British Council is the delivery partner.

2. The scholarships

- 300 awards; 1 cohort; 2 programmes
 - In-Year scholarships (for current students)
 - Full Degree scholarships (for those commencing academic year 22/23)
- 3 levels of study
 - Undergraduate (3 years max – or 4 years max in Scotland)
 - Taught master's (1 year max)
 - PhD (3 years max)
- Full-time, in-person study in the UK.
- Eligibility requirements include ARAP and ARCS schemes and Afghan British Nationals (see slide 9 for details)
- Prioritised programmes linked to employability or skills shortages (see slide 10 for details)
- Maintenance stipend funded by DfE; tuition fees waived by HEPs.

3. In Year Awards

- Up to 100 awards
- For scholars studying this academic year
- First stipend payment in June, back-dated to May
- Funding continues to the end of the course (max 2 further years, or 3 for undergraduates in Scotland)
- In Year scholars can not apply for Full Degree scholarship
- Simple application
 - Scholars apply to British Council
 - HEPs confirm eligibility and support for application
 - Awards made on first-come, first-served basis
- 2- week application window (9-20 May)

HEPs asked to inform eligible scholars and encourage their application

Interested scholars can [register for alerts](#) to keep informed

4. Full Degree awards

- Around 200 awards
- For scholars interested in commencing studies in academic year 22/23
- Two-stage application process
 - Scholars apply to participating HEPs and receive offer of place and sponsorship for Warm Welcome funding. (9 May – 11 June)
 - Sponsored applicants complete scholarship application via British Council portal (27 June – 8 July)
 - Following evaluation, allocations and confirmations with HEPs (by 13 August)
- Mid-Late August: HEPs sign grant agreements with British Council in time to receive and pay first stipends in Sept.

HEPs invited to participate, and to commit to waiving at least 6 years

Interested scholars can [register for alerts](#) to keep informed

5. Scholarship offers requested from HEPs

In-Year awards

- Commit support for scholars for duration of studies - without conditions on their ability to pay tuition.
- Determine number of awards supported –not prioritising based on overall course length.

Full degree awards

- Waive tuition fees for agreed number of scholarships
- Requested to waive 6 years study in total (unless small or specialist institution – in which case, 3 years)

Example distribution of scholarships

At least 2 PhD places

At least 3 taught master's PLUS at least 1 of either undergraduate or PhD place

At least 2 undergraduate places

6. Additional requirements for participation

- Designate one member of staff as single contact point with British Council
- Support Full Degree applicants in their selection of courses
- Confirm eligibility of applicants (In-Year, and Full Degree)
- Evaluate Full Degree applications received and confirm sponsored status of applications
- Act as point of contact with applicants to inform of application progress and success
- Review provisional allocations of scholarships prior to final award
- Ensure well-being support is in place for scholars throughout studies
- Manage scholarship stipends at quarterly intervals and report on scholar progress

7. Timelines

Promotion and Confirmation of participation	
25 Apr – 6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HEPs support with communication of the scheme to current scholars eligible for in-year scholarships
25 Apr – 6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HEPs confirm their participation for the new scholarship programme, including numbers of scholarship places that they can support
In-year scholarships	
9 May – 20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Application period for in-year scholarships
23 May – 3 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-year scholarships confirmed with HEPs. HEPs sign agreements to confirm funding and receive payment of In Year scholar stipends.
By 25 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-year scholars receive first stipend payment from HEP (back-dated to application date)
New scholarships	
From 9 May – 11 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eligible applicants apply to HEPs
13 Jun – 25 Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HEPs confirm offers to scholars and select to “sponsor” those that they would be happy to see awarded a scholarship.
27 Jun – 8 Jul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Sponsored” scholars submit application to British Council
25 Jul – 13 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">new scholarships allocated and confirmed with HEPs
15 Aug – 31 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HEPs sign agreements to confirm funding for scholars and receive stipend payments for first period.
From 5 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New scholars receive first stipend payment from HEPs

8 . Next steps

1. Register for [HEP alerts and updates](#)
2. Consider participation and number of scholarships. HEPs invited next week to indicate awards
3. Inform current eligible In Year scholars of upcoming application process (9-20 May)
 - Interested scholars can [register for alerts](#)
 - Information session next Friday 6 May, 11.00 ([register here](#))
4. Inform potential Full Degree scholars of awards and upcoming application process
 - Interested scholars can [register for alerts](#)
 - Toolkit to support digital promotions will be provided

Feedback and further questions

Scholarships_HEPs@britishcouncil.org

10 . Annex B – Prioritised courses

Recommended subjects to prioritise
Agriculture, food and related studies
General, applied and forensic sciences
Health and social care
Education and teaching
Biosciences
Materials and technology
Mathematical sciences
Computing
Chemistry
Pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy
Physics and astronomy
Medical sciences
Allied health
Nursing and midwifery

9 . Annex A – Eligibility requirements

Eligible scholars are those eligible for a university place that fall into the following categories

- Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) resettlement route.
- Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) resettlement route
- Those with links to Afghanistan who are already registered at a UK university and are experiencing financial hardship and/or cannot return home due to the situation in Afghanistan.
- Afghan British Nationals (ABNs), described for these purposes as those that were evacuated during Operation Pitting and who entered bridging accommodation or who presented as homeless to a council, but hold British citizenship or some other status that permits them to remain and reside in the UK without the need to be granted leave to remain.