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Keele UNIVERSITY

Student Financial Support Team

Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship

Application Guidance 2027/8

THIS IS KEELE

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Introduction

Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship

Here at Keele we believe that everyone has the right to education and are working to ensure that asylum seekers and students from a forced migrant background are able to access Higher Education.

For 2027/8 entry we will be offering the following Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarships:

- 2 scholarships for eligible applicants wishing to study an undergraduate degree programme.
- 1 scholarship for eligible applicants wishing to study a postgraduate taught Masters degree programme (part-time or full-time).

Successful applicants for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship at Keele University will be provided with:

- Full tuition fee costs for up to a maximum of four years.
- A cash award of £1200 each year towards living costs.
- £250 towards course costs loaded on the students Keele Card in each year of study.
- Personal Support: Support will also be developed for each successful student to enable them to identify and overcome barriers to achievement on their degree programme.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship an applicant must meet the academic and any other requirements of their chosen course. This can include but is not limited to matriculation, English proficiency as well as satisfactory references, personal statement or Disclosure and Barring Service check. **An applicant must have received an offer of a place on the course for 2027 entry before applying for the scholarship.** Applicants must also meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must fall into one of the following immigration status groups and be unable to access UK government funding because of their current immigration status.
    - An asylum seeker – a person who has made a claim with the UK for refugee status.
    - A person who has been granted some form of temporary status, such as Limited Leave to remain, in the UK.
    - Dependents or partners of any of the above status groups, whose claim is dependent on a principal applicant.
- Applicants must be able to provide evidence of their status, under one of the above categories.

(Please note, some students with temporary status may be eligible for funding under the Long Residence category. For useful information regarding eligibility under this category, please visit UKCISA.

- Priority will be given to applicants who live within easy commuting distance of Keele University.

Applications will be considered from students applying for the following courses:

- Full time undergraduate degree and foundation programmes (up to a maximum of four years)
- Full time or part time postgraduate taught Master's programmes. (Applicants must be studying a minimum of a Master's qualifications; modular courses and the Postgraduate Certificate/Postgraduate Diploma are not eligible).

Please note that the following courses are not eligible for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship scheme:

- Postgraduate Research and PhD programmes.
- Medicine
- Social Work

If you have any questions or are unsure about your eligibility for the scholarship then please contact us at student.services@keele.ac.uk before applying.

Making an application

The application will ask you questions about your individual circumstances, and you will be asked to provide a supporting statement to tell us more about your financial circumstances. You will also need to upload supporting evidence (you can find an evidence checklist later in this guide). We will not be able to process applications without the required evidence. If any evidence is missing or unclear in your application, we will request this evidence from you by email.

Applicants will need to read the guidance notes fully and complete an online application form. All applicants will require a referee to provide a supporting statement for their application. This could be a school or college lecturer, support worker or community or voluntary group leader. All applicants will also need to provide supporting evidence of their circumstances by the application deadline.

Assessing an application

Applicants are reminded that this is a competitive process and not all applications for the Scholarships will be successful.

Stage 1

Following an initial assessment, the University will contact applicants to let them know whether or not their application will progress to the next stage of the selection process.

Stage 2

Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited to an interview to verify the information they have provided on their application and to give them an opportunity to get to know the University. Applicants will be asked to sign a document providing permission for the University to share information with the UK Home Office in order to verify eligibility for the scholarship and status in the UK. Interviews will be held as soon as possible after the closing date.

Stage 3

Successful applicants will be sent an offer of an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship within two weeks of the interview. For more information about how we assess applications please see the Selecting Sanctuary Scholars document.

Accepting the Scholarship

- An applicant who is offered an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship must confirm acceptance of the award to the Student Services Centre within two weeks (10 working days) of being notified.
- Failure to reply within two weeks (10 working days) may result in the scholarship being awarded to a reserve applicant or applications being reopened.
- If an applicant declines an offer of an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship award, the award will be offered to a reserve applicant or applications will be reopened.
- For the avoidance of doubt, all offers of an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship are conditional of applicants receiving an Unconditional offer from the University and subject to satisfactorily meeting the right to study check undertaken by the University's Immigration Compliance Team.
- Once an applicant has accepted the offer of the scholarship and the scholarship has been confirmed they will be asked to sign a Student Contract to show they understand the terms and conditions of the scholarship and the responsibilities of both the scholarship recipient and the University.
- Scholarship recipients will be allocated a dedicated contact within Student Services to support them for the duration of their studies.
- Scholarship recipients will be invited to meet with their dedicated contact when they arrive at the University and will be supported through the enrolment process.

Payment process

- A student will only be entitled to the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship once they have fully enrolled with the University.
- Each scheduled payment will only be made, provided the student remains enrolled on their chosen course.
- If they have not already done so students should apply to open a UK bank account in order to receive payments of the additional financial support.
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    - Payments will normally be made annually unless students would benefit from a different payment schedule which can be discussed with the dedicated contact.
    - Payments to Keele Cards will be loaded onto the students Keele Card during Semester 1.
    - Students will receive a confirmation email at the beginning of Semester 1 to confirm payment dates.

Change of circumstances

Any changes of circumstances must be discussed with the students' dedicated contact in order to explore the implications of any changes on their course and eligibility for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship.

Withdrawal

If a student decides to withdraw or is withdrawn from their course by the University the Sanctuary Scholarship will no longer be eligible to receive the scholarship.

- A student who withdraws or is withdrawn from the course by the University will not have to repay any of the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship as long as they are in attendance on the date of the payment.
- A student who withdraws or is withdrawn by the University will not receive any further payments, but any previously paid instalments will not be recovered.
- A student who withdraws or is withdrawn by the University will have their Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship tuition fee award reduced to meet the tuition fee liability in the year of withdrawal.

Repeating Studies

- An undergraduate student repeating one year of study may be considered for further financial support.
- If an undergraduate student is repeating as a Repeat Modular student they may be considered for further financial support on a pro-rata basis.
- If an undergraduate student is repeating on a Repeat Assessment only basis they will not normally be considered for further financial support.
- A postgraduate student repeating one or more years of study will not normally be considered for further financial support.

Taking a Leave of Absence

- A scholarship recipient who wishes to take a leave of absence from their course must initially discuss this with their personal tutor and dedicated student support contact.
- Scholarship recipients will not be entitled to any award payments during their period of leave of absence.
- If the student has received any award payments prior to taking a leave of absence they will not be required to repay any of the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship as long as they were in attendance on the date of payment.

Change of Course or Length of Course

- If an Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship recipient wishes to change course or course length this must be discussed with their dedicated support contact prior to applying for the course change to discuss implications.
- A postgraduate student who transfers to a programme with a tuition fee that is greater than the tuition fee of their original programme, may be considered for additional funding but must discuss this with their dedicated contact before making the course change.

Change of immigration status

The Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship is payable in each academic year of the course. This is unless, the scholarship recipient receives a change in their immigration status, which means they become eligible for UK Government student financial support. If this happens, the student must inform the University and the award will cease from the start of the next academic year. Students would be expected to apply for UK Government Student Financial Support without delay.

Renewal

The Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship award covers the ordinary duration of a student's studies. The Article 26 Sanctuary scholarship award is renewable each year provided that the following conditions are met:

- A scholarship recipient must satisfactorily progress on to their next year of study.
- A student must continue to be enrolled on their course at each time of payment.
- A scholarship recipient must continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship.

If a student does not meet these conditions they must immediately speak to their dedicated support contact to discuss options.

Appeals

We work in a methodical and systematic way to ensure that we distribute awards from the Article 26 Scholarship Fund fairly and proportionately, to those who need it most. If you would like an explanation about how we assessed your application, please let us know and we will be happy to discuss this with you:

Student Financial Support Team:
student.services@keele.ac.uk

After this, if you feel that we have not assessed your application fairly, you will be able to make a formal appeal by sending an email to the Head of Student Wellbeing, who will aim to respond to you within 5 working days of your complaint:

Si Price - Head of Student Participation and Success
s.d.price@keele.ac.uk

Please note that any appeal must be made within 4 weeks of the outcome of your application.

Application

Section 1 – Personal details

You will be asked to provide the following details:

- Name
- Keele student number (you might not have this yet)
- Correspondence address
- Home address (if different)
- Contact telephone number
- Email address
- Date of birth
- Nationality

Section 2 – Course details and previous study

You will be asked to provide the following details:

- Level of study
- Your course
- What type of offer you currently hold at Keele
- Conditions of your offer
- How many years completed of previous higher education study

Section 3 – Eligibility

You will be asked to provide the following details:

- Date of arrival in the UK
- Immigration status in the UK
- Family immigration status

Section 4 – Support

You will be asked if you need any additional support needs as follows:

- Living circumstances
- Change of living circumstances
- Student accommodation needed
- English language support
- Other additional support

Section 5 – Personal Statement

You will be asked about your ambitions and aims for the future by asking the following:

- Ambitions for the future and how the Scholarship can help you achieve that
- How has your education been affected by your personal circumstances
- Details of your current immigration status
- Outline of your current financial circumstances

Section 6 – Referee Details

We will contact you by email to request a letter from your referee but will ask the following information to be supplied:

- Referee’s full name
- Your relationship to your referee
- Organisation that your referee works for
- Referee’s role in the organization

Section 7 - Declaration

Please read through the declarations carefully, and tick to confirm that you understand. You will then be able to submit your application.

Section 8 - Privacy statement

The information you provide will be used for the sole purpose of processing your Article 26 Sanctuary Scholarship application.

Student Financial Support Team

Student Services

www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentservices

student.services@keele.ac.uk