Student Money and Accommodation Advice

Asylum seekers and refugees

**Asylum seekers**

Those who have submitted an application for asylum to the Home Office and are awaiting a decision have the right to remain in the UK while their case is being considered. All refugees who have applied for asylum in the UK are allowed to study and this should have no bearing on the eventual outcome of their application for asylum.

Asylum seekers who hold an Application Registration Card (ARC) and who choose to study at London Metropolitan University may discretionarily be charged the ‘Home’ (rather than international) level of fees. However, asylum seekers are not usually eligible for student support until a decision on their asylum application has been made by the Home Office. In such circumstances it is often advisable to study part-time, as fees are charged per module, and are thus likely to be easier to manage financially. You should also check to see if you are eligible for the London Metropolitan University Refugee Scholarship (see ‘Further sources of support’ on page 4).

Asylum seekers cannot claim mainstream welfare benefits such as Universal Credit, but depending on circumstances may receive Asylum Support: [www.gov.uk/asylum-support](http://www.gov.uk/asylum-support)

**Refusal of application**If your application for asylum is refused you may be considered an international student for fees purposes while any appeal is considered.

**Discretionary and Limited Leave**
If you have applied for asylum and been granted Discretionary or Limited Leave you should check with the University’s Admissions team if you will be eligible for ‘Home’ fees. You may be able to apply for statutory funding under the ‘long residence’ category. Please contact a Student Money and Accommodation Adviser for further information.

**Indefinite Leave**
To receive student support, students with Indefinite Leave to Remain will usually need to have been granted their Indefinite Leave prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course (1 September for autumn starters; 1 January for spring starters), and to have been resident in the UK for three years prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course.

**Refugee status**
To be entitled to student support you must either have been recognised as a refugee by the UK Government and have remained ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands since then, or you must be the spouse/civil partner, or child/step-child of such a person. If you are the spouse/civil partner of such a person, you must have been in that relationship on the date on which they made their application for asylum. If you are the child/step-child of such a person you must have been under 18 and the child of the parent/step-parent at the time they made their application for asylum.

You must also be ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of your course (1 September for autumn starters; 1 January for spring starters).

**Humanitarian Protection (HP)**
You may be entitled to the ‘Home’ fee rate and student support if you have been granted Humanitarian Protection (HP), are ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of the course (1 September for autumn starters; 1 January for spring starters), and have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years before the first day of the first academic year of your course. You may also be entitled to student support if you are the spouse, civil partner or child of such a person, though certain additional requirements apply.

**Stateless Leave to Remain** / **Section 67 Leave to Remain** / **Calais Leave to Remain / ILR as a Victim of Domestic Violence / ILR as a Bereaved Partner** **/** **Leave under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) / Leave under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ARCS) / Leave under the Ukraine schemes**
If you have been granted one of these immigration statuses you should query your eligibility for student funding with the Student Money and Accommodation Advice team.

**Changes of status during your course**
If you were ordinarily resident in England on the first academic day of the first academic year of your course AND you are granted refugee status, or if your spouse/civil partner/parent is granted refugee status, you may be able to apply for:

* a Tuition Fee Loan for the academic year in which the change of status occurs provided the change of status occurred within the first three months of the academic year. The loan may also be available for subsequent years of your course, but not for years prior to the change of status.
* a Maintenance Loan / other supplementary grants for the academic year in which the change of status occurs (and in subsequent years of your course). Please note that the support will only be awarded for the academic quarters following the date on which you became an eligible student, except the quarter in which the longest vacation falls.

If you were ordinarily resident in England on the first academic day of the first academic year of your course AND you have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years before the first day of the first academic year of your course AND you are granted Humanitarian Protection or if your spouse/civil partner/parent is granted Humanitarian Protection, you may be able to apply for:

* a Tuition Fee Loan for the academic year in which the change of status occurs provided the change of status occurred within the first three months of the academic year. The loan may also be available for subsequent years of your course, but not for years prior to the change of status.
* a Maintenance Loan / other supplementary grants for the academic year in which the change of status occurs (and in subsequent years of your course). Please note that the support will only be awarded for the academic quarters following the date on which you became an eligible student, except the quarter in which the longest vacation falls.

**Immigration advice**

Under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the University is not able to provide immigration advice to asylum seekers and refugees.

**Further sources of support**

**London Metropolitan University Refugee Scholarship**Full tuition fee waiver; maintenance grant equivalent to the maximum government Maintenance Loan for each academic year; designated academic mentor to offer support and guidance throughout your course. Eligibility criteria: [www.londonmet.ac.uk/applying/funding-your-studies/scholarships/london-met-refugee-scholarship/](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/applying/funding-your-studies/scholarships/london-met-refugee-scholarship/)

**Refugee Education UK (REUK)**
REUK is an educational charity working with young people of refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. [www.reuk.org/hefaq](http://www.reuk.org/hefaq)

**Student Action for Refugees (STAR)**
STAR is a national charity which campaigns to improve access to university for asylum seekers: [star-network.org.uk/access-to-university/](https://star-network.org.uk/access-to-university/)

**Article 26**
A project which promotes access to higher education for people who have fled persecution and sought asylum in the UK: [article26.hkf.org.uk](http://article26.hkf.org.uk)

**Refugee Council**
A national charity which provides direct support for refugees, including in the areas of integration, employment, mental health and youth work: [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

**How to contact us**

Visit [www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice) for up-to-date appointments and drop-in times.

The content of this information sheet has been compiled using information from external sources, as well as University data. The content has been carefully checked and is given in good faith. However, the University cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any inaccuracy. June 2023