

Asylum seekers and refugees in higher education Advice, Information & Funding Service (AIFS)

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) or Standard Acknowledgement Letter (SAL) issued by the Home Office and who choose to study at London Metropolitan University will 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 for the asylum seeker to study part-time, as fees are charged per module, and are thus likely to be easier to manage financially.

Asylum seekers cannot claim mainstream welfare benefits such as Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance and Housing Benefit, but depending on circumstances may be able to receive some support from UK Visas and Immigration.

Refusal of application

If the application is refused the applicant is technically no longer an asylum seeker and could be treated as an international student for fees purposes while any appeal is considered.

Discretionary Leave

Students who have applied for asylum and been granted Discretionary Leave will be eligible for “Home” fees. Some may be able to apply for statutory funding as well. Please contact a student adviser for further information.

Indefinite Leave

To receive student support, students with Indefinite Leave to Enter / Remain will usually need to have been granted their Indefinite Leave prior to the first day of the first academic year of their course (1st September for autumn starters; 1st 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 (including step-child) of such a person. You must also be ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of your course (1st September for autumn starters; 1st January for spring starters). If your permission to be in the UK has run out, you are still eligible for student support if you can show that you applied to extend

or change your immigration status before your permission to be here expired, and you are still waiting for a decision on that application, or that you are in the process of appealing against a Home Office decision to refuse you further immigration permission. For further information on student support, you should consult our full-time / part-time 'funding your studies' information sheets, which can be found on our website: www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice

Humanitarian Protection (HP)

You are entitled to the "Home" fee rate if you have been granted Humanitarian Protection (HP) on the first day of an academic year of your course, and have been ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of the course (1st September for autumn starters; 1st January for spring starters). If 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 as well, or you are the spouse, civil partner or child of such a person, you may be entitled to student support.

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 or civil partner or parent is granted refugee status

- within the first three months of an academic year of your course, you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan.
- at any point in the academic year, you can apply for the Maintenance Loan / other supplementary grants though the support will only be awarded for the academic quarters following the date on which you became an eligible student.

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 or civil partner or parent is granted Humanitarian Protection

- within the first three months of an academic year of your course, you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan.
- at any point in the academic year, you can apply for the Maintenance Loan / other supplementary grants though the support will only be awarded for the academic quarters following the date on which you became an eligible student.

Immigration advice

Under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the University is not able to provide immigration advice to asylum seekers and refugees. Where necessary, enrolled students will be referred to appropriate outside agencies who are qualified to provide advice at the required level.

How to contact the Advice, Information & Funding Service

Telephone Student Services reception and ask to speak to a student adviser:

Aldgate campus – 020 7320 2370; Holloway campus – 020 7133 2094

Email: advice.studentservices@londonmet.ac.uk

Website: www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice

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. May 2016