



Asylum seekers and refugees in higher education Student Money and Accommodation Advice

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 Seeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit, but depending on circumstances may receive Asylum Support: www.gov.uk/asylum-support

Refusal of application

If the application is refused the applicant could be treated as an international student for fees purposes while any appeal is considered.

Discretionary and Limited Leave

Students who have applied for asylum and been granted Discretionary or Limited Leave will be eligible for 'Home' fees. Some may be able to apply for statutory funding as well 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). If your leave to remain 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 leave to remain 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.

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

You may be entitled to the 'Home' fee rate and student support if you have been granted Stateless Leave to Remain, 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.

Section 67 Leave to Remain

You may be entitled to the 'Home' fee rate and student support if you have been granted Section 67 Leave to Remain, 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 dependent child of such a person.

Calais Leave to Remain

You may be entitled to the 'Home' fee rate and student support if you have been granted Calais Leave to Remain, 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.

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 (and in 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, OR you are granted Stateless Leave to Remain or if your spouse/civil partner/parent is granted Stateless Leave, OR you are granted Section 67 Leave to Remain, or if your parent is granted Section 67 Leave, OR you are granted Calais Leave to Remain, you may be able to apply for:

- a Tuition Fee Loan for the academic year in which the change of status occurs (and in 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

Refugee Support Network (RSN)

RSN is an educational charity working with young people aged 15-25 of refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. RSN provide an Access to Higher Education advice service:

www.refugeesupportnetwork.org/pages/25-access-to-higher-education

Student Action for Refugees (STAR)

STAR is a national charity made up of 50 groups at universities and colleges across the UK. STAR groups volunteer at local refugee projects and campaign to improve access to university for asylum seekers: www.star-network.org.uk/index.php/campaigns/equal_access

Article 26

A project which promotes access to higher education for people who have fled persecution and sought asylum in the UK: <http://article26.hkf.org.uk>

Refugee Council

A national charity who provide direct support for refugees, including in the areas of integration, employment, mental health and youth work: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

How to contact us

Telephone your Student Hub and ask to book a phone or face-to-face appointment with a Student Money and Accommodation Adviser:

Aldgate – 020 7133 7002; Holloway – 020 7133 7001

Email: SMAA@londonmet.ac.uk

Website: www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice