



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 be able to receive some help from the asylum support casework team.

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 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 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.

Humanitarian Protection (HP)

You are entitled to the “Home” fee rate if you have been granted Humanitarian Protection (HP) and 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). 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. If you are the spouse, civil partner or child of such a person, certain additional requirements apply.

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

- within the first three months of an academic year of your course, you may be able to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan.
- at any point in the academic year, you may be able to 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, 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

- within the first three months of an academic year of your course, you may be able to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan.
- at any point in the academic year, you may be able to 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, 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.

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; Moorgate – 020 7133 7003

Email: SMAA@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. August 2018