

# Article 26 Scholarship Award Application form guidance notes 2021/22

## Background Information

The University of Salford provides Article 26 scholarships to enable people seeking sanctuary/ asylum or other forced migrant background to progress to higher education. Successful applicants for the Article 26 Scholarship Award at the University of Salford will be provided with:

* Tuition Fee Grant: Successful students will be offered a tuition fee-remitted place at university until such time as they are awarded status that entitles them to access student finance.
* A Travel and Course Costs Bursary: Successful students will be offered a £1000 a year (for three years) bursary to help with travel and course costs.
* Personal Support: In addition to fee remission, support will be developed for each student to enable them to identify and overcome barriers to achievement on their degree programme and for their future careers.

*The University of Salford will not be able to provide any financial support for accommodation or living costs unless the student is homeless in which case we may be able to offer emergency housing at university or partner accommodation provider accommodation on a short term basis only while we work with the student to find longer term accommodation. Students should only apply if they are able to support these costs themselves during their university course.*

# Eligibility criteria and the selection process

Before making an application for the Article 26 Scholarship Award, please ensure that you meet our eligibility criteria as follows:

*Please note that in 2021/2022 all undergraduate courses are open for applications for the scholarship, apart from self-funding parts of degrees such as pilot studies*

* An asylum seeker or the partner/dependant of an asylum seeker; OR
* An asylum seeker/partner/dependant who has been granted Discretionary Leave to Remain (DLR) or some other form of temporary status
* From another forced migrant background and not eligible to apply for Student Finance

**AND**;

* Have a conditional or unconditional offer from the University of Salford for September 2021 start. Note you need to [apply](https://www.salford.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply) for a Salford course via [UCAS](https://www.ucas.com/) or in some cases you can apply directly with the university. Please note that you will need to apply for more than one course/ university on UCAS so please ensure that you apply for Article 26 universities only to increase your chances of getting a place that you can afford to take up. Please also note that you must apply for both your university place AND for the Scholarship by completing the online application form. ***Do not assume that because you have an offer for a course at Salford that you will be automatically considered for the Scholarship, because you will not*.**
* Be currently attending a school, college, community or voluntary group which can provide a reference in support of your application. References from Educational institutions are preferable if possible.
* Be unable to access mainstream funding, e.g. student finance or a local authority grant. Those that are classed as care leavers and previously were under local authority care can however apply but will need to attach a letter from your local authority detailing the support that they will offer you whilst studying.
* Live within commuting distance of the University of Salford (preferable in the GMPTE area) OR are able and willing to easily move to the local area to start university in Sept 2020
* Do not require support for living expenses or accommodation.

Applicants must meet these strict eligibility criteria and be able to verify their circumstances to apply. Applicants who do not meet the criteria will not be considered for the scholarship. If you have any questions about whether you should apply for a scholarship, please contact the team on [studentdiversity@salford.ac.uk](mailto:studentdiversity@salford.ac.uk)

# How to apply

* The student must read these guidance notes fully before completing the application form.
* The student must give their application to their supporting referee and ask them to complete a supporting statement. If you cannot upload your supporting statement to the form
* please contact the Diversity team on the email above as you may be able to send it via post or email instead.
* All application forms must be signed by the Principal of the school or college or a Senior
* Manager of the voluntary or community group supporting the student’s application.

# Completing the application form

There are five sections to complete in the online application form. Please note that the information you provide on the form will be held and processed in accordance with our Data Protection Policy. Only a maximum of four people within the Diversity team will be able to access these applications and they will not be shared outside the team without your specific consent. We may however need to share some information about your application with other teams at the university and/or with Article 26 to ensure that your application is seamless. Notes on how to complete each individual question on the application form are provided before each question. Please read these to ensure you are giving the correct information.

## Section 1: Personal details

* Please complete the personal information section of the form – we need this information to contact you about your application.
* Please ensure that you put your name as you would want to see it on, for example, a certificate, with your first name in one box and your second name (or family name) in the other
* Please tell us which college, school or community or voluntary organisation you currently attend and which course or courses you are studying (if appropriate). If you are not currently studying, please give details of any qualifications that you hold.

## Section 2: Applicant’s Personal Statement

When answering the questions in the personal statement section of the form please consider the following. In making a judgement about your application, the selection panel will base their assessment on:

* Your personal and family circumstances and the barriers that you have faced in continuing your education - with particular reference to your current status in the UK
* Your ambitions for the future, why you have chosen your course of study and how the Article 26 Scholarship Award will help you to achieve your ambitions
* Your financial circumstances, including how you have managed financially whilst at college and how you will support yourself at university – the University of Salford cannot support living costs, such as accommodation and food - how will you support these costs whilst at university?
* What additional support will you need whilst at university? For example, do you have a disability? (please note disclosure of this will not affect your application negatively. The University of Salford welcome applications from disabled students but we encourage you to disclose your disability, so you receive the right support.)

Your application for the Article 26 Scholarship Award is completely confidential and the selection panel will only be able to consider information that you provide on your application form. Whilst the selection panel do need some details of personal circumstances, we do not need to know about the circumstances that led to you seeking asylum in UK if you do not wish to provide this information, although it may help in some circumstances. Your supporting referee will be asked to give a supporting statement about you but if there is any information that you feel should be taken into account when your application is considered you must include it here.

## Section 3: Declaration of eligibility and checklist

* Please confirm, by ticking the appropriate box, that you meet the eligibility criteria.
* Please confirm that, should your application be successful, you will inform the askUS team immediately if your circumstances change.
* Please look through the items in the checklist carefully and tick to indicate that you have met all these requirements. Note that all boxes must be ticked to be considered for interview.

## Section 4: Referee’s Supporting Statement

The Referee’s Supporting Statement is an important part of the selection process. This should **NOT** be completed by the applicant. Please be sure to include all the requested information and any other information that you believe should be taken into consideration by the selection panel. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide their referee with a copy of their personal statement.

When completing the referee’s supporting statement please consider the following:

* The referee providing the supporting statement must provide their contact details and confirm that the school, college or community or voluntary group that they represent wishes to support the student’s application. Note that we may contact the referee without informing the applicant.
* The student’s application will not be accepted without a supporting statement.

The Referee’s Supporting Statement should be no more than 500 words and should cover the

following:

* 1. What are the applicant’s personal and financial circumstances and what barriers have they overcome to continue their education?
  2. How well suited is the applicant to the higher education course they plan to take and how

realistic are the student’s ambitions?

* 1. What contribution, to your knowledge, has the student made to a) college life and / or b) their community?
  2. Is there any other information that you believe is relevant to the student’s application?
  3. How do you think the student would benefit from the support offered by the University

of Salford’s Article 26 Scholarship Award?

### Applications will only be accepted for consideration if they are accompanied by the referee’s

***supporting statement and signature.***

**Informing you of the outcome of your application**

* Please note that this is a competitive process and not all applications will be successful. Last year we had over *50 applications* for four places. There is no appeals process; if you are not successful the panel’s decision is final. You are welcome to reapply next year if you are unsuccessful.
* Following initial assessment after the closing date the University will contact you to let you know whether your application will progress to the next stage of the selection process.
* If your application is taken forward, you will be invited to an interview to verify the information you have provided in your application.
* If you are successful in being offered a Salford Advantage Article 26 Award you will be informed within two weeks of your interview.

### For further information on any aspect of completing your application please email the team at [studentdiversity@salford.ac.uk](mailto:studentdiversity@salford.ac.uk)