University of Essex NSP Bursary 2014-15

We are offering students entering the University in 2014 a generous support package based on meeting financial needs and supporting learning. Our participation in the Government’s National Scholarship Programme (NSP) enables self-supporting students or those from low income families to come to University. Our NSP Bursary has been revised to reflect changes in Government funding for the National Scholarship Programme (NSP) for 2014-15 entrants announced on the 28 November 2013. However, we are committed to supporting our students and have taken steps to minimise the impact of these cuts. Under our NSP Bursary scheme, all eligible students are entitled to receive the following support over three years:

Year one
- A subsidy of £2,000 for University accommodation in Southend or Colchester
  or
- A cash bursary of £2,000 for students in Southend, Loughton or Colchester

Year two
£1,000 cash bursary

Final year
£500 cash bursary

Terms and conditions

The terms and conditions of the University of Essex NSP Bursary offered in the academic year 2014-15 are as follows:

1. Eligibility

You must meet all of the following conditions:

- be eligible for UK home fees and ordinarily resident in England (overseas and EU students are not eligible);
- have an annual household income of up to £25,000 as assessed by Student Finance England;
- have applied through UCAS to study a full-time undergraduate course at the University of Essex with first enrolment at Essex in 2014-15;
- Have received an offer of admission for entry in 2014;
- Have made a completed means-tested application to Student Finance England with the University of Essex as your chosen institution and have given your consent to the sharing of financial details
- To be eligible for the accommodation subsidy, you must have applied for University accommodation by the published accommodation application deadline of 22 August 2014 and your household income assessment must be also available from SFE by this date. You will also need to have informed us that you would like this option by 2nd October 2014.

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1 As defined under The Education (Fees & Awards) Regulations 2007
2 Courses leading to the award of a Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, Integrated Masters (four years). Does not include courses at the Edge Hotel School or University partner institutions.
Under the national eligibility criteria of the NSP, the following students are NOT eligible for the award, regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students funded by the NHS;
- Students directly continuing from one course to another (for example from foundation degree or HND on to the final year of an honours degree);
- Students transferring in from another UK higher education institution. (However, students who transfer in before 31st January 2015 having previously started a first year at another Higher Education institution and who have not previously received a payment under the National Scholarship Programme may be eligible at our discretion);
- Students undertaking a postgraduate qualification;
- Part-time students studying at less than 25 per cent intensity of the full-time equivalent;
- Any other students whose fees are paid or part-paid through a sponsorship arrangement;
- Students who have been awarded the NSP previously;
- Students who are studying online distance learning degrees.

2. How do I apply?

If you meet all the eligibility criteria above, you will automatically be awarded the University of Essex NSP Bursary and you will be notified from August 2014 onwards. You do not need to complete an application form. If you are registered for University Accommodation by 22nd August 2014 and are eligible for the bursary, you will be contacted to confirm whether you wish to take your bursary as an accommodation subsidy or as a cash payment.

3. Can I also receive the Academic Excellence Scholarship?

The University of Essex NSP Bursary may be held in conjunction with other University awards.

4. Can I receive the award if I apply through the Adjustment or Clearing process?

The University of Essex NSP Bursary is available to students admitted through the Adjustment or Clearing processes.

5. When will I be notified?

If you have been awarded the University of Essex NSP Bursary, we will notify you from August onwards.

6. How will I be paid?

The cash bursary will be paid directly into your bank account in instalments during the relevant academic year. Instalment payment dates will be published annually and payments will normally be made in two equal instalments in February and May. Payments will only be made to students who are registered for full-time study. The accommodation subsidy will be given as a discount on one year’s University accommodation costs at the Colchester or Southend campus.

7. I am applying for direct entry to the second year – am I still eligible?

Students applying for direct entry to the second year are not eligible for this award.
8. If I become eligible during the year can I receive the award?

If you become eligible during the year you will be entitled to the cash bursary for that academic year.

9. I am on a four year course – do I get a payment in my final year?

If you are on a four year degree with a Foundation Year or Integrated Masters course you will receive £1,000 in year three and an additional cash bursary payment of £500 will be made in your final year.

10. Can I receive the award during my Study Abroad or placement year?

The University of Essex charges no tuition fee for a full year of study abroad or industrial placement as part of a four-year degree. As other awards are available to support students during this time, the University of Essex NSP Bursary will not be made available during a full year of study abroad or industrial placement, normally the third year of a four-year degree. For study abroad periods of less than a full academic year you may continue to receive the award subject to meeting the eligibility criteria above.

11. What happens if my household income rises above the threshold?

If your household income rises above the threshold, you will no longer be eligible for the University of Essex NSP Bursary and no further payments will be made or credits/subsidies given. Checks will be carried out before each payment is made to ensure that students remain eligible for the award.

12. What happens if I withdraw/intermit from my course?

If you withdraw from your studies completely, or are required to withdraw, no further payments will be made or credits/subsidies given. Please note that the first year accommodation subsidy is allocated on a nightly basis over your full period of allocation (set out in your accommodation offer and allocation letters).

If you take a period of approved leave of absence (intermission), the award will be suspended and may be reinstated on your return to full-time study subject to the conditions above. If you return from your period of absence to repeat the full year, you will be entitled to the amounts set out for repeating students below (please see section 13 below).

13. What if I am a repeating student or change to a new course?

Full-time students who are repeating modules on a full-time or part-time basis, or who change course, will be entitled to a cash bursary element for that year as follows:

Year 1: £1,000
Year 2: £1,000
Final year: £500

14. Dispute resolution

Acceptance of the bursary constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. For
guidance regarding this award, non-registered students should contact their Admissions Adviser and registered students should contact the Student Funding Team in the first instance. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under a scholarship or bursary, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the Student Complaints process.

Note: These terms and conditions apply to students first enrolling with the University in the academic year 2014-15. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary in subsequent years.