

Essex Preparation Programme Bursary 2026-27

The University is offering a £250 cash bursary to students who complete the Essex Preparation Programme, a pre-arrival study skills course to support transition to Higher Education at the University of Essex.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- These bursaries are restricted to students applying for eligible undergraduate courses at the University of Essex*, who complete the pre-arrival study skills course, **Essex Preparation Programme**.
- Eligible courses are full time courses leading to the award of a Foundation Degree, Bachelor's Degree or Integrated Masters (four years), or year 0 of an Essex Pathways Degree course.
- Students must register for their first year of full-time undergraduate study at the University of Essex in October 2026-27.
- Students must complete the pre-arrival study skills course **by 23:59 (BST) on 13 October 2026**.
- Students **MUST** complete the **full course and receive the completion certificate to be eligible**.
- This bursary is available for the first year of study in 2026-27 only.
- This bursary may be held in conjunction with other University awards.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

*This includes applicants who apply to the University through the UCAS Clearing process.

Students who are not eligible

The following students are NOT eligible for this scholarship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who complete the course **on the 14 October 2026 or later**.

- Students undertaking a degree that is normally delivered wholly online.
- University of Essex International College students progressing from the International Year One.
- Students progressing from year 0 to year 1 of study in 2026-27.
- Students who are not registering for the first time at University of Essex in 2026-27
- Students awarded the bursary who defer entry to following academic years will be ineligible to receive the award and will be considered in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- Students directly continuing from one course to another (for example from Foundation degree or HND on to the final year of an honours degree).

How to apply

Students need to complete the [Essex Preparation Programme](#) online course **by 23:59 (BST) on 14 October 2026**. The **course must be fully complete confirmed by the certificate of completion**. The certificate is available to download once all learning sections and the feedback survey have been completed.

Students will be automatically identified and be notified of the successful award via their Essex email if they meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

Payment arrangements

- The bursary is worth £250 for the first year of study in 2026-27 only. Payment will be made in one instalment in November 2026 via the [Essex Aspire Platform](#). Students are required to open a UK bank account to receive payment. You will receive an email from student.info@essex-aspire.co.uk with details on how to register an [Essex Aspire Account](#) (if you're not already registered) and how to access your award. Once registered, your award will be available immediately.
- Bursaries not claimed by the 30th July 2027 will no longer be accessible and will be returned to the University.
- Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment.
- Please note that if our records show that debt is owed to the University when an award payment is due, the payment will be offset against the student account in the first instance, and any balance remaining will be paid.

Bursary suspension

The bursary will be suspended during a period of approved leave of absence (intermission) where this period covers a whole or part of an academic year and may be reinstated on return to full-time study

subject to the conditions above. On return to study, students will be entitled to the balance of the bursary for the stage. There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. 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 an award, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2026-27. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.