

Essex Futures BT – Masters

Scholarship - 2026-27

In conjunction with the UK's leading telecommunications company, BT, the School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering (CSEE) is delighted to be offering up to six scholarships worth £5,500 each for 1 year full-time Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Masters students taking up a place to study in academic year 2026-27 in CSEE, with the exception of any conversion course.

In addition to the above, successful applicants will have the opportunity to work with our colleagues within the Institute for Analytics and Data Science.

We have been extremely fortunate to offer this scholarship award due to a donation from BT to support students through their studies within the School of Computer Studies and Electronic Engineering.

The scholarship award can be used in one of the following ways:

- A tuition fee discount, which will be automatically deducted from your course tuition fee.

OR:

- A stipend towards living expenses. The £5,500 will be paid in instalments throughout the academic year as a stipend, directly to your bank account.

This is a competitive scholarship. Applications will be considered, and awardees selected by a panel of relevant departmental staff in conjunction with BT for the following projects:

- Protecting Network from zero-day attacks in real-time using transparent machine E-learning
- Developing a Post-Quantum 5G-AKA for quantum safe authentication and key exchange in 5G
- Network threat detection using context awareness
- RAG-Powered Threat Intelligence Hub: A Prototype for Enhanced Cybersecurity Analysis
- An Isogeny Based Post Quantum Secure Framework for UAVs
- Optimising Energy Consumption in Distributed AI Training Through Intelligent Network Strategies

- Heat network technology

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- These scholarships are restricted to students who are entirely self-funded.*
- These scholarships are available to both Home UK and Overseas fee payers.
- Students must register at the University of Essex in October 2026 for the first year of a full-time eligible Masters course in academic year 2026-27.
- Eligible courses are any full time 1 year Taught Masters courses within the School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering, with the exception of postgraduate Conversion courses which are not eligible.
- The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships or discounts.
- Successful applicants would also be required to commit to a Collaboration Agreement with BT.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

*Students receiving a repayable loan to fund their studies will be considered as self-funded. This includes, but isn't restricted to tuition fee loans from the following bodies:

- Student Finance England/Wales/Northern Island
- Student Awards Agency Scotland
- US Federal Direct Loans
- Norwegian State Loan (Lanekassen)
- Swedish Board of Student Finance (CSN)
- Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA)
- Denmark State Educational Grant and Loan Scheme

Students who are not eligible

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

- Students studying postgraduate conversion courses.
- Students studying part time. This is because the related project must take place in summer 2027 following all taught elements of the course.
- Students studying a course that is delivered online or by distance learning.
- Courses below Masters level: including, but not limited to, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates (PGCerts), and Postgraduate Diplomas (PGDips).
- This scholarship award does not apply to deferred entry. Where a scholarship has been awarded to a student who subsequently defers entry to the following academic year, the award will be withdrawn, and the applicant will be considered again in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- Students who are fully or partly sponsored.
- Students progressing from a University of Essex International College programme.
- Current students whose first year of Postgraduate study at the University of Essex, was prior to academic year 2026-27.
- Students transferring from another higher education institution.

How to apply

Applicants should complete the application form found on our website and send it to csee-schooloffice@essex.ac.uk before the application deadline of **11:59pm BST on 31st May 2026**. You will also need to apply separately for your course through our standard Admissions process. Further information can be found [here](#).

The scholarship application form will ask you to list the projects in your order of preference. You can list as many preferences as you like. Your preferences, and reasons given for your preference, will be taken into consideration as part of the selection process. However, we cannot guarantee that, if successful, you would be offered one of your top preferred projects.

Shortlisted students may be invited to attend an interview online before the end of June, which may take place jointly with University of Essex and BT staff.

Successful applicants will be notified of the specific project for which they have been awarded the scholarship. By accepting a scholarship offer, you will be committing to completing the project specified

on your Award Letter. Awardees will also be required to accept and sign a Collaboration agreement with BT. This will be sent with the Award Letter.

We expect to be able to notify successful awardees of the outcome by the end of June 2026.

Payment arrangements

When accepting the scholarship, students will be asked to choose whether to receive the scholarship as a discount on tuition fee payment, **or** a stipend towards living costs.

- If receiving the scholarship as a discount on tuition fees: These scholarships will be made available as a reduction on the tuition fee that is payable on registration at the University. Payment cannot be offset against a tuition fee deposit if one is required.
- If receiving the scholarship as a stipend towards living costs: The scholarship is worth £5,500 in total, and will be paid in instalments throughout the duration of your course. Payment will be made in four instalments, usually in October, January, April, and July by bank transfer. *The university reserves the right to change the payment schedule, for example to monthly, to align with university processes if required.* Students choosing this option would pay their tuition fees as a self-funded student.
- Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment.
- There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

Transferability

- Scholarships under this programme relate to specific projects and are not transferable except under exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the selection panel.
- Change of course to another eligible course may be approved at the discretion of the selection panel only if the same project can still be completed.
- Your progress on the specified project will be monitored. If, for any reason, you do not undertake or complete the project specified in your scholarship offer letter during the summer of 2027, your scholarship would be terminated.

Data Privacy Statement

The University of Essex takes confidentiality very seriously. Your application form will only be seen by members of staff involved in processing your application. Information is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as it applies in the UK, tailored by the Data Protection Act

2018. Personal data will be used solely for statistical purposes and electronic record keeping and may be made available to authorised University staff to allow statistical information to be analysed.

This data will not be passed to any other third party without your consent, except when the University is required to do so by law.

How we use your data

We use the information in your scholarship application to assess your eligibility and make selection decisions.

Sharing your information

If your application is **shortlisted**, we may share the relevant parts of your application with an **external panel member** who supports the selection process. If you are **invited for interview**, this may be with both University of Essex staff and the **external panel member**.

They are required to keep your information confidential and use it only for this purpose.

Lawful basis

We process your data as part of the University's **public task** in administering scholarship programmes. We do **not** rely on consent for this sharing.

Your rights

You can access your data, request corrections, or raise concerns by contacting the University's Data Protection Officer at dpo@essex.ac.uk.

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.