

# Postgraduate Conversion Courses in AI and Data Science Scholarship 2023-24

The Data Science and AI Scholarship is available to new Home Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Masters students taking up a place to study in academic year 2023-24 on the following programmes of study:

- MSc Data Science and Applications
- MSc Applied Data Science
- MSc Artificial Intelligence and Applications

The scholarship comprises of a £10,000 award to be used in one of the following ways:

- A tuition fee discount, which will be automatically deducted from your course tuition fee. If the course tuition fee is less than £10,000, the outstanding amount will be paid in four instalments throughout the academic year as a stipend.
- A full course stipend. The £10,000 will be paid in four instalments throughout the academic year as a stipend, directly to your bank account.

## Terms and conditions

### Eligibility

Preference will be given to applicants who meet one, or a combination of the following underrepresented groups:

- Female applicants
- Disabled applicants
- Black applicants, specifically:
  - Black or Black British – Caribbean
  - Black or Black British – African

- Other Black background
- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African

Those applicants who meet the above criteria will be prioritised before allocating to other underrepresented groups which are listed below:

- Applicants from POLAR Q1 and Q2
  - Care experienced Applicants
  - Estranged Applicants
  - Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Applicants
  - Refugee Applicants
  - Applicants from military family, veteran, partner of military personnel
- These scholarships are restricted to students who are home fee payers and are entirely self-funded\*.
  - Hold an offer of admission onto the full-time or part-time conversion programmes in Data Science and AI commencing in October 2023. The offer can be unconditional or conditional.
  - Students must register at the University of Essex in October 2023 for the first year of a full-time or part-time course in academic year 2023-24 only
  - The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships.
  - 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 who are not undertaking one of the required courses
- Students assessed as overseas fee payers.
- 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.
- Current students whose first year of Postgraduate study at the University of Essex, was prior to academic year 2023-24.
- Students transferring from another higher education institution.

## **Selection Process**

The Postgraduate Conversion Courses in AI and Data Science Scholarships support talented postgraduate students who can demonstrate an excellent academic background and the potential for future achievement, as well as financial need. We will use the information you provide on your course application and your scholarship application to make our selection. Selection will be based on your eligibility and the information and supporting statements that you provide as part of the scholarship application process.

An initial review will take place to ensure applications meet the criteria lists. All applications that meet the criteria will be passed to the selection panel, chaired by Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health, Prof Maria Fasli, and will include members of academic and administrative staff at the University of Essex.

They will consider the following:

- Eligibility to meet the scholarship criteria
- Target Demographics
- Academic background

- Application standard
- Financial need

## How to apply

To be considered for these awards you must complete and submit the application form available on our website by Monday 14 August 2023 at midnight (GMT) applications received after this deadline will not be assessed. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by the start of September 2023.

## Payment arrangements

The scholarship comprises of a £10,000 award to be used in one of the following ways:

- A tuition fee discount, which will be automatically deducted from your course tuition fee. If the course tuition fee is less than £10,000, the outstanding amount will be paid in four instalments throughout the academic year as a stipend.
- A full course stipend. The £10,000 will be paid in four instalments throughout the academic year as a stipend, directly to your bank account.
- If you intermit from your course, you may, at the discretion of the University, be entitled to a pro-rata payment of the remainder of your award on your return to study. Please contact the [Funding Team](#) for further information.
- Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment. 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 your return to full-time study subject to the conditions above. On your return to study, you 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.
- Please note that if our records show that you are in debt to the University when an award payment is due, the payment will be offset against your student account in the first instance, and you will be entitled to receive any balance.

## 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. Any formal enquiries concerning the use of data noted here should be addressed to the Head of Student Services.

## **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 2023-24. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*