

The Ronald J. Hill Fund

The Department of Government is offering a bursary of £3,000 to assist one postgraduate student within the Department of Government to assist with tuition fees or living costs.

We have been extremely fortunate to offer this award due to the kind donation from one of the departments early graduates, and its first Masters student to earn his PhD at Essex.

This bursary will be awarded to one student in academic year 2026-27, therefore the application process is competitive.

The following document outlines the full terms and conditions of this bursary. Please ensure you read them in full before you complete and submit an application form.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- Applicants must have received a conditional, or unconditional offer, to study a full-time Postgraduate course, within the Department of Government, at the University of Essex starting in academic year 2026-27.
- Applicants need to have accepted their offer by the 30th June 2026 to be considered for this award.
- Applicants must have achieved a 2:1, or higher, in their undergraduate degree.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate a financial need.
- Other University of Essex awards can be held in conjunction with this bursary in line with any other received award's terms and conditions, where applicable.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities

Students who are not eligible

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

- 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has been awarded to a student who subsequently defers entry to the following academic year, the award will be withdrawn and the applicant will be considered again in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.

- The bursary cannot be continued for students repeating periods of study in any circumstances.

How to apply

You can apply for the award by completing an application form and submitting it to govddm@essex.ac.uk . The deadline to apply for this fund is 11:59pm BST on 30th June 2026.

Selection process

Selection will be based on your eligibility and the information and supporting statements that you provide as part of the application process.

An initial review will take place to ensure applications meet the criteria listed. All applications that meet the criteria will be passed to a panel within the department of Government.

As part of your application, you will be required to submit the following:

- A 300-word statement about why the bursary would be beneficial to you
- One-page curriculum vitae
- UG transcript and/or degree certificate

Notification

You will be notified of the award via email to the email account that you included on your application. You will receive your outcome by the end of July 2026.

You must accept your offer of the bursary **within two weeks** of an offer being made, otherwise the offer will be forfeited and awarded to next eligible candidate. As part of your acceptance, you must state clearly whether you would like to receive the award as a tuition fee discount or a living cost bursary, this cannot be changed following award.

Payment arrangements

- If you choose to use your bursary towards the cost of your tuition fees, this amount will be automatically deducted from your fees when you register.
- If you choose to use your bursary for your living costs, the bursary will be paid to you after you have officially registered onto your course.
- Other University of Essex awards can be held in conjunction with this bursary. However, if you are eligible for a University of Essex tuition fee discount, this bursary cannot be put towards your tuition fees and will be paid to you to support accommodation or travel costs.
- 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.

Award termination

If you withdraw from your studies, or are required to withdraw within the first term, you may be required to pay back the funds to the University.

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.