

Schools Membership Plus (SMP)

Bursary 2023-24

The University is offering eligible students from Schools Membership Plus (SMP) schools and colleges, progressing to an undergraduate course at the University of Essex in October 2023, the opportunity to apply for a £1,000 bursary.

Students eligible to apply for the SMP Bursary are those from SMP schools or colleges (listed below).

| Schools | Colleges |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attleborough Academy Norfolk ■ Brentwood County High School ■ Cecil Jones Academy ■ Clacton Coastal Academy ■ Colchester County High School for Girls ■ Copleston High School ■ Greensward Academy ■ Harwich and Dovercourt High School ■ Hylands Schools ■ New Rickstones Academy ■ Northgate High School ■ Plume - Maldon's Community Academy ■ St Angela's Ursuline School ■ The Basildon Upper Academy ■ The FitzWimarc School ■ The Jo Richardson Community School ■ The King Edmund School ■ The Sandon School ■ Thomas Gainsborough School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chelmsford College ■ Christ the King Sixth Form College: Aquinas ■ Christ The King Sixth Form College: Emmanuel ■ Christ the King Sixth Form College: St Mary's ■ City and Islington College, CANDI Sixth Form College ■ East Norfolk Sixth Form College ■ Havering Sixth Form College (excluding New City college & Havering College of Further and Higher Education) ■ Hedingham School and Sixth Form ■ Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form ■ One Sixth Form College, Suffolk ■ Palmer's College (USP) ■ Seevic College (USP) ■ Sigma Sixth Colchester (Philip Morant) ■ Sigma Sixth Tendring (Clacton County) ■ South Essex College |

| Schools | Colleges |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thurstable School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College ■ St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College ■ Suffolk New College ■ Tendring Technology College ■ The Sixth Form College Colchester |

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- Students must have attended a University of Essex [Open Day](#) or [Applicant Day](#). This includes Clearing events delivered in Colchester, Southend or virtually. (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/clearing/events>)
- This bursary is restricted to students who have completed their studies at one of our Schools Membership Plus schools/colleges in academic year 2022-23 (noted above).
- Students must be progressing directly from their studies at one of the named Schools Membership Plus schools/colleges.
- Students must be starting and register for their first year of full-time undergraduate study at the University of Essex in October 2023.
- UCAS applicants must actively make Essex their firm choice by 15 September 2023. Applicants that become firm with Essex through rejection by their original firm choice selection elsewhere are not eligible. Direct applicants via Clearing must actively accept their offer and make Essex their firm choice by 15 September 2023.
- This bursary can be held in conjunction with the [Essex Preparation Programme Bursary 2023-24](#), but cannot be held in conjunction with any other bursary, unless it states this in the Terms & Conditions of that award.
- This bursary is available for the first year of study in 2023-24 only.
- 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:

- Students undertaking courses at East 15 Acting School.

- Students undertaking a degree that is normally delivered wholly online.
- 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 transferring into the second year from another UK higher education institution.
- 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 who are fully or partly sponsored.

How to apply

To apply for the award, eligible students should complete the application form on the webpages by **Friday 15 September 2023**.

Where more applications are received than awards available, applications will be considered by a panel using the following criteria (in order of prioritisation):

- Even distribution of awards across SMP partners proportionate to size of institution;
- Personal statement;
- If needed, strength of reference from named contact within the application form.

Successful students will be contacted via email by the end of September 2023.

Payment arrangements

- The bursary is worth £1,000 for the first year of study in 2023-24 only. Payment will be made in two instalments, usually in February and May by bank transfer. You must open a UK bank account and we will contact you by email before each payment date to request that you enter your bank details into My Essex so payment can be made.
- Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment.
- 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.

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 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.

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.