

# Access Essex Scholarship 2026-27

We are offering a 100% tuition fee waiver for the first year of undergraduate study to 10 UK/Home fee students starting at the University in the 2026–27 academic year. To be eligible, you must belong to one of the groups listed in the table below and have a home address in one of the specified regions.

Successful students will be required to support a minimum of 6 in-school or on campus events which support prospective students with progressing to university. In addition, the successful applicants will be included in promotional activity.

Group	Description
Estranged	Students residing in the UK who are estranged from their parents.
Young Carer	Students residing in the UK who helped to look after someone in their family who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health condition.
Military families	Students residing in the UK who have a parent or carer serving in the Armed Forces.
Refugee/asylum seeker	Where residing in the UK: students with 'refugee status' or 'Humanitarian Protection', and asylum seekers.
Free school meal recipients	Students residing in the UK, who are (or have been) eligible or receiving free school meals during their secondary education.
Polar4 quintile 1 & 2	Students residing in the UK where there is low progression to Higher Education, defined as Quintiles 1 and 2 from OFS POLAR4 data.
Care experienced	Students residing in the UK, who have experience of care. This could include students who have spent time living with foster carers under local authority care, in residential care (e.g. a children's home), looked after at home under a supervision order, or in kinship care with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.

## Terms and conditions

### Eligibility

- You must be living in one of the following regions:

**East:** Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire

**South-East:** Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex

**Midlands/West Midlands:** Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Staffordshire, Warwickshire

**London:** City of London and all 32 London boroughs

- The number of awardees will be limited in each region. The limits are as follows:
  - East: 4 awards
  - South-East: 2 awards
  - Midlands/West Midlands: 2 awards
  - London: 2 awards
- Applicants must meet their conditional offer.
- UCAS applicants must actively make Essex their firm choice by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
- Students must register for the first year (Year 1) of a full-time undergraduate degree\* at the University of Essex in October 2026-2027.
- This scholarship is available for the first year of study (Year 1) at undergraduate level in 2026-27 only.
- The award may be held in conjunction with the Early Bird Discount and cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships (except Schools and College Bursary and the Essex Futures Bursary). Students who are eligible for this award and are joining Essex through a link agreement, which includes a discounted fee, will receive the award which is greater in value.
- Students studying University of Essex Online courses, delivered by the University of Essex.

- Successful applicants will be required to support a minimum of 6 in-school or on campus events which support prospective students with progressing to university. In addition, the successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

\*Courses leading to the award of a Diploma of Higher Education, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, Integrated Masters (four years)

## **Students who are not eligible**

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

- Students studying University of Essex Online courses, delivered in partnership with Kaplan Open Learning.
- Students who are not ordinarily resident in the UK or eligible for UK Home Tuition Fees.
- Students awarded the scholarship 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.
- Applicants entering the second and third year.
- 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 by their government or other external agency and are not required to make any repayments (this does not include Visa sponsorship).
- Current students whose first year of undergraduate study at the University of Essex, was prior to academic year 2026-2027.

## **How to apply**

To be considered for the award, you must complete and submit the application form available on our website by 11:59PM BST on the 30 April 2026.

Successful applicants will be notified by the 12 June 2026.

## **Payment arrangements**

- These scholarships will only 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 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.

## **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. Applicants should contact the [Undergraduate Admissions Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#). 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 their decision will be final.

*These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2026-2027. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*