

# Essex Futures Bursary 2026-27

We are offering all eligible UK undergraduate students entering the University in 2026-27, a support package worth up to £3,000. The bursary is available for the initial year of undergraduate degree study only. The bursary comprises of:

Household Income	Bursary Amount
Up to £25,000	£1,000 cash bursary £2,000 applied as a credit against your university owned or administered accommodation fees
£25,001 - £30,000	£1,500 applied as a credit against your university owned or administered accommodation fees
£30,001 - £35,000	£1,000 applied as a credit against your university owned or administered accommodation fees

## Terms and conditions

### Eligibility

- This bursary is restricted to students who are UK home fees and are entirely self-funded\*.
- Students must register for the foundation year (Year 0) or the first year (Year 1) of a full-time undergraduate degree\*\* for the first time at the University of Essex in October 2026-27.
- Students must have applied for and have been **approved** for funding from Student Finance England (or other UK funding provider) with the University of Essex as their chosen institution. They must have requested a **means-tested assessment** for funding to Student Finance England, with consent to be shared with University of Essex and have been assessed as having an annual household within the thresholds stated in the table above.
- To receive the accommodation credit component of the award, students must have applied for, and accepted, a place in university owned or administered accommodation for the academic year 2026-27 by the deadline of **2 October 2026 at 11:59pm GMT**.

- If students become eligible during the year due to their Household Income being assessed or reassessed, they will be entitled to the bursary for that academic year.
- Student must have a valid tenancy agreement for university owned or administered accommodation at the time of payment to receive the accommodation credit component of the award.
- This bursary may be held in conjunction with other University of Essex awards, for example (but not limited to) the Schools and Colleges Membership Bursary 2026-27.
- This bursary is available for the first year of study (Year 0 or Year 1) at undergraduate level in 2026-27 only.
- Students studying University of Essex Online courses, delivered by the University of Essex.
- 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 Student Finance England or other UK funding body.

\*\*Certificate of Higher Education, 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 who are assessed as overseas fee payers.
- Students undertaking courses at Higher or Degree Apprenticeships.
- Students who are directly continuing from one course to another (for example from foundation degree or Diploma of Higher Education on to the final year of an honours degree). This includes students starting year 1 of an undergraduate degree following the completion of a Foundation Year, Certificate of Higher Education or Diploma of Higher Education at the University of Essex.
- Students transferring in from another UK higher education institution.
- 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.
- Students studying University of Essex Online courses, delivered in partnership with Kaplan Open Learning.
- 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

- You do not need to complete an application form. If you meet all the eligibility criteria above, you will automatically be awarded the Essex Futures Bursary.
- You will be notified about the cash bursary by the end of November 2026. If you become eligible during the year you will be notified of the award as you become eligible.
- You will be notified of the credit against your accommodation fee before your rent is due each term in October 2026, January 2027, and April 2027.

## Payment arrangements

- The cash bursary will be paid directly into your bank account registered with Student Finance England and will normally be made in two equal instalments, usually in December 2026 and February 2027.
- The credit against your accommodation fee will be applied in three equal instalments in October 2026, January 2027, and April 2027.
- 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 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. There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.
- If you withdraw from your studies completely, or are required to withdraw, no further outstanding payments will be made.

## 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.*