



**UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK**
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

University of Sanctuary
Scholarships
2022/23

Supporting and promoting access to education
for refugees and asylum seekers

Information and guidance notes 2022/23
(updated March 2022)

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1. Background Information

1.1 Context

The current refugee crisis tests the inner strength of the academic space. At the University of Limerick, we firmly believe that a University education should be a possibility for all. We have been committed to providing access to our University for people from all backgrounds. It is within this spirit of welcome that we sought recognition as a University of Sanctuary.

As a University of Sanctuary, we focus on enabling access to third level through a number of financial support plans and programmes to aid with the transition to University. We also recognise that as an academic institution we provide a safe space in which issues which are directly impacting the lives of refugees and asylum seekers can be discussed.

The University of Limerick has committed itself to promoting and enabling refugees and asylum seekers to access third-level education through various activities and [Scholarship programmes](#).

1.2 Objective of Award

Consistent with the vision, goals and target groups in the programme, the objective of the proposed University of Sanctuary Scholarship is to encourage and enable international protection applicants, or those already granted international protection **who are required to pay tuition fees and/or cannot access student finance**, to participate and succeed in higher education.

1.3 Scope of Award

The University of Sanctuary Scholarship will provide financial support through scholarships and bursaries to first-time higher education applicants who identify as a refugee, asylum seeker or a person in a refugee-like situation as defined by the [UNHCR 1951 Refugee Convention](#).

Specific eligibility criteria are set out in Section 2.2 below.

Successful applicants for the Sanctuary Scholarship at the University of Limerick will be eligible for **tuition free waivers** (i.e. no fees) places at university until such time they qualify for a fee grant or an exemption from fees (if at all).

The University of Limerick will **not** be able to provide any financial support for accommodation, living costs or travel from outside the environs of the University of Limerick (i.e. only local travel costs can be covered). Students should only apply if they are able to support these costs themselves during their university course.

2. Administration of the Scholarship

2.1 Management of Award

The University of Sanctuary Scholarship is managed by the University of Limerick Sanctuary Committee.

2.2 Eligibility criteria

The University of Sanctuary Scholarships are targeted at first-time higher education applicants who are:

- Are international protection applicant or those granted international protection e.g. an Asylum Seeker, Refugee, individual who has been granted Subsidiary Protection or Discretionary Leave to Remain (DLR), or some other form of temporary status, where evidence has been provided.
- Have applied through the CAO for a place on a full-time undergraduate course at the University of Limerick as a Leaving Certificate, QQI or Mature Student applicant in the University of Limerick.
- Have applied for the Mature Student Access Certificate as an Asylum Seeker in the University of Limerick.
- Are not currently eligible for 'free fees' for a full-time undergraduate course or for a SUSI fee grant, or for a SUSI fee grant or for the Student Grant Scheme for Asylum Seekers (if applicable for 2022/23).

Applicants must meet these strict eligibility criteria and be in a position to verify their circumstances in order to apply. Applicants who do not meet the criteria will not be considered for the scholarship. Incomplete applications and/or applications without the required supporting documentation will not be considered. If you have any questions about whether or not you should apply for a scholarship, please contact: ULSanctuary@ul.ie.

2.3 Awards and offers process

Up to 10 scholarships are available for applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses in the University of Limerick. Up to 5 scholarships are available for applicants to the Mature Student Access Certificate.

As it is expected that the number of applications will exceed the number of scholarships available, in the case of those who have asylum seeker status, priority will be given to the eligible asylum-seeking applicants who are living in **local** direct provision centres. Additionally, individuals applying for the Mature Student Access Certificate must be asylum seekers in order to apply for the scholarship.

The awarding of the scholarship is dependent on the student registering at the University of Limerick. Students are not entitled to receive the University of Sanctuary Scholarship in conjunction with any other scholarship, bursary or award.

Following initial assessment, the University of Sanctuary panel will contact you to let you know whether or not your application will progress to the next stage of the selection process. As an oversubscription to the scholarship is expected, if your application is taken forward, you may be

invited to an interview to discuss the information you have provided in your application. If you are successful in being selected for a University of Sanctuary Scholarship you will be informed within two weeks of your interview.

2.4 Submission of Application Forms

The 2022/23 University of Sanctuary application is an online application. Please click [HERE](#) to access the application. All relevant supporting documentation should be uploaded alongside the online application.

Closing date for applications: 16:00, 31th May 2022

3. Scholarship Conditions

3.1 Period of eligibility and student progression

- 3.1.1** The scholarship will be awarded for the normal duration of the undergraduate programme and is available across all disciplines.
- 3.1.2** Scholarship holders will be expected to fulfil University of Limerick regulations and to undergo any examination/assessment as determined by the University of Limerick.
- 3.1.3** Scholarships will be renewed on successful progression to the next year of the course, where relevant. It will not be paid in respect of a repeat period of study
- 3.1.4** A scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of four years full-time (unless the natural duration of the undergraduate programme exceeds four years)
- 3.1.5** A scholarship holder, during the course of their studies, may defer a maximum of one year with prior approval from University of Limerick.
- 3.1.6** The University of Limerick may terminate a scholarship at any time, where the scholarship holder no longer meets the terms and conditions of the scholarship Award.

3.2 Value of Scholarships

The University of Sanctuary Scholarship will be in the form of a fee waiver for tuition fees only. The scholarship will be applied each year of the course up to a maximum of one year for students on the Mature Student Access Certificate or up to a maximum of four years for full-time students providing that the recipient complies with the scholarship guidelines, remains eligible for the scholarship and progresses to the next academic year of their course.

Ongoing subsistence support will not be provided to new applicants. If an applicant is in need of additional financial support in order to be in a position to meet the day-to-day costs of attending college, they may be eligible for national Awarding schemes such as the Back to Education Allowance or for other subsistence scholarships or bursaries. See www.studentfinance.ie for further details and eligibility criteria for such schemes.

3.3 Conditions in respect of other supports

The following conditions will also apply:

- 3.3.1** Applicants are not entitled to receive the University of Sanctuary Scholarship in conjunction with any other scholarship, bursary or award of similar description, irrespective of value.
- 3.3.2** Students are not entitled to receive the University of Sanctuary Scholarship if they are eligible for mainstream support Awarding and '[free fees](#)' for a full-time undergraduate courses or for a SUSI fee grant or the Student Grant Scheme for Asylum Seekers (if applicable for 2022/23).

3.4 Other Conditions

- 3.4.1** It will be a condition of Awarding that necessary data sharing arrangements between the University of Sanctuary committee and other relevant bodies (e.g. University of Limerick fees office, relevant faculties, Admissions Office, Mature Student Office) are in place, subject to data protection considerations. Therefore, applicants are made aware that the University of Sanctuary committee may enquire with these bodies in order to carry out the selection process.
- 3.4.2** Awardees under the Award may be invited to participate/attend publicity events. Participation by award recipients in publicity events should be voluntary, and there are no obligations on award recipients in this regard.

4. Data Collection and Sharing

Information on how applicants' personal data is processed is available in the Privacy Notice on the University of Sanctuary Scholarship Application Form. Applicants' data may be shared with relevant departments within the University of Limerick only (e.g. Fees Office, Admissions Office, Mature Student Office, Relevant Faculties) for the purposes of processing scholarship applications and for confirming eligibility for a scholarship.

5. Appeals

Appeals will open on 1/08/ 2022 and close at 4.00 P.M. on 20/08/2022. You can only make an appeal on the basis that you believe there was an "administrative error in assessment" i.e. that you think a mistake was made when your application was being reviewed that led to you not being awarded the Scholarship. No further documentation/information can be provided by the applicant at appeal stage.

Appeals will be independently reviewed i.e. no member of staff involved in making the original decision will be involved in the appeal decision process. A letter detailing the outcome of your appeal will be e-mailed to you. There will be no further stage of appeal beyond this final decision.

6. Contact details for queries and assistance

For further information on any aspect of completing your application, please email ULSanctuary@ul.ie

Closing date for applications: 16:00, 31th May 2022