

Support for Asylum Seekers in Further and Higher Education

This leaflet is for asylum seekers living in Scotland who are undertaking or thinking about undertaking a further or higher education course at college or university and explains the funding that is available from the Scottish Government and colleges and universities.

Further Education (for example ESOL courses or national certificate (NC) level or Scottish Credit and Qualifications Authority (SCQF) level 6 courses)

If the Home Office have already made a decision on your asylum application and have granted you a form of leave to remain, for example Humanitarian Protection, you may be eligible for help towards your tuition fees and living-costs.

If you are waiting on the Home Office making a decision on your asylum application you are only eligible for tuition fee support and help with travel and study costs, for the following courses at college:

- A full-time or part-time English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course; or
- Part-time advanced or non-advanced courses.

For other courses your college will charge you international fees. The level of fees will depend on what course you are on and where you are studying. You can get information about the cost of tuition fees from individual college websites.

What happens if the Home Office make a decision on your asylum application after you have started your course? If they grant you a form of leave to remain while studying, for example Humanitarian Protection, you might become entitled to help towards your tuition fees, study and living-costs and travel expenses.

Please note that all of the above funds are cash limited and are not an entitlement, just because you apply for them does not mean that you will get a grant.

You should contact your college for more information about the type of support available and how to apply.

If you the Home Office have rejected your asylum application you will not be entitled to any tuition fee or living-cost support.

Your college will charge you international fees. The level of fees will depend on what course you are on and where you are studying. You can get information about the cost of tuition fees from individual college and university websites.

Higher Education (for example an HNC, HND or degree level course)

If the Home Office have already made a decision on your asylum application and have granted you a form of leave to remain, for example Humanitarian Protection, you may be eligible for help towards your tuition fees and living-costs.

You should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for more information about the type of support available and how to apply.

If you are waiting on the Home Office making a decision on your asylum application you will not be entitled to any tuition fee or living-cost support.

Your college or University will charge you international fees. The level of fees will depend on what course you are on and where you are studying. You can get information about the cost of tuition fees from individual college and university websites.

What happens if the Home Office make a decision on your asylum application after you have started your course? If the Home Office grant you a form of leave to remain while studying, for example Humanitarian Protection, you might become entitled to help with your tuition fees and living-costs.

You should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for more information about the type of support available and how to apply.

If you the Home Office have rejected your asylum application you will not be entitled to any tuition fee or living-cost support.

Your college or university will charge you international fees. The level of fees will depend on what course you are on and where you are studying. You can get information about the cost of tuition fees from individual college and university websites.

Other sources of funding

The British Council website holds information about thousands of scholarships available in the UK. You can search their website here – <http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/scholarships-financial-support>.

Individual colleges and universities may also have bursaries or scholarships that you can apply for. You can get information from individual college and university websites or you can speak to your college or university student finance advisor for more information.

Helpful contacts

- SAAS – website: www.saas.gov.uk telephone: 0300 555 0505
- The Scottish Refugee Council – www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
- The National Union of Students (NUS) – www.nus.org.uk
- The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) – www.ukcisa.org.uk