

## Accommodation Bursary Terms and Conditions 2023-24

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## Introduction

The Accommodation Bursary forms part of the University's 2020-25 [Access & Participation Plan](#). A limited number of bursaries are available to new first-year students who are living in University owned accommodation.

These Terms and Conditions apply to **new Home UK first-year students** who enter studies in the academic year 2023-24.

## How much is the Accommodation Bursary?

The bursary is worth either £500 or £1,250, and will be credited directly to your accommodation account, should you be successful in gaining an award.

## Eligibility criteria for an Accommodation Bursary

To be eligible for an Accommodation Bursary, you must meet all of the following:

- be an eligible new first-year Home UK undergraduate student starting studies in 2023/4
- be registered on a full-time undergraduate degree course
- are a current student at the time of awarding
- hold a University accommodation contract in 2023/4

The level of award you receive is dependent upon having an eligible UK student loans household income assessment and whether you meet a Widening Participation (WP) criterion. Please see the table below to assess your eligibility based on your circumstances.

UK student loans household income assessment	WP - yes	WP - no
£0K - £25,000	£500*	£500
£25,001 - £42,875	£1,250	£500
£42,876 - £60,000	£500	N/A
Above £60,000	N/A	N/A

**\*If you are in receipt of other Widening Participation related University funding e.g., the Bath Bursary, Gold Scholarship or Cowrie Foundation Scholarship, then you are eligible for the £500 Accommodation Bursary.**

Widening Participation criteria include:

- your home address is in an area where [fewer young people progress to Higher Education](#) (Polar 4, quintiles 1 or 2) or
- you are a [care leaver](#) or
- you or your family receive a state [means-tested benefit](#) or
- you have completed an [Access to HE Diploma](#) or
- you are [irreconcilably estranged](#) from your parent(s) or guardian(s) or
- you are a [Young Carer](#) or
- you are a [refugee/asylum seeker](#) or
- your home address is considered to be in an [area of general disadvantage](#) (IMD, quintiles 1 or 2)

**Without declaration of your household income and WP criteria, we are unable to assess your eligibility for the Accommodation Bursary.** Please find information about how to provide this information [below](#).

## How do I apply?

There is no application required.

The University will be responsible for identifying eligible students based on the information detailed above. Eligible students will receive an award email from the Accommodation Team in December 2023.

You may if you wish, decline the offer of the Accommodation Bursary. Details of this will be in any emails sent to you.

As there are a limited amount of Accommodation Bursaries available, eligibility is no guarantee of an award being made. If our limit is reached, we will prioritise those with a Widening Participation criterion, followed by ascending household income, starting with those on the lowest income.

The University's decision on the interpretation of eligibility criteria is final and there is no right of appeal. You may make a complaint if you believe that you have not been considered for an award because of a procedural error, or you believe that there has been some other procedural problem with our allocating and awarding system. Complaints should be made to [Clare Cobb](#), Student Living and Guest Experience Manager.

## Closing date?

The final deadline date to be considered for an Accommodation Bursary is **midday on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. We cannot accept any late household income declarations after this date. Information about how we receive your household income data is detailed within the eligibility criteria below.

## How is it paid?

If you are successful in gaining an award it will be credited directly to your accommodation payment due in January 2024. No cash alternative will be given.

## What if I suspend my studies before the bursary is paid?

You will be eligible for the Accommodation Bursary in a subsequent year if you suspend your studies before receiving the Bursary, and fulfil the eligibility criteria upon your return.

## What if I leave or suspend my studies after it has been paid?

An award will not be taken away or recalculated if you subsequently leave studies.

## Can the payment be advanced?

No, the bursary can only be deducted from your January accommodation fees, should you still be a current student living in University-owned accommodation

## I live in private sector accommodation or my own home, am I eligible?

No, this award is only open to those who hold a University accommodation contract.

## I live in couples accommodation, am I eligible?

No, this award is not open to those residing in couples accommodation.

## Understand our eligibility criteria & what is widening participation

### Eligibility criteria explained

<b>Home UK student</b>	<p>Eligible Home UK students (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) are those that can be assessed for student loans purposes by Student Finance England (SFE) or other relevant UK student loans awarding agency. This is in addition to a Home UK fees status as determined by the University in your application to study.</p> <p><b>New first-year students are those who commenced studies for the first time at Bath in September 2023 and are in Year 1 of their course.</b></p>
<b>Household Income</b>  (Home UK students eligible for student loans from the UK government)	<p>This refers to the <a href="#">household income</a> data that is shared with the University by your student loans awarding agency e.g., Student Finance England.</p> <p>Your student loans awarding agency will only carry out an assessment of your household income <b>if you have requested this as part of your Maintenance and Tuition Fee Loan application.</b></p> <p>Your student loans awarding agency will share household income data for bursary/scholarship purposes with the University after your exams results in late August. <b>This is unless you and/or the person whose household income your loans are assessed on have not given that permission.</b></p> <p>We must receive this information in order for us to assess your eligibility.</p> <p>We are not responsible for any delays in your student loans application being processed or information not being passed onto us by your student loans awarding agency.</p> <p>We receive this information from the Student Loans Company (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland)</p>

<b>University managed accommodation</b>	<p>Applicable University managed accommodation:</p> <p>Norwood House  Brendon Court  Westwood  Polden Court  Polden  Eastwood Terrace  Eastwood Green  Marlborough Court  Solsbury Court  Woodland Court  Osborne House  The Quads  John Wood Building  John Wood Court  Carpenter House  Clevelands Building  Canal Wharf  Pulteney Court  Thornbank Gardens  Green Park House</p>
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**Widening Participation explained**

Widening Participation (WP) is a way for us to recognise and support those who may not have had the same start in life or opportunities to succeed educationally as others.

At Bath we aim to help raise these aspirations and offer financial support through our awards to help our students achieve the best they can in their degree studies. There are many barriers which may affect a person’s life journey including personal finance, social situation, culture and/or geography.

<b>Low Participation Neighbourhood (POLAR)</b>	<p>This is a postcode classification that tells us what proportion of young people from your area progress to higher education. We use <a href="#">POLAR 4</a> data which is based on the home postcode provided by you in your UCAS application, at the point of application to University.</p> <p>The <a href="#">POLAR 4</a> classification groups postcodes into quintiles. We will count your postcode as low participation if it is quintile 1 or 2. Your home postcode and actual POLAR quintile is shared with us from UCAS. Where it is not passed on or does not exist, we will not be able to use any other proxy data or alternative classification system.</p> <p>We use the postcode data given in your initial UCAS application.</p>
<b>Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)</b>	<p><a href="#">Indices of multiple deprivation</a> (IMD) is a measure of relative deprivation for small, fixed geographic areas of the UK. IMD classifies these areas into five quintiles based on relative disadvantage, with quintile 1 being the most deprived and quintile 5 being the least deprived.</p>

	<p>We will count your postcode as an area of general disadvantage if it is in quintile 1 or 2. Your home postcode and actual IMD quintile is shared with us from UCAS. Where it is not passed on or does not exist, we will not be able to use any other proxy data or alternative classification system.</p> <p>We use the postcode data given in your initial UCAS application.</p>
<p><b>Access to HE Diploma</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Access to (Higher Education) HE Diploma</a> is a year-long qualification that prepares students to study at undergraduate degree level. This qualification is typically undertaken by mature students, although students of any age can take this qualification.</p> <p>We receive this information from your UCAS application.</p>
<p><b>Refugee Status</b></p>	<p>The definition of a refugee as defined on the UKCISA website is:</p> <p>(a) you must be <a href="#">ordinarily resident</a> in England on the <a href="#">first day of the first academic year of your course</a>; and</p> <p>(b) you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been recognised as a refugee by the UK Government and have remained ordinarily resident in the <a href="#">UK and Islands</a> since then; or</li> <li>• be the spouse / civil partner of such a refugee and have been in that relationship on the date on which he/she made his/her application for asylum; or</li> <li>• be the <a href="#">child</a> of such a refugee, or the child of such a refugee's spouse / civil partner, and be able to show that on the date that refugee made his/her application for asylum, you were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>ii. the refugee was your parent, or your parent's spouse / civil partner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Your refugee status will be verified by our Undergraduate Admissions Team if you have declared this in your UCAS application. Please <a href="#">contact us</a> if you have not declared this in your UCAS application and need to do this separately.</p> <p>The University has a <a href="#">Student Retention &amp; Success Team</a> who can also provide you with additional funding support and advice during your studies.</p>
<p><b>Care Leaver</b></p>	<p><i>The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 definition states that a care leaver is someone 25 or under who has been in Local Authority Care for a period of at least 13 weeks or more spanning their 16th birthday.</i></p> <p>The University has a <a href="#">Student Retention &amp; Success Team</a> who can also provide you with additional funding support and advice during your studies.</p>

	<p>We receive this information from your UCAS application and/or from the online web task that we invite you to complete from late Spring, after you have selected the University of Bath as your Firm or Insurance choice.</p>
<p><b>Young carer</b></p>	<p><i>You are classed as a young adult carer if you are a carer between the ages of 18 and 25 who looks after a relative or friend, of any age, due to disability, chronic/terminal illness, mental health problems or alcohol or drug addiction/dependency.</i></p> <p>The University has a <a href="#">Student Retention &amp; Success Team</a> who can also provide you with additional advice and guidance during your studies.</p> <p>We receive this information from your UCAS application and/or from the online web task that we invite you to complete from late Spring, after you have selected the University of Bath as your Firm or Insurance choice.</p>
<p><b>Irreconcilably estranged from family</b></p>	<p>An <a href="#">irreconcilably estranged</a> person is someone who has not had any verbal or written contact with their parents for a significant period of time, on or before the first day of the academic year for which you are applying for funding, and this is unlikely to change.</p> <p>This can include your biological or adoptive parents, or your only living parent. A significant period of time is usually considered to be twelve months or longer, but this can also depend on your circumstances.</p> <p>The University has a <a href="#">Student Retention &amp; Success Team</a> who can also provide you with additional funding support and advice during your studies.</p> <p>We receive this information from your UCAS application and/or from the online web task that we invite you to complete from late Spring, after you have selected the University of Bath as your Firm or Insurance choice.</p>
<p><b>Means tested welfare benefits</b></p>	<p>As part of our process for determining your eligibility for support, we will invite you, in late spring, to indicate whether you or your parent(s), guardian or partner are in receipt of any qualifying government state <a href="#">means-tested benefits</a>.</p> <p>This will include UK government income assessed benefits such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Tax Credits</li> <li>• Working Tax Credits</li> <li>• Housing Benefits</li> <li>• Council Tax Benefits</li> <li>• Income Support or Income-based Job Seekers Allowance</li> <li>• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>• Pension Credits</li> <li>• Universal Credits</li> </ul> <p>We also will accept, if the parent or student receives for themselves (not for a sibling or child):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Living Allowance</li> <li>• Personal Independence Payments</li> </ul> <p>We receive this information from the online web task that we invite you to complete from late Spring, after you have selected the University of Bath as your Firm or Insurance choice.</p>

## Who can I contact if I have a question?

Email [studentliving@bath.ac.uk](mailto:studentliving@bath.ac.uk) for any questions about the Accommodation Bursary.

### **DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION**

Owner: Accommodation Services and Scholarships and Bursaries Team

Version number: 1

Approval: February 2023

Approved by: H Knowles (Scholarships & Bursaries) and L Eyles (Head of Student Living).

Date of last review: February 2023