

Academic Excellence International Masters Scholarship 2025-26

If you are an international student, and are self-funding your postgraduate studies, you could be eligible for a scholarship worth up to £7,000. Scholarship awards differ according to your country of residence and are based on grades obtained in your undergraduate degree, or if you have passed a Masters degree. Applications for relevant courses will automatically be considered for the scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded as a tuition fee waiver for the amount specified and is available for postgraduate taught Masters courses.

The 'Eligibility' section below provides full details of the eligibility criteria for this scholarship.

To be eligible for this award you will need to:

- be ordinarily resident in one of the countries specified in the table below, **and**;
- have an undergraduate degree (or Masters degree) awarded by an institution based in one of the countries listed in the table below, or an undergraduate degree awarded by an institution based in the UK, **and**;
- have met the academic requirement for that country, as specified in the table below, or have achieved a UK 2:1.

If you are eligible on the basis of holding an undergraduate or Masters degree which is not from your country of residence (so for example you are resident in India, and hold an undergraduate degree from China) and there are two values for your country of residence, you will be awarded the higher value.

If you are eligible on the basis of holding a Masters degree from your country of residence, and your country of residence has two levels of awards (for example, £3,000 and £5,000), you will be awarded the higher value.

If your country of residence has two levels of awards (for example, £3,000 and £5,000) and you hold an undergraduate degree which qualifies for the lower amount and a Masters degree which qualifies for the higher amount, you will be awarded the higher value.

For example:

- If you are ordinarily resident in India and hold an undergraduate degree from a Tier 1 university in India, with a grade of 55% or above overall, you will gain a £4,000 award.

- If you are ordinarily resident in Bangladesh and hold an undergraduate degree from a UK university with a 2:1 or above, you will gain a £5,000 award.
- If you are ordinarily resident in Argentina and hold an undergraduate degree from a university in Chile, with 75% or above, you will gain a £4,000 award.
- If you are ordinarily resident in Jamaica and hold an undergraduate degree from a university in the USA with CGPA 3.25 or above, you will not be eligible to receive an award (because Jamaica is not one of the countries of residence specified below).
- If you are ordinarily resident in India and hold an undergraduate degree from a university in Canada, with CGPA 9.00/10 or above, you will gain a £4,000 award (the higher of the two awards for your country of residence).

If eligible, the amount you will be awarded is the scholarship award for **your country of ordinary residence, and not the country your degree is from** – if this is different.

Country	Academic Requirement	Scholarship Award
Argentina	7.5/10	£4,000
Azerbaijan	Equivalent to UK 2.2 who graduate from institutions in Azerbaijan regardless of whether institution is Azeri	£4,000
Bahrain	CGPA 3.0/4.0 or above, or 75% or above	£4,000
Bangladesh	CGPA 3.2/4.0, or 60%, or B in a 4-year degree from a specified institution	£5,000
Brazil	75% or 7.5/10 or B+	£4,000
Bolivia	75% for students who graduate from private institutions, or 66% for students who graduate from public institutions	£4,000
Cambodia	CGPA 3.2/4.0 or above, or 80% or above, or B+ or above, or Very Good, in a 4 year undergraduate degree from the Royal University of Phnom Penh, the University of Cambodia, Pannasastra University of Cambodia, the Royal University of Agriculture, Zaman University, or Paragon International University	£4,000
Canada	A, or CGPA 3.5/4.00, or CGPA 8/9.00, or CPGA 9/10 or 85% (where pass mark is 60%), or 84% (where pass mark is 50%)	£3,000
Chile	75% or 5.5/7	£4,000
China	70% or 2/4.00 CGPA from Tier 1, 75% or 2.5/4.00 CGPA from Tier 2 universities	£2,500

Country	Academic Requirement	Scholarship Award
Colombia	4/5.00	£6,000
Costa Rica	8/10	£4,000
Dominican Republic	85% or CGPA 3.50/4.00	£4,000
Ecuador	8/10	£4,000
El Salvador	7.5/10	£4,000
Guatemala	Public Universities 70% / Private Universities 80%	£4,000
Hong Kong	2:1, or CGPA 3.0/4.30 or above, or 78% or above	£2,000
India	Tier 2 60% or CGPA 6.5/10 or CGPA 2.6/4	£3,000
	Tier 1 55% or CGPA 6/10 or CGPA 2.4/4	£4,000
Indonesia	CGPA 3.0/4.00 or above	£6,000
Iran	14/20	£4,500
Japan	B or CGPA 2.5/4.00	£4,000
Jordan	CGPA 3.0/4.0 or above, or B or above, or 76% or above	£3,000
Kazakhstan	5 (excellent) or 3.75/4.0, or 4/4.33, or 4.0/5.0	£3,000
Lebanon	16/20, or 80% or CGPA 2.80/4.00	£3,000
Malaysia	First class, or CGPA 3.25/4.00 or above	£4,000
Mexico	80% or CGPA 8/10	£4,000
Myanmar	<p>Masters degree B+ or 60% or 3.5/5 or 3.0/4.0</p> <p>Undergraduate degree awarded by the following institutions with an academic requirement of 75% or 4.5/5.0 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Yangon, • Mandalay University. 	£4,000

Country	Academic Requirement	Scholarship Award
Nepal	57% or CGPA 2.50/4.00	£7,000
	55% or CGPA 2.30/4.00	£5,000
Nicaragua	80%	£4,000
Norway	B	£3,000
Pakistan	65% or above, where pass mark is 33%, or 70% or above, where pass mark is 50%, or 80% or above where the pass mark is 60%, or CGPA 3.00 or above	£5,000
	63% or above, where pass mark is 33%, or 65% or above, where pass mark is 50%, or 75% or above where the pass mark is 60%, or CGPA 2.90 or above	£4,000
Panama	B or 81%	£4,000
Paraguay	80% or 4/5.00	£4,000
Peru	14/20	£4,000
Philippines	CGPA 1.75/ 5.00 (where degree completed at the University of Philippines or University of Santo Tomas, on or before 2021). CGPA 3.00/ 4.00 (where degree completed at Ateneo de Manila University or De La Salle University, on or before 2021). CGPA 1.75 or below/ 5.00, or CGPA 3.0 or above/ 4.00 (where degree completed at any other institution, from 2022 onwards)	£4,000
Russia	CGPA 4.5 or above	£2,000
Singapore	Equivalent to UK 2.1	£3,000
Sri Lanka	70% or A (where degree awarded before 2010), or B+ or CGPA 3.25 (where degree awarded after 2010)	£7,000
	55% or B (where degree awarded before 2010), or B or CGPA 3.00 (where degree awarded after 2010)	£5,000

Country	Academic Requirement	Scholarship Award
South Korea	B+ or CGPA 3.00/ 4.00 or above, or CGPA 3.20/ 4.50 or above	£4,000
Taiwan	70% (national institution), 75% (other institution)	£4,000
Thailand	Undergraduate degree awarded by the following institutions only - Chulalongkorn University, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahidol University, • King Mongkut's University of Technology, • Mae Fah Luang University, • Chiang Mai University, • Thammasat University, • Kasetsart University 	
	CGPA 2.8 or above, or 68% (in a Law degree awarded by Thammasat University)	£5,000
	CGPA 2.55 or above, or 65.5% (in a Law degree awarded by Thammasat University)	£4,000
	Undergraduate degree awarded by all other institutions (those not noted above)	
	CGPA 3.5 or above	£5,000
	CGPA 3.0 or above	£4,000
Turkey	CGPA 3.00/4.00 or above OR 75%	£4,000
UK	2.1 or above	Award amount dependent on country of ordinary residence
Uruguay	8.5/12	£4,000
USA	CGPA 3.25/4.00 or above	£3,000
Uzbekistan	Equivalent to UK 2.1	£4,000
Venezuela	15/20	£4,000
Vietnam	CGPA 8/10 or above or CGPA 3.5/4.00 or above	£7,000

Country	Academic Requirement	Scholarship Award
	CGPA 7/10 or above or CGPA 3/4.00 or above	£5,000

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

- Be overseas fee payers **and**
- Be entirely self-funded, **and**;
- Be ordinarily resident in one of the countries specified in the table above **and**;
- Have an undergraduate degree (or Masters degree) awarded by an institution based in one of the countries listed in the table above **and**
- Have met the academic requirement for that country, as specified in the table above.
- If eligible, the amount you will be awarded is the scholarship award for your country of ordinary residence and not the country your degree is from (if this is different).
- If you are ordinarily resident in one of the countries listed and you have an undergraduate degree awarded by an institution based in the UK **and** have achieved a 2:1 or above – you will also be eligible for this scholarship. The amount awarded will be based on the country where you are ordinarily resident. Applicants will not be eligible for an award based on holding a Masters degree from the UK.
- Students must have been awarded an undergraduate degree (this includes integrated Masters degrees) with the grade specified or above. A Pass grade in a Masters degree from any of the countries listed in the table above (excluding the UK) can be taken to compensate for a lower Bachelors grade.
- Students must register at the University of Essex in October 2025 or January 2026 for the first year of a full-time Masters course in academic year 2025-26 only, leading to the degree of:
 - MA, MFA, MSc, LLM, MPP, MBM, MRes, MBA
- This scholarship is available for the first year of taught Masters study only.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

Students who are not eligible

The following students are NOT eligible for the Academic Excellence International Masters Scholarship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who are fully or partly sponsored.
- Students studying:
 - a course that is normally delivered wholly online by Kaplan Open Learning, operating as University of Essex Online.
 - a course below Masters level at the University of Essex: including, but not limited to, Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificates, and Postgraduate Diplomas.
- Students studying courses that are classed as research degrees: including, but not limited to, MPhil, MAD, MSD.
- Students awarded the scholarship who defer entry to following academic years will not be eligible to receive the award and will be considered in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships, including the University of Essex alumni loyalty discount.
- Students who are joining Essex through a link agreement which includes a discounted fee or eligible for a Global Partner Scholarship. In this case, where a student is also eligible for this award, we will apply the award which is greater in value.
- University of Essex International College (UEIC) Pathway students.
- Current students whose first year of Postgraduate study at the University of Essex was prior to academic year 2025-26.

What is “Ordinary Residence”?

For the purposes of assessing eligibility for the scholarship, you must have been ordinarily resident in one of the above-listed countries, for the three-year period prior to commencing your course. Ordinarily resident means that you must have been habitually, normally and lawfully, residing in one of the above-listed countries, from choice, for the specified period. The three-year period for courses starting in October 2025 is calculated as 1 September 2022 to 1 September 2025. Temporary absences during this three-year period may be permitted at the discretion of the relevant University officer. Students may be asked to provide documentary evidence to determine ordinary residence and an assessment of whether a student meets the ordinary residence criteria will normally be made by the Head of Admissions or their nominee, and their decision will be final.

How to apply

If you meet all the eligibility criteria, you will automatically be considered for this award. You don't need to complete an application form. The University will assess your eligibility based on the academic transcripts and certificates you submit with your application for your place at Essex.

Payment arrangements

- These scholarships will be made as a reduction on the tuition fee payable on registration. 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.

Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Applicants should contact the [Postgraduate 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 his/her decision will be final.

These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2025-26. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.