

# Postgraduate Support Scheme 2015

## Terms and Conditions

1. The Postgraduate Support Scheme (2015) is a new form of bursary established by the UK Government and jointly funded by the University and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).
2. The University of Southampton has been awarded 98 bursaries of £10,000 each to be awarded to Master's level students commencing their studies with the University in September 2015.
3. This is a one-off scheme. A different form of Government support for postgraduate taught students will be available for students commencing in September 2016 and further guidance relating to that scheme will be available in due course.
4. The following Terms and Conditions apply to the Postgraduate Support Scheme 2015. The University reserves the right to vary these terms and conditions without notice should the University be informed that HEFCE has amended its rules for the Scheme.
5. A total of 98 bursaries will be available, each of £10,000. All students receiving a bursary will be bound by these terms and conditions.
6. The bursary does not have to be repaid.
7. Applicants awarded a bursary who subsequently are given permission to defer their entry will not also be able to defer their bursary which will be deemed to have been forfeited.
8. The £10,000 bursary will contribute to the cost of the tuition fees. If there is any balance once the course tuition fees have been paid, this remaining net amount will be paid to the student receiving the bursary. The net amount will be paid in two approximately equal instalments in October and January subject to the individual continuing to be enrolled on an eligible programme and being in good standing.
9. Persons who meet all of the following criteria shall be eligible to apply for one of the bursaries. Eligible persons will:
  - a. Be in receipt of a formal written offer to study any Master's programme at the University of Southampton commencing in September 2015 with a duration of one year (full-time) or two years (part-time), and;
  - b. Be domiciled permanently in the United Kingdom or European Union (your offer letter will state that you are eligible to pay tuition fees at the "Home/EU" rate), and;
  - c. Have completed, at the point of commencing the Master's degree for which this bursary is awarded, a three-year full-time undergraduate degree having commenced in 2012 and finished in 2015, and;
  - d. Have been charged for the undergraduate degree referred to in 9.c. the higher rate of fees applying since 2012/13 regardless of whether these were paid directly or by taking out a loan via the Student Loans Company but excluding individuals who received a fee subsidy from Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Finance Wales, or Student Awards Agency for Scotland, and;
  - e. Have, at the point of commencing the Master's degree for which this bursary is awarded, achieved in the undergraduate degree referred to in 9.c. at least an upper second class honours degree, and;
  - f. Provide evidence of having a household income of less than £42,600 per annum.

10. Persons who, additional to the criteria set out in paragraph 9, meet one or more of the following criteria will be given priority in the award of the bursaries:

- a. Your household income at the point of your assessment by Student Finance England when applying for your undergraduate loan was less than £42,620  
*or*
- b. Your postcode for your home address in your final year of school or college was in one of the most deprived areas of the country, as defined by the Government's IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) database. If your postcode IMD score is 16,250 or less, you meet this criteria. You can check your postcode using the [IMD search tool](#). Please be aware that this map refers to England only and the postcode we will use is that of your home address in your final year of school or college.  
*or*
- c. You are a care leaver (i.e. have been resident in public care for more than three months since the age of 14)  
*or*
- d. You have been in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance or are registered disabled  
**AND**
- e. You have, at the point of commencing the Master's degree for which this bursary is awarded, achieved in the undergraduate degree referred to in 9.c. an upper second class honours degree or higher.

If the University is over-subscribed with applications the following criteria will be used:

- We will prioritise applicants who are predicted a first class degree  
*then*
- We will prioritise applicants who meet more than one of the criteria above  
*then*
- If we are still over-subscribed we will prioritise by applicants with lowest household incomes, then by Indices of Multiple Deprivation scores, and then by consideration of the supporting personal statement (see section 12)

11. Individuals who believe they meet the eligibility criteria will only be considered if they submit the relevant application form [available shortly] by the stated deadline. Late applications and incomplete applications may not be considered.

12. Applicants will provide a supporting statement outlining their suitability for the bursary with such statements being used to inform the selection panel in the event of more eligible applications being received than bursaries available.

13. Any applicant who, at the point of being notified that they have been awarded a bursary was in possession of a conditional offer and who subsequently fails to fulfil all of the conditions of that offer, will forfeit the bursary which cannot be deferred, i.e. the bursary award is made subject to the applicants' results being confirmed.

14. The University reserves the right to investigate any application (and subsequent communications and submissions) which it believes may not contain full, honest and accurate information. If, in the course of such an investigation the University finds that an applicant has made fraudulent, misleading, or partial claims in their application, the University reserves the right to cancel the application and/or withdraw the offer of a bursary. In the event that an offer is withdrawn for the reasons stated above, the University may also, where appropriate, inform any other bodies and/or third parties.

15. In cases where the fraudulent, misleading, or partial is discovered at any time after the applicant has enrolled as a student of the University, the University reserves the right to carry out its own investigations. If, after the completion of the investigation, it is found that there has been a deliberate attempt to use fraudulent and/or misleading information, or relevant information was withheld, in order to obtain a bursary, the University may take action to recover all funds paid to the individual and may permanently exclude the student. In the event that a student is permanently excluded for the reasons set out above, the University may also, where appropriate, inform any other bodies and/or third parties about the action it has taken.

16. Applicants do not have the right to appeal against the decision made on their application. However, applicants do have the right to make a complaint if the applicant believes that the University has not followed its stated procedures, or there is evidence of bias or prejudice in the decision-making process. Complaints should be made in writing by the applicant to Mr R Kennett, Director of UK Recruitment and Outreach and sent via email to [rjck@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rjck@soton.ac.uk).
17. Applicants who receive the Postgraduate Support Scheme Bursary will not be eligible to receive other postgraduate fees discounts, for example for early repayment or the alumni discount.