

Guidance for Cambridge Foundation Year Applicants with Refugee/Seeking Asylum Status

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide contextual support to UK-based forced migrants (refugees or asylum seekers) who wish to make an application to the Foundation Year at the University of Cambridge. Further information on this programme is available at cam.ac.uk/foundationyear.

The University defines a refugee as someone whose claim for asylum has been recognised and they have been granted official 'refugee' status. An asylum seeker is defined as someone who is in the process of seeking asylum, or the decision is still pending.

The guidance provided in this document is also applicable to those who have been granted humanitarian protection which has resulted in permission to stay in the UK for humanitarian reasons.

If you have been granted limited leave to remain (LLR) or discretionary leave to remain (DLR) as a result of an asylum claim, you are eligible to apply for the Cambridge Foundation Year. However, you would likely not be eligible for student finance support for further degree study at Cambridge or elsewhere and could even be liable for 'Overseas' tuition fees which are much more expensive than 'Home' fees. Consult the sources listed in 'Further Support' below for more guidance and information on scholarships that you might be eligible for in future study.

Foundation Year Eligibility Criteria

We appreciate that you have experienced instability and conflict that may have affected your ability to gain academic qualifications. There may be some aspects of your applicant profile that do not correlate with the stated eligibility criteria for applicants on [our website](#).

As an applicant with Refugee status or Humanitarian Protection in the UK, or as someone who has claimed asylum in the UK, you will automatically meet the criteria stipulated in Category One - Individual Characteristics. Therefore, to be eligible to apply to the Foundation Year, you must meet one or more of the criteria stipulated in either Category 2 - Family Characteristics or Category 3 - School/College Characteristics.

This table provides further guidance on Category 2 criteria for Refugee/Asylum Seeker applicants:

Family Characteristics Criteria	Further Guidance
You are currently eligible for Free School Meals	You will be eligible to receive Free School Meals if you are currently in the British education system and are receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
You have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in the previous 6 years	You could have been eligible for Free School Meals if you were in the British education system after being granted leave to remain in the last 6 years or otherwise received

	support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
You have a combined household income of £25,000 or less	<p>If you are over 25, this will apply to your income (if you live with a partner this will apply to your joint income).</p> <p>If you are under 25 and live or depend on your parent(s)/ carer(s) income, this will apply to their income</p>
You or your parent(s)/carer(s) are eligible for Universal Credit	<p>Universal Credit is available to those with refugee status who otherwise meet the government's criteria.</p> <p>This applies to you if you are over 25 or otherwise would be classed as an independent student.</p> <p>It applies to you or your parent(s)/carer(s) if you are under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.</p>

Criteria in Category 3, School/College Characteristics, refer only to institutions based in the UK. We are sadly unable to verify or fairly compare data on schools or colleges outside of the UK. As such, you will only be eligible under this category if you have attended a school or college in the UK since your arrival. [Further detail on how to determine if the institutions you attended would make you eligible is available here.](#)

Entry Requirements

To apply, you need to have secured or be predicted to secure 120 UCAS Tariff Points. This is a value applied different qualification types and grades to make it easy to compare them.

If you have studied qualifications in the UK such as A Levels, Access to HE Diploma, BTECs or Scottish Highers, you can check the points you hold using the UCAS Tariff Calculator:

www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator

If your qualifications come from outside of the UK, they may still have a Tariff value, but there are relatively few that do. If your international qualification does not have a UCAS Tariff value, we may still accept it and you should contact us directly to find out. We would use information available from UCAS Qualification Information Profiles to compare your qualification to our requirements:

www.qips.ucas.com

You may need to obtain a statement of comparability to certify your qualification. This can be obtained from UK ENIC: www.enic.org.uk

How to make an application

Applications to the Foundation Year are made via [UCAS](#) once admissions open for the relevant academic year entry.

The academic requirement for admission to the programme is 120 UCAS points. These UCAS points may include any combination of eligible academic qualifications. [Please see the full list of eligible qualifications here.](#)

If you completed your upper secondary education outside of the UK, we advise you to first check if your qualification is listed in the [UCAS Tariff Calculator](#). If it is not listed, you are welcome to contact Dr Alex Pryce at foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk. In your email, please provide the qualifications full title, the country in which you studied, and the grade(s) you achieved to assist us in researching the equivalency to UK FHEQ Level 3 qualifications.

If your first language isn't English, your English language skills must be good enough for you to undertake an intensive and challenging course that is both taught and examined in English. Throughout the admissions process, we will be assessing your English language skills as well as your academic ability. See [English language requirements](#) for details.

Further support

There is a range of sources of support that can assist refugees and asylum seekers with Higher Education applications in the UK:

- Take a look at UCAS's [student finance information for refugees and asylum seekers](#);
- [Student Action for Refugees \(STAR\)](#) is a national network of students who are working to help refugees in the UK – including access to higher education. It also lists [scholarships and bursaries](#) available directly through HE providers and charitable organisations;
- Guidance on fee status and government financial support is available from [UKCISA](#)
- [Refugee Education UK](#) provide advice by email or WhatsApp
- [Project Access](#) support refugee students in making applications to top universities through mentorship;
- [InsideUni](#) has a support page for refugee applicants;
- [Cambridge Refugee Scholarship Campaign](#) has support for refugee applicants to Cambridge.

We are on hand to answer any further queries and support applications to the Foundation Year from those with refugee status or those seeking asylum in the UK. To best support you, please make enquiries in good time. You can reach Dr Alex Pryce at foundation.year@admin.cam.ac.uk