

Student Finance England Funding for Refugee status or Humanitarian protection

sfe

Refugee status is granted after a successful application for asylum. While the application is pending the applicant will be considered an asylum seeker. **Asylum seekers are not eligible to receive student finance.**

If you hold refugee status or are a family member of a refugee, you may be able to apply for student finance. You will be required to provide evidence that you have refugee status. Refugee status can be seen in the following forms:

- **Refugee Leave to Remain (LTR); or**
- **Refugee No Time Limit/Indefinite Leave to Remain (NTL/ILR)**

If the student holds refugee status or is the family member of a refugee, they do not need to have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom in the 3 years immediately preceding the first day of the course.

Eligibility for support will be determined by any of the following categories:

- **A student that has been granted refugee status in their own right; or**
- **A spouse or civil partner of a refugee; or**
- **A child or stepchild of a refugee.**

The student will also need to have been ordinarily resident in England on the first day of their course start date.

If a student (or their family member) has been granted refugee status after the start of the course, they may still be eligible for support. The amount of support they are entitled to will depend on when the status was granted.

Humanitarian Protection can be issued as.

- **Humanitarian Protection LTR (Leave to Remain)**
- **Humanitarian Protection ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain)**

If the student holds Humanitarian Protection status or is the family member of a person with Humanitarian Protection status, they do not need to have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom in the 3 years immediately preceding the first day of their course.

Students who have been granted Humanitarian Protection will be eligible to apply for support as a home student if they.

- **Are ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of their course start date**
- **Have been ordinarily resident in the UK since being granted Humanitarian Protection**
- **A spouse or civil partner of a person granted Humanitarian Protection**
- **A child or stepchild of a person granted Humanitarian Protection**

If a student (or their family member) has been granted Humanitarian Protection status after the start of the course, they may still be eligible for support. The amount of support they are entitled to will depend on when the status was granted.

Events

If you are granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection status mid course, you may qualify under this category as an 'Event':

Within 3 months of the start of the academic year -

If you become eligible within 3 months of the start of the academic year you will be eligible for the Full tuition fees and Maintenance support from the term following the term, you became eligible.

After 3 months of the start of the academic year -

If you become eligible after 3 months of the start of the academic year you will only be eligible for Maintenance support from the term following the term, you became eligible.

Visa Family Reunion Leave to Enter Until.... and Multi Entry Post Flight Spouse Visa – Depending upon your status you may not be eligible under Refugee or Humanitarian Protection but may be eligible under Long Residence.

Discretionary Leave due to Humanitarian Reasons:

If you have been awarded Discretionary Leave due to Humanitarian Reasons, you may be eligible for student support under the SFE's Long Residency eligibility category if you're either:

- **under 18 and have lived in the UK for at least 7 years**
- **18 or over and have lived in the UK for at least 20 years (or at least half of your life)**

Discretionary leave to remain due to Humanitarian Reasons is not the same as Humanitarian Protection.

Additional Information

Refugee status gives limited leave to remain (Group 1 - 5 years, Group 2 - 30 months), if this period expires whilst the student is studying they are still eligible for support but their eligibility should be renewed after the Limited Leave to Remain has expired.

If your Limited Leave to Remain status expires during their studies we will contact you to request evidence of an in time application with the Home Office or evidence of your new status in the UK. This will allow your eligibility to be determined and if satisfied you can remain eligible for funding. Further information on in time applications can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about-our-services

A spouse/child of a refugee no longer needs to be named on the refugee status application and are not required to provide residency information, they need to be a child/spouse at the time the application was made and need evidence of relationship. i.e., child of a refugee – need date of birth to confirm under 18 at time of application and birth certificate to confirm relationship with refugee.

Where to get **ADVICE & HELP?**

Refugee - www.reuk.org

STAR - www.star-network.org.uk

University of Sanctuary - www.universities.cityofsanctuary.org

Refugee Council - www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/refugee-asylum-facts

The Student Room - www.thestudentroom.co.uk

UCAS - www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/uk-university-scholarships-refugees-and-asylum-seekers

The UK University Scholarships Directory - www.refugee-study.co.uk/Refugee-university-scholarships-directory.php

College / University: Research websites for local support