

Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship 2026

We are delighted to announce the Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship, designed to recognise outstanding international students. This highly competitive scholarship is open to international students applying to an undergraduate degree programme at Durham University for the 2026/27 academic year.

The scholarship is offered in two award types:

- **Inspiring Excellence 5k (UG)** – Up to **£15,000** for three-year programmes (£5,000 per year)
- **Inspiring Excellence 10k (UG)** – Up to **£30,000** for three-year programmes (£10,000 per year)

Selection will be based on an applicant's achievements and their potential to make a positive impact after completing an undergraduate degree at Durham University.

Key Dates

- Scholarship Application opens on 1 October 2025
- 1st Round Scholarship Application closes on 30 January 2026
- 1st Round Scholarship winners will be announced in April 2026
- 2nd Round Scholarship Application closes on 15 May 2026
- 2nd Round Scholarship winners will be announced in June 2026
- Please note that the UCAS application deadline for equal consideration is 14 January 2026 at 18:00 (UK Time), applicants need to obtain an UCAS ID before applying for **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship**

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship, applicants must:

- have applied to full-time in-person undergraduate programme at Durham University (BA (Hons) in Theology, Ministry and Mission and BA (Hons) in Theology and Religion are excluded)
- have a valid UCAS ID
- start undergraduate studies at Durham University in September 2026
- be classed as an overseas student for fee-paying purposes
- self-funded and not already be in receipt of any other scholarship, fundings or sponsor from the university or any external institutions
- meet or exceed the entry requirements for the programme applied for at Durham University
- confirm Durham University as your Firm choice by the UCAS reply deadline
- complete the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship** application form

Funding

1. The Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship applies to courses commencing in September 2026. The scholarship award is not transferable, not deferrable and will be applied as a tuition fee waiver directly to the undergraduate programme tuition fees. No cash alternative is offered. The tuition fees will be adjusted at the time of enrolment at Durham University.
2. If an awardee of the Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship fails to meet the academic conditions of the course for which they originally applied, the scholarship offer will be withdrawn.
3. The awards are offered for up to three years, with the second and third year of scholarship award dependant on ongoing strong academic progress.
 - a. **Inspiring Excellence 5k:** Awardees must pass all modules and achieve an overall mark of at least 60% each year to continue receiving the award.
 - b. **Inspiring Excellence 10k:** Awardees must pass all modules and achieve an overall mark of at least 70% each year to continue receiving the £10,000 award.
 - c. **Inspiring Excellence 10k:** Awardees who pass all modules and achieve at least 60% overall mark but fall short of 70% will receive the £5,000 award in the following year instead.
 - d. **Inspiring Excellence 5k and Inspiring Excellence 10k:** Awardees who fail to pass all modules or achieve an overall mark of 60% will not be eligible to receive the scholarship for the following academic year.
4. Where awardees register for a programme with a Placement or Study Abroad year, the award will be applied to year one, two and four. The continuation of the award to year four will depend on performance in year two. The scholarship award is not applicable during the Placement or Study Abroad year.
5. Awardees must obtain approval from the International Office before making any changes to their programme of study, including course transfers or interruptions to study.
6. Awardees will lose eligibility for the award if they fail to meet the grade requirements, are no longer classified as overseas students for fee purposes, or receive other scholarships, funding, or sponsorship from Durham or external institutions during their degree.
7. Applicants must be willing to participate and cooperate in marketing and communications activities (Scholarship Commitments) for their Faculty/Durham University. This may include testimonials and public relations opportunities, as well as being involved in and attending Open Events, Webinars or being a class representative.

8. Awardees who suspend their Scholarship Commitments or academic studies will have all future scholarship discounts cancelled. Please note that only under exceptional circumstances e.g. medical reasons, and at the sole discretion of the Faculty Executive Dean, approval may be given for discounts to recommence after suspended studies continue.

Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship Application

1. Scholarship applicants must have applied to study undergraduate degree at Durham University through [UCAS](#) which will generate a UCAS ID. Scholarship application without a valid UCAS ID will not be considered.
2. Applicants are required to submit only one scholarship application to be considered for both award types. If multiple applications are submitted, only the first will be considered.
3. 1st round applicants without an offer by mid-April will automatically be considered for the 2nd round selection.
4. There is no save progress function in the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship** application form. Applicants will need to complete the application form in one session. Applicants need to answer all questions to progress with the scholarship application. An error message will appear if any question is left blank. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Applicants will need to confirm that they have read and agreed with Durham's data statement, the scholarship eligibility criteria, funding guidelines, and terms and conditions before submitting the application.
6. Applicants will receive an automated email confirmation following the completion of the scholarship application form.

Selection Criteria

The **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship** is a competitive scheme, and not all applications will be successful. A panel of key members of staff will select most suitable applications. In addition to the application form responses, nationality diversity and balance across programmes will also be considered in the selection process.

Scholarship awards are discretionary and final. Due to the volume of applications for this award, Durham University is unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applications.

For any questions regarding the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship**, please contact the scholarship team at inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk

Scholarship Application Form

Below are all questions on the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship** application form. All questions are mandatory. Scholarships applicants must have applied for an eligible course at Durham University and have a valid UCAS ID Number.

Section 1 – Personal Information

1. Your UCAS ID (**Application without a valid UCAS ID will not be considered**)
2. Re-enter your UCAS ID
3. Your First Name
4. Your Last Name
5. Your email address (should be the same as the one on your UCAS application)
6. Re-enter your email address
7. The country of your Nationality
8. The country of your Permanent Residence
9. I want to be considered for **Inspiring Excellence 10k (UG) ONLY**
Yes / No

Section 2 – Application Details

10. What degree have you applied for at Durham University?

If you have applied to multiple courses, please indicate your top choice.

11. Are you studying or have completed an International Foundation Year or Accelerated International Foundation Year at Durham University International Study Centre?
12. Your tuition fee status

To be eligible for the scholarship applicant must be an overseas fee payer
13. Are you a recipient of, or have you applied for, any other scholarship or funding?
14. [If 'Yes' was answered in Question 13] Please specify the scholarship or funding you have applied for. Only shows in case of a 'Yes' answer is recorded on Question 13.
15. Do you intend to make Durham University your Firm choice with UCAS?

If your scholarship application is successful, you must make Durham University your Firm choice with UCAS for the 2026/27 academic year in order to receive your scholarship.
16. Your current or most recent Education Institution.

17. What is your GPA?

Section 3 – Application Questions

18. Outline how studying the chosen programme at Durham will help you achieve your personal and career goals in the future. (300 words maximum).

Applicants should write about their motivation to study at Durham University in the chosen course, and how this choice reflects their aspirations and expectations of a positive impact on their future career.

19. Describe a significant achievement in your student life or in your working career to date and explain the impact it had. (300 words maximum)

This question asks applicants to showcase experiences outside the academic environment that demonstrate initiative, highlight meaningful achievements, and have led to positive outcomes.

20. What makes you a strong candidate for this scholarship, and how could you make a positive impact on both in the university and the wider community at Durham? (300 words maximum)

This question provides an opportunity to showcase applicants' strengths and potential to make a meaningful, positive impact. Applicants may include examples such as participating in charitable events, involvement in student unions, or engagement in other initiatives within their local communities.

Section 4 – Terms and Conditions

21. How did you hear about **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship**

Please select the most relevant option

- Agent
- Durham Alumni
- Durham Staff member
- Durham University Website
- High School Counsellors
- Higher Education Comparison Website
- Scholarship Webinars or Campus Event
- Search Engine
- Social Media Platform
- Others (please specify)

22. [If 'Others (please specify)' was answered in Question 21.] Please specify How did you hear about Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship.

23. Terms and Conditions - Please read our Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship Application Guidance Document before proceeding

[Mandatory Checkbox] I have read and agree to all the eligibility criteria, funding guidelines, and terms and conditions of the Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship.

24. Privacy Notice

Durham University has a responsibility under data protection legislation to provide individuals with information about how we process their personal data. Further information regarding how we process, and secure personal data can be found here: [Privacy Notice](#). You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk. Please tick this box to give us your consent for your personal data processing.

[Mandatory Checkbox] I have read and agree with the Privacy Notice.

Application Timeline

Deadline	Date
UCAS Application Deadline for equal consideration	Wednesday 14 January 2026
1st Round Scholarship Application Close	Friday 30 January 2026
1st Round Scholarship Offer Announced	April 2026
1st Round Scholarship Acceptance Deadline	April 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Application Close	Friday 15 May 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Offer Announced	May 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Acceptance Deadline	June 2026

Key Contact

If you have any further questions regarding the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship**, please contact the scholarships team at inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk