

Santander Universities Scholars Programme

Application Guide



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Santander Universities Scholars Programme

Did you know that in some universities, more than a fifth of young students from the most disadvantaged social backgrounds dropped out in their first year¹?

And even amongst those students from disadvantaged backgrounds that do manage to complete their degree, they still on average go on to earn less than their peers on the same courses with the same grades²?

In response, Santander Universities have developed a new flagship scholars programme aimed at breaking down barriers for the current students who are most likely to face challenges when attending higher education. The initiative provides funding to support them through to graduation, alongside training opportunities to develop their potential and help them build brighter futures.

The programme will support 100 current undergraduate students, due to graduate in 2025, throughout the duration of their studies with consistent funding over three years, a series of employability training and development sessions and a dedicated mentor to guide them through the programme. Each of Santander Universities' partner universities will be guaranteed at least 1 scholar.

This flagship, multi-million-pound scholars programme was developed in collaboration with our partner universities. It's aimed at providing more structured and holistic support that is ongoing, combats a range of challenges and is not just a stamp in time.

This application guide explains the eligibility criteria, application process and what to expect on the programme, to help you understand if this is the right course for you.

Applications close on 31 January 2023. We strongly recommend that you don't leave your application until the last minute in case you have any difficulties that may take time to resolve.

¹<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/university-dropout-rates-students-rich-poor-education-a8812526.html>

²<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0003122416653602>

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible to apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be aged 18 or older
- You must be a full-time undergraduate student at one of Santander Universities' [partner universities](#), completing your undergraduate course in 2025. Any degree discipline is welcome.
- You must self-identify as part of at least 1 of the under-represented groups listed below. Find out more about [eligible groups](#).

1. Students from areas of low higher education participation, low household income or low socioeconomic status
2. Black, Asian and minority ethnic students
3. Mature students
4. Disabled students
5. Care experienced students
6. Carers
7. Students estranged from their families
8. Students from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
9. Refugees
10. Students from military families

(guidance has been taken from the Office for Students' [existing list of under-represented groups](#). Santander Universities has also commissioned research into this topic with the support of [Public First](#) and [Oxentia](#)).

- You must qualify as a Home Fee Status student.
- You must not be receiving more than £1,500 per year in external sponsorship for your degree, for example, from other sources such as industry bodies/employers (**University Core Bursaries and Government grants do not affect your eligibility**).

Steps to apply

1. Complete the form and click 'Register' on the Santander Scholarship Platform

or fill in your details


Email

Password

Login

[I have forgotten my password](#)

[Don't you have an account in Santander Scholarships? Register at](#)



Password

Required field. Minimum 10 characters. Minimum use one uppercase, one lowercase and one number.

Repeat password

Required field.

☐ I hereby authorise UNIVERSIA so it can send me, by any means, own and third-party marketing communications and/or communications of an academic nature that are personalised and may be of interest to me as auser of the platform

☐ I authorise UNIVERSIA to transfer my data to the [Santander Group entity with a registered address in my place of residence](#), so that they can send me, by any means, own and third-party marketing communications and/or communications of an academic nature that are personalised and may be of interest to me as a user of the portal.

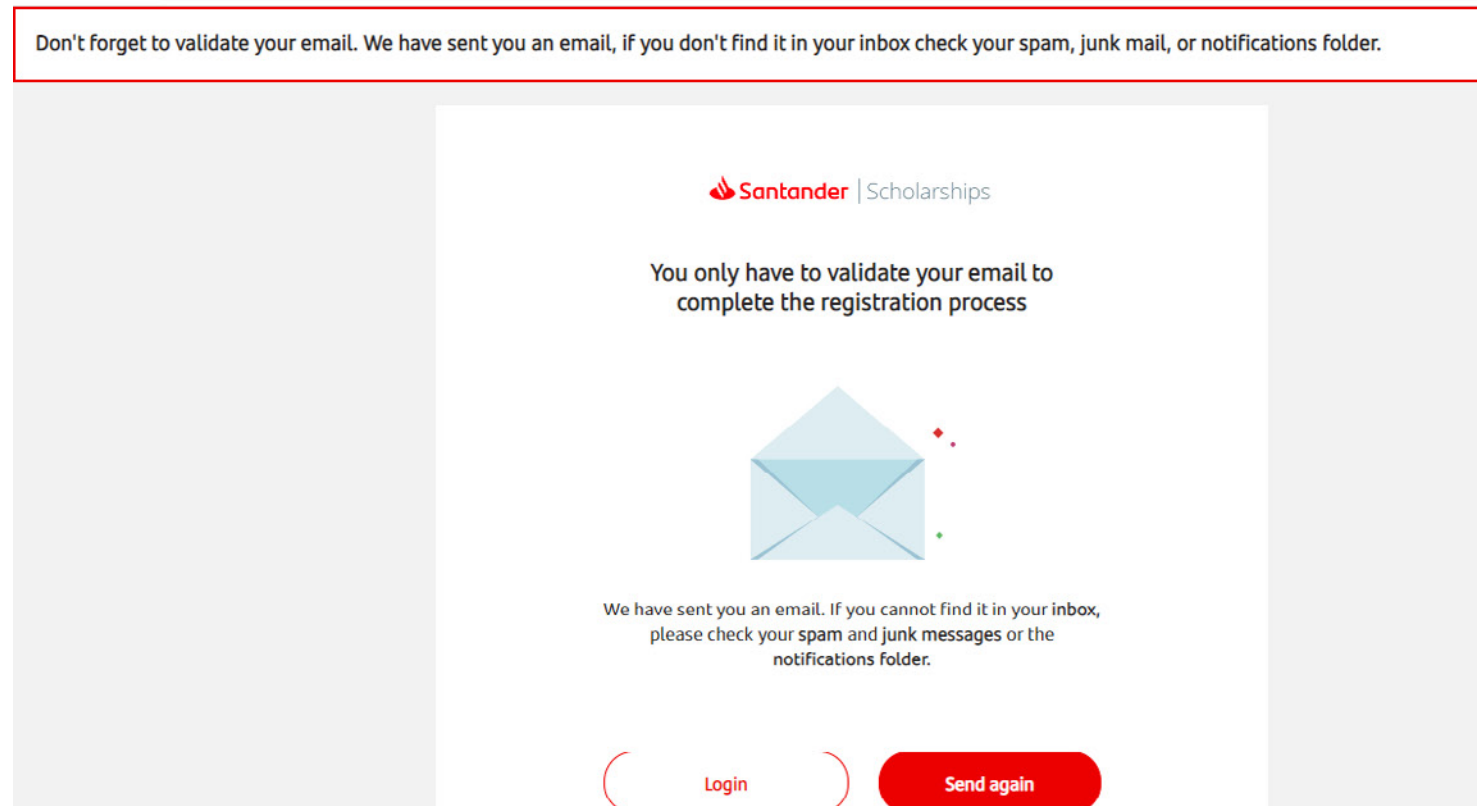
☐ I have read and accepted the [Privacy policy](#) [General terms and conditions of use](#) and [Cookies Policy](#)

Register

[Already have an account? Log in](#)

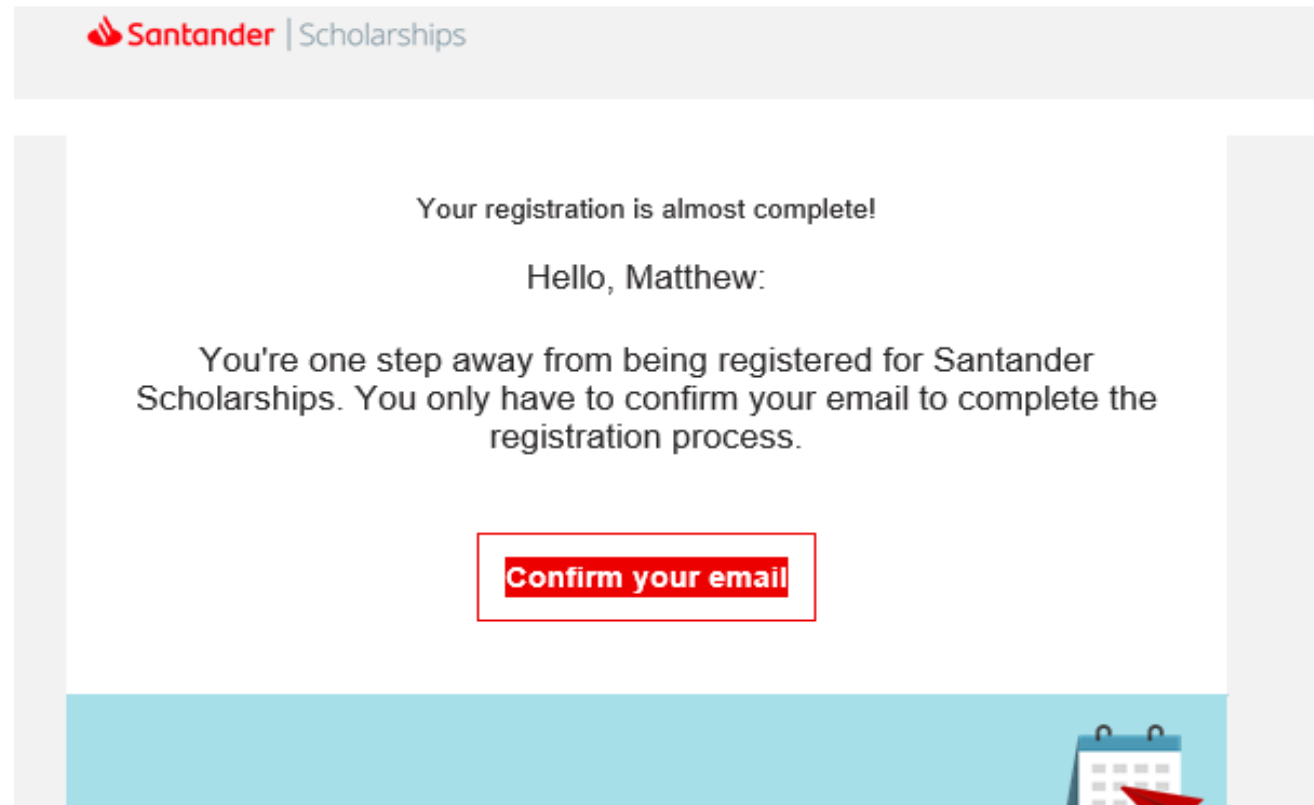
Steps to apply

2. You should shortly receive an email from the Santander Scholarships Platform



Steps to apply

3. Click the 'Confirm your email' link in the email



Steps to apply

4. Click
'Validate and enter'



Validate your email

Validate your email address
@santander.co.uk

Validate and enter



Email validated

You can now log in and start applying for
scholarships and programmes that suit your
profile. Good luck!

Back to application



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For questions or incidents contact at [Support and help](#)

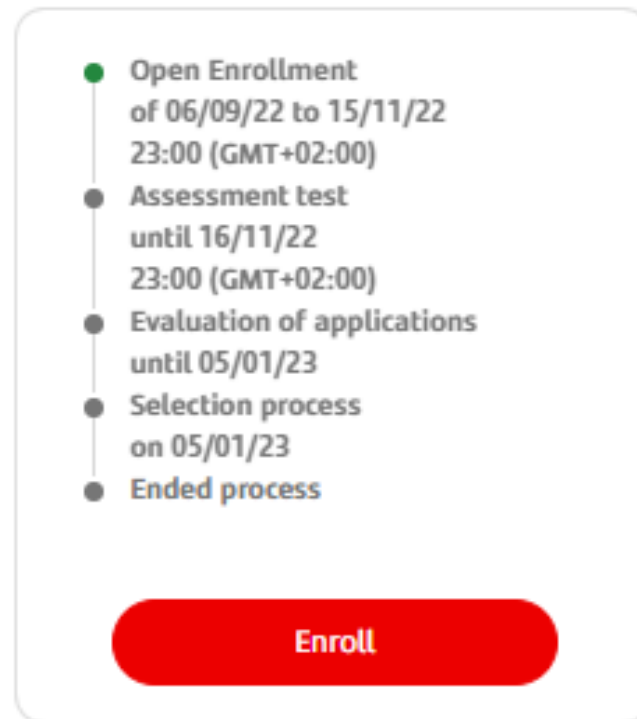


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For questions or incidents contact at [Support and help](#)

Steps to apply

5. Log in to the Santander Scholarship Platform and select 'Enroll' to complete and submit your application

You'll receive an email confirming submission of your application, usually within 1 day.



Application process

Applications will open on **22 November 2022** and close at 11pm (GMT) **31 January 2023**

As part of the application process, you will need to complete a short application form*.

This will capture the following:

- Personal details (contact details, date of birth, etc.)
- Education details (including the start and end dates of your degree)
- Current university course
- Student ID number
- Postcode of your primary residence before starting university
- Confirmation of eligibility (graduating in 2025; Home Fee Status; external bursaries or scholarships totalling no more than £1,500 per annum)
- Confirmation and selection of under-represented group(s)

*Some of this data is classed as 'special category' under data protection laws. You'll be asked to confirm that you provide your consent for Santander to process (if applicable) your special category data.

In addition, you'll need to tell us:

1. Your household income
2. The kind of school you attended
3. If you're the first generation of your family attending university
4. If you had a part-time or full-time job before starting university, or if you have a part-time job alongside your degree studies
5. If you'll receive any other form of internal scholarship or bursary from your university and, if so, how much this amounts to yearly
6. If you've participated in an outreach/access programme run by your university
7. If you've been a recipient of a 16-19 bursary (England) or Education Maintenance Allowance (Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales)

You'll also need to answer these questions (250 words max per question)

8. What impact would becoming a Santander Scholar have on your university education?
9. How would becoming a Santander Scholar increase your employability skills?

What's included in the programme?

All 100 successful applicants will receive the following over the course of the 3-year programme:

£30,000 funding

£10,000 per academic year (please refer to the T&Cs for further detail, including spending deadlines/timelines):

- This includes an **£8,500 annual bursary** to spend as credit on the Santander Aspire webstore and/or to withdraw as cash
- £1,500 must be used as credit for webstore purchases
- The maximum monthly spend is £2,000 (inclusive of purchases via the webstore and cash withdrawals)

If withdrawing the funds as cash, you

- must withdraw the funds into a UK bank account
- must provide a reason for withdrawal
- must make no more than 2 cash withdrawals per month.

£1,500 personal development grant

- You must allocate this funding to activities which support your personal development
- Withdrawal of these funds will require approval by your Santander Universities Relationship Manager
- Must provide a reason for withdrawal
- Maximum of 2 cash withdrawals each academic year

What's included in the programme?

All 100 successful applicants will receive the following over the course of the 3-year programme:

Annual events

All 100 students will be invited to attend a series of events hosted by Santander Universities. These will provide students with an opportunity to build on their professional skills and network with other participants of the programme. The events will take place in:

- June 2023 (this date will be subject to change)
- January-March 2024
- October-December 2024
- Summer 2025

Students will be provided with 2 months' notice of the events taking place and all travel expenses will be covered. Santander Universities understands that students may not be able to attend all events, and will be accommodating with this.

Additional activities

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in and attend (optional) additional activities, which will be confirmed throughout the 3-year programme. The purpose of these activities will be to support individuals' student experience and help to develop their employability skills.

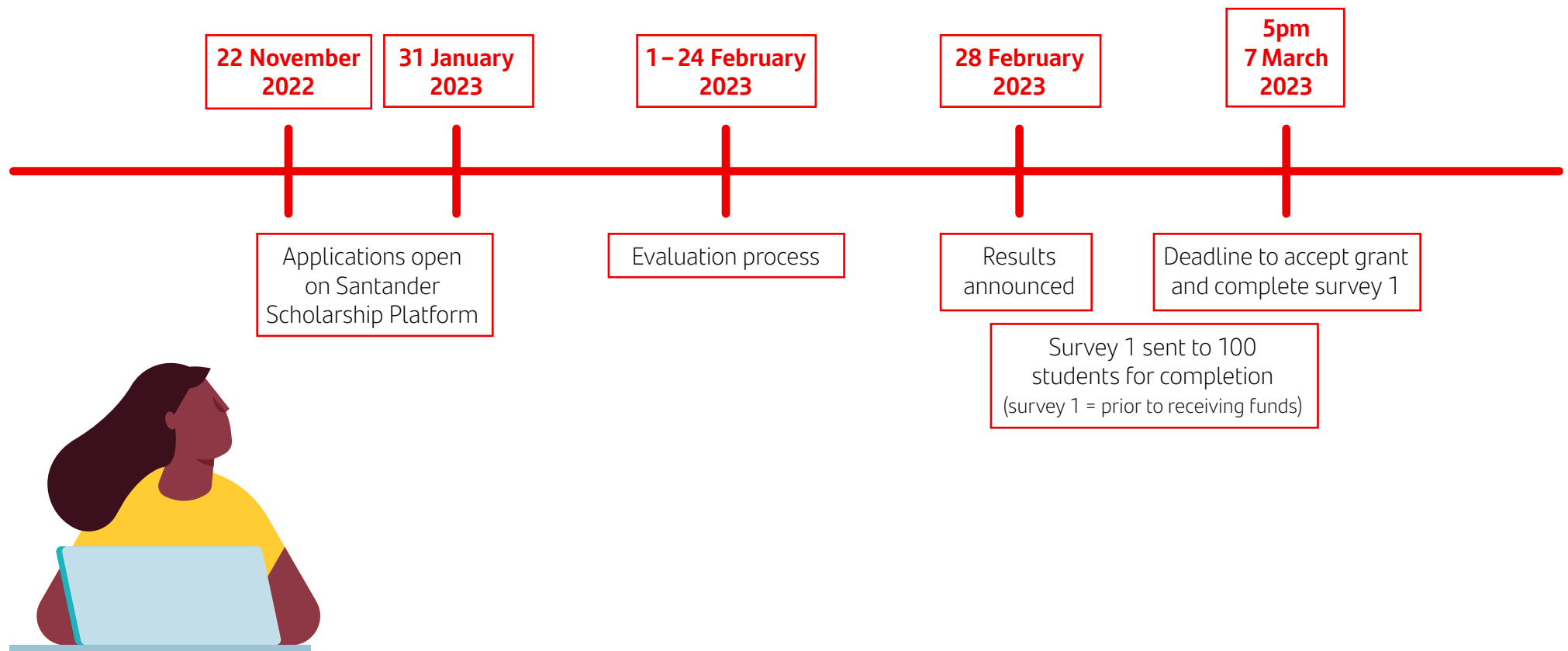
Surveys

All 100 students will need to complete a series of surveys throughout the course of the programme, in order to help Santander Universities understand the impact of the funding and overall support. Please refer to the T&Cs for further detail, including deadlines/timelines. Survey completion is mandatory and therefore any incomplete or absence of surveys may result in individual funding being withdrawn and students forfeiting their position on the programme.

Long-term support

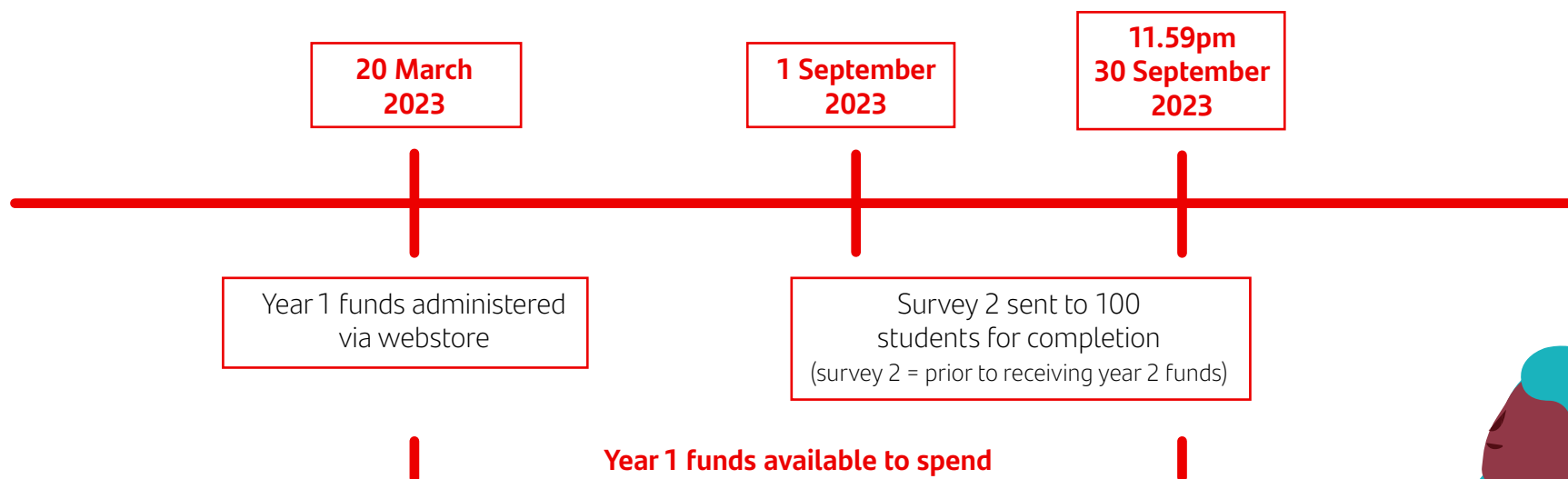
Each student will have a designated Santander Universities Relationship Manager (RM) who will be their main point of contact throughout the programme. Students will be expected to engage with their RM at least once every two months. Please refer to the T&Cs for further detail.

Application and funds timelines



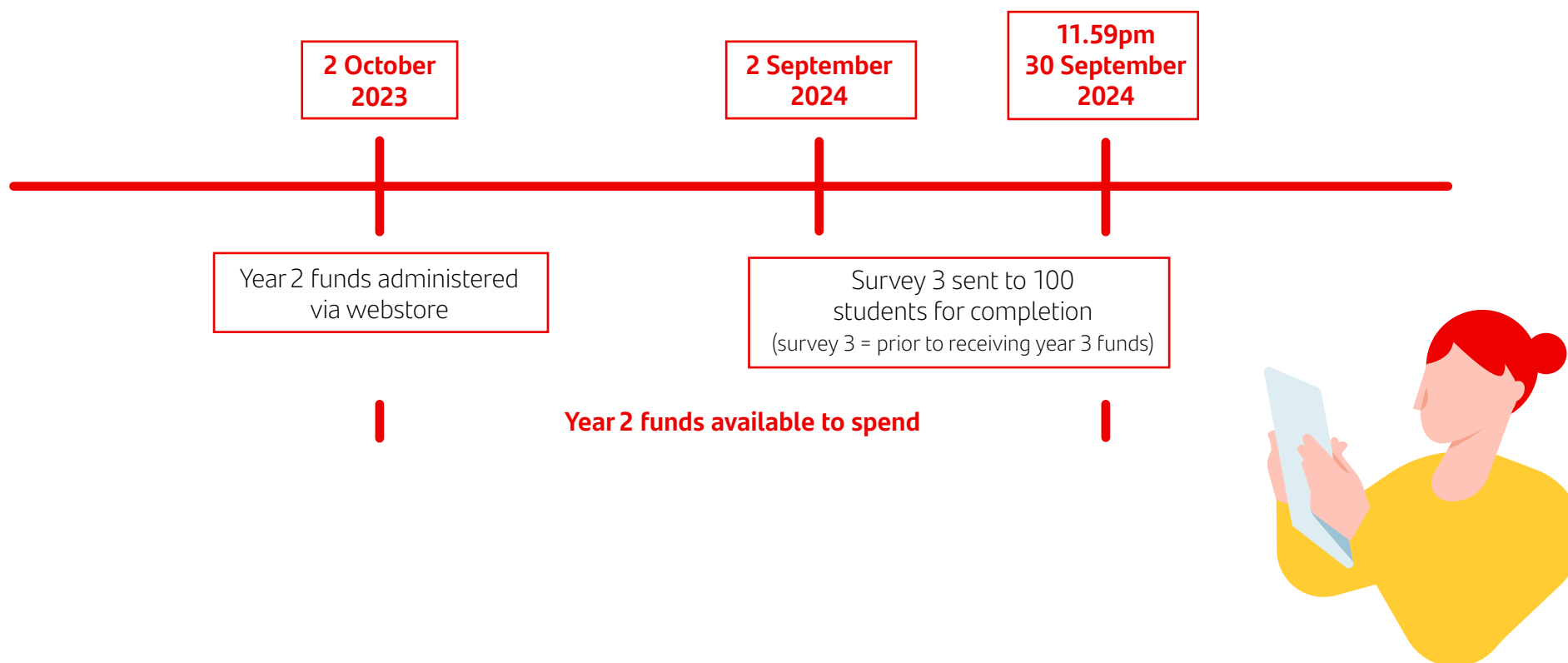
Application and funds timelines

Funds timeline: Year 1



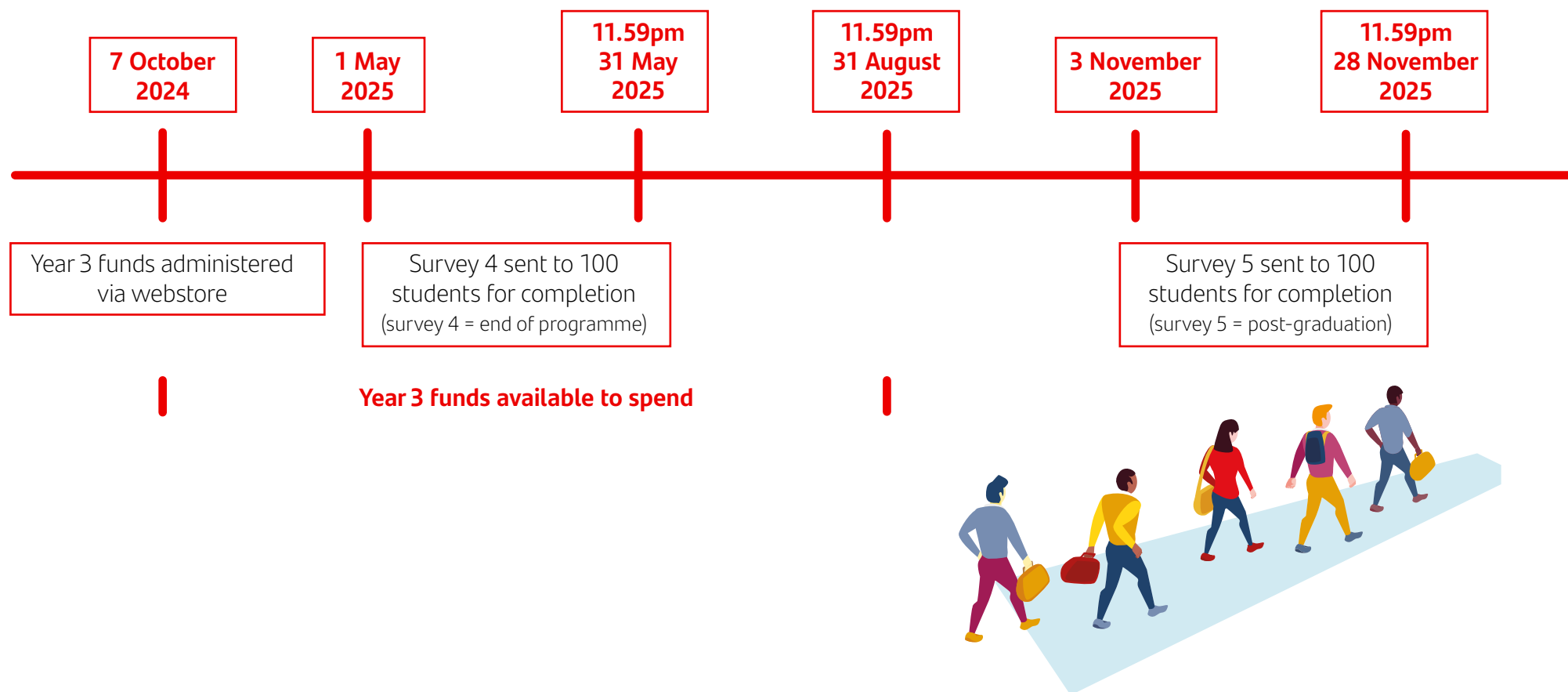
Application and funds timelines

Funds timeline: Year 2



Application and funds timelines

Funds timeline: Year 3



FAQs

I'm doing a placement year, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as you're graduating from your undergraduate degree in 2025. If you decide to do a placement year after you've applied to the programme, you'll need to inform your RM as soon as possible; this will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

What happens if I drop out?

If you drop out of the programme, you'll immediately lose access to any existing funds and all future funds. You'll also no longer benefit from the additional activities, including support from your RM.

What happens if I leave my university during the programme?

You should inform your RM that you have left or are planning to leave your university as soon as possible. If you leave your university during the course of the programme, you'll immediately lose access to existing funds for the current academic year and forfeit your position on the programme.

What happens if I don't spend the money by the deadline?

If you don't spend the full £10,000 within the specified timelines (see T&Cs for further detail), you forfeit the funds and lose access to any remaining balance for that academic year.

What happens if I don't complete the survey?

Survey completion is mandatory and therefore any incomplete or absence of completed surveys may result in your funding being withdrawn and you forfeiting your position on the programme. If survey 1 is not completed by the specified deadline, you forfeit your position on the programme and a new student will be selected in your place.

What happens if I change course?

You will need to inform your RM as soon as possible; this will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Appendix Help Texts

Group/criteria	Definition (for applicant guidance)	Question (and how to check, where applicable)
Students from areas of low higher education participation, low household income or low socioeconomic status	<p>Students from areas with low participation in higher education, low household income, or low socioeconomic status are defined as those whose main home address (before university) was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in an area with the lowest rates of higher education participation, or in a more deprived area, based on many factors. <p>Students who lived in the lowest participation areas and/or the most deprived areas before university are eligible to apply for this scholarship.</p> <p>Areas of low participation are measured by POLAR4. This means being in a 'quintile 1' area, which have the lowest rates of participation in Higher Education.</p> <p>Deprived areas are measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This means living in the most deprived 20% of areas. These are known as deciles 1 or 2 in England and Scotland, 'bottom 10%' or bottom 20% in Wales, or with a rank between 1-178 in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Follow the instructions on the links below. You'll be asked to enter your home address postcode to see how it ranks.</p> <p>To find out your POLAR4 quintile, please click the following link: POLAR4</p> <p>For IMD 2019 (and devolved equivalents), please find the country of your home address (before university) from the list below and click the link.</p> <p>England: https://www.fscbiodiversity.uk/imd/</p> <p>Wales: https://apps.dataunitwales.gov.uk/welshindexofmultipledeprivation/</p> <p>Scotland: https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/BTTFTT/9/-4.0000/55.9000/</p> <p>Northern Ireland: https://deprivation.nisra.gov.uk/</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Low higher education participation (POLAR4): Is your home postcode (i.e. your main address before starting university) in quintile 1, as defined by the POLAR4 measure? [Yes, No]</p> <p>England & Scotland: Is your home postcode (i.e. your main address before starting university) located in an IMD deciles 1 or decile 2 area? [Yes, No]</p> <p>Wales: Is your home postcode (i.e. your main address before starting university) located in a Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 10% or 20% most deprived area? [Yes, No]</p> <p>Northern Ireland: Is your home postcode (i.e. your main address before starting university) located in an IMD area ranked 178th or lower for overall deprivation? [Yes, No]</p>
Black, Asian and minority ethnic students	<p>Black, Asian and minority ethnic students are those who identify as Black, Asian or another non-white ethnic minority are eligible to apply for this scholarship.</p>	<p>Do you identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic? [Yes, No]</p>

Appendix Help Texts

Group/criteria	Definition (for applicant guidance)	Question (and how to check, where applicable)
Mature students	Mature students are defined as those aged 21 or over when they enter higher education. If you meet this definition, you're eligible to apply for this scholarship.	Are you a mature student? [Yes, No]
Disabled students	For this scholarship, students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) from Student Finance England and equivalent student finance bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply.	Are you in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance? [Yes, No]
Care experienced students	<p>You're eligible to apply for this scholarship if you have experience of care. Some formal definitions are given below. However, if you're not sure whether your own experience of care meets these definitions, please contact us.</p> <p>The Office for Students (OfS) have defined the circumstances of being in care as being where 'a local authority / Health and Social Care Trust has obligations to provide for, or share, the care of a child or young person under 16 years of age where parent(s) or guardian(s) for whatever reason are prevented from providing them with a suitable accommodation or care. A child is 'looked after' if he or she is provided with accommodation or if they are subject to certain provision imposed by the system.'</p> <p>In Scotland, this includes 'Anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after. This care may have been provided in a one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care, or through being looked-after at home with a supervision requirement.'</p>	Do you consider yourself care experienced? [Yes, No]
Carers	For this scholarship, carers are defined as 'Young people aged 14-25 who care, unpaid, for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support'. If you meet this definition, you're eligible to apply for this scholarship.	Do you consider yourself a carer? [Yes, No]
Estranged students	<p>You're eligible to apply for this scholarship if you are estranged student. According to the Office for Students, an estranged person is someone who no longer has the support of their family due to a breakdown in their relationship which has led to ceased contact. This might mean your biological, step or adoptive parents or wider family members who have been responsible for supporting you in the past.</p> <p>If you're not sure whether your own experience meets these definitions, please contact us.</p>	Would you consider yourself estranged from your family (i.e. not supported by your family)? [Yes, No]

Appendix Help Texts

Group/criteria	Definition (for applicant guidance)	Question (and how to check, where applicable)
Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities	<p>The term 'Gypsy, Roma and Traveller' encompasses a wide range of individuals who may be defined in relation to their ethnicity, heritage, way of life and how they self-identify.</p> <p>You are eligible to apply for this scholarship if you identify as belonging to one of more of the following groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English or Welsh Romany Gypsies. European Roma. Irish Travellers. Scottish Gypsy Travellers. Showpeople such as people linked with fairground or circus professions. People living on barges or other boats. People living in settled (bricks and mortar) accommodation. New Age Travellers. 	<p>Do you identify as belonging to one of the Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities listed?</p> <p>[Yes, No]</p>
Refugees	<p>The UN 1951 Refugee Convention defines refugees as someone who 'Owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country'.</p> <p>You're eligible to apply for this scholarship if you've been granted refugee status AND have been assessed as a 'home' student for student fees.</p> <p>More information is available from https://www.ucas.com/finance/additional-funding/student-finance-refugees-asylum-seekers-and-those-limited-leave-remain</p>	<p>Have you been granted refugee status, and have been assessed as eligible for 'home' student fees?</p> <p>[Yes, No]</p>
Military family	<p>You're eligible to apply for this scholarship if you are from a military family. We are using the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance definition of a service child as being 'a person whose parent or carer serves in the Regular Armed Forces, or as a Reservist, or has done at any point during the first 25 years of that person's life'.</p>	<p>Do you meet the definition given of belonging to a military family?</p> <p>[Yes, No]</p>

Appendix Partner Universities

Eligible applicants must attend one of the following Partner Universities

- Abertay University
- Aston University
- Bangor University
- Bath Spa University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Birmingham City University
- Bournemouth University
- Brunel University London
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- Coventry University
- Durham University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Heriot-Watt University
- Keele University
- King's College London
- Kingston University London
- Lancaster University
- Loughborough University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Middlesex University London
- Newcastle University
- Northumbria University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Queen Margaret University
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- Sheffield Hallam University
- SOAS University of London
- St Mary's University, Twickenham, London
- Swansea University
- The Open University
- The University of Edinburgh
- The University of Liverpool
- The University of Sheffield
- The University of Sunderland
- Ulster University
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Bath
- University of Birmingham
- University of Brighton
- University of Chester
- University of East Anglia
- University of Essex
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- University of Greenwich, London
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Kent
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Lincoln
- University of Northampton
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Reading
- University of Roehampton London
- University of Salford
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of the West of England
- University of Westminster, London
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of York

[Find out more and apply](#)