

Santander University Staff Development Grant 2026

Terms & Conditions

Overview

The Santander University Staff Development Grant is a national initiative to support the professional development of staff working in UK universities.

The programme offers 100 individual grants of £500 to enable staff to access career-enhancing opportunities. This can include training courses, event or conferences, certified learning, professional membership or accreditation fees, and travel and accommodation linked to events or conferences.

These grants are designed to support those working in any job role or function within Higher Education, helping staff to upskill, reskill, and advance their careers. Grants are allocated by a random prize draw from all eligible applications.

Please read through these Terms and Conditions and make sure you meet all the criteria listed.

Terms & Conditions

These Terms and Conditions apply to the Santander University Staff Development Grant 2026 (referred to as the “grant”). By applying, applicants agree to be bound by the following Terms and Conditions:

1. The Promoter is Santander UK plc. Registered Office: 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London, NW1 3AN, United Kingdom. Registered Number 2294747 (“the Promoter”).
2. Entrants agree to be bound by these rules and any other requirements set out in the material about this promotion.
3. To enter, you must meet all the following eligibility criteria:
 - Be a UK resident aged 18 or over.
 - Be employed on a full-time or part-time basis at a recognised UK higher education institution in any function or job role (academic, research, professional services, support services). You must be employed, including permanent or fixed-term, at the time of application and at the time of award.
 - Complete an entry form on Santander Open Academy which includes confirming a valid university staff ID number (or equivalent unique staff identifier).
 - Your application must be for an eligible activity that will take place within 12 months of award. Funding cannot be used for activities that have already been completed at point of application.
4. You can enter on Santander Open Academy any time from **09:00 (UK time) on 28/04/2026 until 23:59 (UK time) on 02/07/2026**. Santander reserves the right to close the grant early in exceptional circumstances, acting reasonably and at its discretion.
5. Entries not submitted in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, or entries which are delayed, duplicated, incomplete, illegible, mislaid or lost through technical problems will be disqualified. No responsibility is accepted for such entries. Proof of submission online will not be accepted as proof of submission.
6. **You can use the grant for:** training and course fees; conference or event registration; professional membership and accreditation fees, and travel and accommodation (where linked to an event or conference).
You cannot use the grant for salary replacement; personal consumer goods not linked to development; alcohol; gifts; charitable donations, cash transfers to others.
7. You can only enter once.
8. It's your responsibility to make sure you read and understand the eligibility criteria and submit your entry appropriately, on time and following the entry requirements as indicated on Santander Open Academy.
9. This grant is administered as a prize draw. After the closing date, Santander will select 100 winners at random from all valid applications received using an online random generator. If you

want to find out more about this process, please contact us at santander.universities@santander.co.uk.

10. Once the 100 winners have been identified, Santander may verify their status before grants are confirmed.
 - a) As part of verification, Santander may share the minimum necessary information with your university (your name and staff ID number) to confirm that you are employed and eligible.
 - b) If any winners attend a non-partner university, Santander may confirm the verification process directly with those winners ahead of the results being announced. Those winners must then verify their eligibility by meeting the requirements outlined. Santander will make 2 attempts to contact them by email, with at least 24 hours separation between them, and a phone call if a valid phone number is provided. If after this, Santander decides that it's not possible to get in touch with a winner, a new winner will be selected at random among the remaining applicants following the original process.
 - c) If we cannot verify eligibility or contact you after reasonable attempts, a new winner will be selected at random to receive the grant instead.
11. If you're selected, you confirm that you'll comply with your employer's policies (including any requirements relating to travel approval, time away from work, procurement and acceptance of gifts/benefits).
12. Winners will be notified by email to the address associated with their Santander Open Academy account on 08/07/2026. **If you're chosen as a winner, you must accept the grant within 7 days (by 15/07/2026).** If we can't contact a winner by telephone or email by 15/07/2026, or a winner doesn't want their grant, Santander will re-draw.
13. Once you've accepted the grant by the 15/07/2026 deadline, Santander will share your details with JS Group (the third party managing the Santander Aspire webstore on our behalf) by the 19/07/2026. Please read JS Group's privacy notice to understand how they'll store and process your personal data when you use the webstore.
14. Each winner will receive £500 in a Santander Aspire account. Winners may choose to make purchases through the webstore and/or withdraw the funds as cash. If withdrawn as cash, the funds must still be used for eligible professional development costs.
15. You'll have 12 months to redeem your £500 grant, starting from the date when you receive your log-in details from JS Group.
16. Winners must retain evidence of spend (such as invoice, receipt, booking confirmation) for 12 months after spending and provide it on request for audit purposes. Where funds are not used in line with the intended purpose of professional development, Santander may seek repayment as its discretion.
17. If successful and you're found not to be a university employee after verification, you'll be asked to return any grant awarded. Santander reserves the right to recover the value of the grant and any reasonable costs incurred as a result of non-compliance.
18. The winner's surname and county will be available on request, subject to the winners' consent. The winner's information and winning entry (if applicable) must be provided to the Advertising Standards Authority on request in the event of a dispute.
19. If successful, you may be invited by Santander or by your university (if you're employed at one of our partner universities) to provide a testimonial or case study. We won't publish a testimonial or case study without your permission. Participation is optional and not a condition of receiving the grant.
20. If you're identified as a winner and you're employed at a partner university, Santander will inform your university of your success.
21. If requested by a partner university, and if you've provided consent, Santander will inform your university of your entry.

General terms

1. The grant will be provided by Santander UK plc. The grant will only be transferred to the winner.
2. The Promoter reserves the right to amend or close the grant without prior notice, acting reasonably, in extreme circumstances. The Promoter's decision is final in all matters relating to the grant.

3. The Promoter reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual that corrupts or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of this grant.
4. The Promoter reserves the right to withdraw any entry to the grant that is found to be in breach of any of the pre-established conditions or rules laid out in the Term and Conditions.
5. To the fullest extent permitted by law and excluding death or personal injury caused as a result of the Promoter's negligence, the Promoter accepts no liability for loss or injury as a result of the grant or receipt or misuse of any grant.
6. Any questions concerning the legal interpretation of the terms and conditions will be based on the laws of England and Wales, and the Courts of England and Wales will have jurisdiction.

Data protection

For information on how Santander processes applicants' personal data, please read the [Santander Universities Privacy Notice](#).

If you're selected as a winner, Santander will share the minimum necessary data with JS Group for the purpose of administering and fulfilling the grant. This includes your first name, surname, email address and name of the university of employment. JS Group manages the Santander Aspire webstore on Santander's behalf.

JS Group will process your personal data in accordance with its own privacy notice. We encourage you to read [JS Group's privacy notice](#) to understand how your data will be handled when using the webstore.