

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDANCE

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Name of Scholarship	Santander Opportunities Fund
Decision Making Panel <i>Decision panel members may access your student record and utilise their knowledge of your academic performance as part of the decision making process. A minimum of 2 panel members will attend at any given panel.</i>	A representative from Advisory A representative from Careers A representative from Student Services (Manager/Director)

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

Santander Universities

Santander Universities was first created in Spain in 1996 by Emilio Botín, who recognised that universities play an important role in society. He believed that Santander should support these institutions through the provision of scholarships, mobility awards, entrepreneurship funding and much more. In 2007 the scheme was launched in the UK and now has partnerships with over 80 universities, providing over £10m of funding in 2017 to support university staff and students. Abertay University is the latest institution to join the prestigious Santander Universities network.

Santander Universities supports the following activities and opportunities at Abertay:

The Santander Opportunities Fund – *Funding has been allocated for work placements (as part of course), internships, conference travel and visits to partner universities for students who have financially challenging circumstances.*

The Santander Internship Programme – *A number of companies have offered internships for Abertay students with Santander match-funding the salary for these internships. For more information on the opportunities available and how to apply, please contact careers@abertay.ac.uk*

Support of Entrepreneurial Activities – *Funding has been allocated for entrepreneurial activities such as a professional speakers programme, assistance with the incubation of early stage businesses and enterprise events within the University. For more information about enterprise at Abertay please contact Simon Fraser, Enterprise Officer on simon.fraser@abertay.ac.uk.*

Further information on forthcoming Santander Universities opportunities will be available on MyAbertay

OPPORTUNITY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Santander Opportunities Fund has been set up to support activities which enhance the student experience and support the internationalisation of the student body, both on and off campus. The aim of the fund is to support student mobility and employability, particularly from Widening Access/ Participation backgrounds. Applications are invited from both undergraduate and postgraduate students who meet the individual eligibility criteria.

Examples of activities that the Fund may support include:

- A. Attendance at a high profile Conference or Event that will enhance employability as well as providing the opportunity to travel outside of Dundee/Scotland.
- B. Online conference and events
- C. An unpaid work placement (as part of a course) that the student would not otherwise be able to undertake due to financial insecurity/travel and other costs.
- D. A summer Internship (**up to 4 weeks**) that the student would not otherwise be able to undertake due to financial insecurity/travel and other costs
- E. Travel abroad to visit a partner university within the EU or EEA where students may take advantage of state-of-the-art facilities and teaching.

(Contact our International Officer international@abertay.ac.uk for more details of applicable study abroad opportunities)

Other opportunities which the applicant feels meet the fund criteria will be considered on a discretionary basis.

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications are invited from students from who fall into one or more of the following groups:

- 1. Students with a household income* under £34,000 (discounting personal earnings)
- 2. Care Experienced students
- 3. Students under 25 who are irreconcilably estranged from their parents/guardians
- 4. Students with disabilities or long term medical conditions (including specific learning difficulties and mental or physical health conditions)
- 5. Students who are single/lone parents
- 6. Students with caring responsibilities (*A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member (including children) who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support*)
- 7. Applications will be considered from students with other exceptional circumstances which have a significant financial impact on their ability to undertake an eligible opportunity (please discuss with a Student Advisor before applying)

*For the purpose of this application household income is considered to be any income that SAAS, Student Finance England/Wales/NI would take into account when assessing a student for means tested funding (information available online). Self-funded or postgrad students who have not undergone a means tested assessment may contact the Advisory Service for more information on how to calculate and evidence this.

WHAT KIND OF FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

The maximum award value is £2,000. Below is a guide to the level of award for each opportunity.

- A. Attendance at a **high profile Conference or Event**.
 - UK and EU/EEA £500
 - Outside EU/EEA £1000
- B. A **work placement**.
 - Up to £2000 (dependent on number of days/weeks on placement)
- C. A **summer Internship (up to 4 weeks)** that the student would not otherwise be able to undertake due to financial insecurity/travel and other costs
 - UK £600
 - EU/EEA £750
 - Outside EU/EEA £1000
- D. **Travel abroad to visit a partner university** within the EU/EEA where students may take advantage of state-of-the-art facilities and teaching.
 - Funded opportunity £500
 - Unfunded opportunity £1000

Payment arrangements will be at the Discretion of the Decision Making Panel.

Award payments will usually be paid directly to the bank account(s) of the successful applicant(s). However, in some cases the University may make the travel and/or accommodation arrangements on a student's behalf.

Awards made towards placement/internship living costs and/or expenses will be paid directly into the applicant's bank account.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Please see our website information for deadline dates, ad hoc applications may be considered.

AWARD CONDITIONS

Applicants must be willing and able to meet the following award conditions if successful:

1. To submit a short report about your experience after undertaking your chosen opportunity
2. To give permission for elements of your report to be quoted for promotional materials
3. To meet with the Donor at the Donor's request
4. To take part in promotional activity relating to this Award
5. To provide receipts related to your opportunity costs if requested

HOW CAN I APPLY and APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications can be made directly on Santander Applications platform. Students are asked to complete the application form online here: <https://www.becas-santander.com/en>

APPLICATION QUERIES AND ASSISTANCE

Staff in the Advisory Service can offer support and guidance with the application process including:

- Feedback on the first draft of your personal statement by online enquiry or at a Drop In
- Application checking at a Drop In appointments
- Advice on where to look for opportunities
- Eligibility queries for awards that we administer
- Evidence queries

Please make contact at **least 4 weeks before the application deadline** to ensure that there is adequate time for a member of staff to look at your email and for you to make alterations based on the feedback provided.

See our '**Scholarships and Bursaries Application Guide**' for advice on how to make a strong application:

<https://intranet.abertay.ac.uk/support/student-services/advisory/funding/scholarships-and-trusts/>

To check available **drop in/virtual** times or to make an **appointment** with a Student Advisor visit:

<https://abertayconnectservices.abertay.ac.uk/home.html>

Online enquiries may be submitted through AbertayConnect however please allow time for a response and consider other means of contact in the first instance if your query is time sensitive.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email at the earliest opportunity and usually within 2 weeks of the deadline unless otherwise stated.

Students are responsible for making sure their application forms are complete and that the supporting evidence meets the application criteria. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

The Advisory Service

Student Services | Bernard King Library | Abertay University
Bell Street | Dundee | DD1 1HG

E: advisory@abertay.ac.uk

T: 01382 308833 (SEZ Helpdesk)

