

Santander Universities Scholars Programme

Programme Overview, and Terms & Conditions

Overview

The Santander Universities Scholars Programme is a new initiative aimed at developing the potential and increasing the career prospects of current students who are most likely to face challenges when attending university. Providing 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 full-time undergraduate students, due to graduate in 2025, throughout the duration of their studies with £30,000 funding over three academic years, a series of employability training and development sessions and a dedicated mentor to guide them through the programme (referred to herein as the **Grant**).

Successful applicants will receive £10,000 each year over a 3-year period, and will be able to use the Grant as credit to purchase a variety of resources directly from the [Santander Aspire webstore](#) (owned and managed by a third party, JS Group) – including laptops, printers, internet data, magazine subscriptions, and much more. Students will also have the option to withdraw the Grant as cash to fund their university needs and aid their personal development. Please see further details on the programme throughout this document.

Before you apply for the Grant, please take the time to read through the Terms and Conditions and ensure that you meet all the criteria listed below.

Terms & Conditions

These Terms and Conditions apply to the Santander Universities Scholars Package (to be collectively referred to as the “Grant”). By applying to the Grant, applicants agree to be bound by the following Terms and Conditions:

1. The Grantor is Santander Universities UK (a division of Santander UK plc, 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London, NW1 3AN, United Kingdom).

Eligibility criteria

1. Applicants must be aged 18 or older at the time of applying
2. **Applicable to applicants in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:** Applicants must be current full-time undergraduate students at one of Santander Universities' partner universities (see full list of partners on page 6), graduating/completing their undergraduate course in 2025. Any degree discipline is welcome
3. Applicants must self-identify as part of (at least) 1 of the 10 following underrepresented groups (guidance has been taken from the [Office for Students' \(OfS\) existing list of underrepresented groups](#). Santander Universities has also commissioned research into this topic with the support of [Public First](#) and [Oxentia](#)). Please note these will be applicable to all 4 countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The underrepresented groups include:
 - a. Students from areas of low higher education participation, low household income or low socioeconomic status
 - b. Black, Asian and minority ethnic students
 - c. Mature students
 - d. Disabled students
 - e. Care experienced students
 - f. Carers
 - g. Students estranged from their families
 - h. Students from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities
 - i. Refugees
 - j. Students from military families
4. Applicants must qualify as a Home Fee Status student

5. Applicants must not be receiving more than £1,500 per year in external sponsorship for their degree, for example, from other sources such as industry bodies/employers (University Core Bursaries and Government grants do not affect your eligibility)
6. Applicants must confirm they meet the above criteria (points 1-5) upon submitting their application

Submission criteria

1. Applicants must apply for the Grant via the Santander Scholarship platform any time from 09:00am (GMT) on 22/11/2022 until 11:00pm (GMT) on 31/01/2023. The Grantor reserves the right to close the Grant early in exceptional circumstances (acting in its discretion)
2. Applications not submitted in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, or applications 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

A preview of the application questions can be found in the Application Guide which is available to download from the application landing page.

Assessment and selection process

Santander Universities has engaged [Oxentia](#), a third-party, to manage the assessment and selection process. The 100 students will therefore be chosen by Oxentia. During the application process, applicants will be asked to provide their consent for Santander Universities to process their special category data.

When assessing applications, Oxentia will aim to identify students who will benefit the most from the package of support that the Grant offers. Oxentia will therefore conduct the assessment and selection process in 2 phases:

1. Oxentia will score and shortlist applicants based on their answers to a set of 7 questions. These questions will be focused on various elements that are known to affect students' progress, achievement, or outcomes (a preview of the application questions can be found in the Application Guide, as referenced above). Each answer will carry a different score.
2. The top 10 applicants (per partner university) with the highest scores will then be assessed on their responses to scheme-specific questions, for example, what impact would becoming a Santander Scholar have on your university education?
3. In the case where more than 10 applicants score the same, Oxentia reserves the right to further consider key target groups, as defined in published Access and Participation Plans (or equivalent) and use this as a further selection criterion if required.

Oxentia will ensure the following while assessing applications:

1. That there are no targets to be met in terms of particular underrepresented groups
2. That at least one Grant per partner university is awarded

Oxentia will also verify with each relevant university that a selected student meets the eligibility criteria. If a university cannot verify eligibility to Oxentia:

- Oxentia may contact the student directly to obtain confirmation (the student will be contacted by enquiries@oxentia.com), or
- The university may contact the relevant student directly to obtain confirmation. Once received, the university will verify final eligibility with Oxentia.

If verification is not possible, or if a university confirms that the student does not meet the eligibility criteria, that student will be deemed ineligible for the Grant and a new student will be selected by Oxentia to receive the Grant instead.

Expectations of the 100 students

Upon applying to this opportunity, and if successful, applicants agree to the following:

1. Attend one Welcome event held at Unity Place, Milton Keynes. This will take place in June 2023*. Please note this date will be subject to change
2. Attend a Year 2 annual event held at Unity Place, Milton Keynes. This will take place in Q1 (January-March) 2024, month to be confirmed*
3. Attend a Year 3 annual event held at Unity Place, Milton Keynes. This will take place in Q4 (October-December) 2024, month to be confirmed*
4. Attend a Graduation event held at Unity Place, Milton Keynes. This will take place in summer 2025, month to be confirmed*
5. Attend at least a bi-monthly meeting (i.e. once every 2 months) with their dedicated Santander Universities Relationship Manager over the 3-year period. This can be either face-to-face or via video call. The purpose of this meeting will be for Santander Universities to provide support to students throughout the course of the programme. Attendance is mandatory and therefore frequent absence may result in individual funding being withdrawn and students forfeiting their position on the programme
6. Complete a series of surveys to help Santander Universities understand the impact of the funding and overall programme. The 100 selected students must complete the surveys in line with the below dates. Completion is mandatory and therefore any incomplete or absence of completed surveys may result in individual funding being withdrawn and students forfeiting their position on the programme
 - a. Survey 1 to be completed from 28th February 2023 until 5pm (GMT) 7th March 2023. Please note, if survey 1 is not completed by the specified deadline, students forfeit their position on the programme and a new scholar will be selected in their place
 - b. Survey 2 to be completed from 1st September 2023 until 11.59pm (GMT) 30th September 2023
 - c. Survey 3 to be completed from 2nd September 2024 until 11.59pm (GMT) 30th September 2024
 - d. Survey 4 to be completed from 1st May 2025 until 11.59pm (GMT) 31st May 2025
 - e. Survey 5 to be completed from 3rd November 2025 until 11.59pm (GMT) 28th November 2025

*Students will be provided with 2 months' notice of the events taking place. Santander Universities understands that students may not be able to attend all events, and absence will not impact students receiving their funding.

The selected students will also have the opportunity to take part in additional optional activities, which will be confirmed throughout the 3-year period. The purpose of these activities will be to support individuals' student experience and help to develop their employability skills.

Terms and conditions for the Programme

1. Applications are open for all individuals who meet the criteria as listed in the 'Eligibility criteria' section above.
2. In order to be considered for the Grant, applicants must meet all points listed in the 'Submission criteria' section above.
3. Upon applying, and if successful, applicants confirm that they will adhere to points 5 and 6 in the 'Expectations of the 100 students' section above. If any of the selected students do not meet these points, their funding may be withdrawn, and they may forfeit their position on the programme.
4. Each applicant can only apply to the Grant once.
5. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure they read and understand the eligibility criteria and submit their application appropriately, on time and following the application instructions / requirements as indicated on the Santander Scholarship platform.
6. The Grantor will annually confirm with partner universities (over the three-year period) that the selected students continue to meet the eligibility criteria and that they remain current enrolled students at their university. Should any of the 100 students leave their university during the 3-year period, they will lose all access to existing funds and forfeit their position on the programme. Students must inform Santander Universities that they are leaving/have left their university as soon as possible.
7. The successful applicants will receive a confirmation email (informing them that they won) via the Santander Scholarship platform. Upon receiving this, the winners must confirm their acceptance of the Grant by clicking on the link in the email. Acceptance of the Grant must be provided by 5pm (GMT) on 07/03/2023 through the

Santander Scholarship platform. If any of the selected students do not confirm acceptance of Grant by this deadline, a new winner will be selected by Oxentia following the original process.

8. Once confirmed, the Grantor will share the 100 students' details with JS Group (the third party managing the Santander Aspire webstore). JS Group will create an account for them on the Santander Aspire webstore in order to receive their Grant. We encourage applicants to review JS Group's privacy notice in respect of their personal data processing activities in respect of their platform.
9. The 100 students will receive a total of £30,000 over a 3-year period (£10,000 each academic year).
 - a. Of the £10,000 (for each academic year), £8,500 will be considered an annual bursary. Upon applying to the Grant, students accept and agree to adhere to the following:
 - i. The £8,500 funding will be applied as credit in the [Santander Aspire webstore](#) (administered via JS Group). Students will have the option to spend the Grant directly on the webstore, using the funds as credit to purchase equipment, resources and/or services. Students will be able to spend the Grant value on one or more transactions. If students purchase any item for a higher value than the Grant they have received, students will be responsible for making up the difference. Please note, £1,500 (of the £8,500) must be used as credit for webstore purchases.
 - ii. Alternatively, students can withdraw the Grant as cash into their bank accounts. JS Group will provide a step-by-step guide on how to do this once individuals log into their webstore account.
 - iii. Throughout the 3-year period, students will be able to spend a maximum of £2,000 per month. This is inclusive of purchases via the webstore and cash withdrawals. Please note that these spending limits are subject to Santander's discretion and may be changed.
 - iv. If students choose to withdraw the Grant as cash, they:
 1. Will only be able to make a maximum of two cash withdrawals per month, totalling no more than £2,000
 2. Must withdraw the funds into a UK bank account only
 3. Must provide a reason for withdrawal. Students will be able to select an option from a pre-prepared drop-down list on the Santander Aspire webstore
 - b. Of the £10,000 (for each academic year), the remaining £1,500 will be considered a personal development grant. Upon applying to the Grant, students accept and agree to adhere to the following:
 - i. The £1,500 funding will be administered via the students' user accounts on the Santander Aspire webstore. This will sit in a separate pot to the £8,500.
 - ii. Students must allocate this funding to activities which support their personal development. Activities include but are not limited to:
 1. Paid internship
 2. Paid work experience
 3. Paid volunteering
 4. Travel experience
 5. Professional development course fees
 - iii. Students will need to engage with their Santander Universities Relationship Manager (via email and/or video call) in order to gain approval for withdrawal of these funds. This will require students to provide further information and detail on the proposed personal development opportunity (captured and shared via email). Santander Universities Relationship Managers will be responsible for reviewing the proposal and providing final approval. Only once this has taken place can the funds be withdrawn.
 - iv. Once approval has been confirmed, and upon withdrawal, students will need to select a reason for withdrawal from a pre-prepared drop-down list on the Santander Aspire webstore.
 - v. Throughout the 3-year period, students will only be able to make a maximum of two cash withdrawals each academic year.
10. The 100 students must spend the funds within the following timelines:
 - a. Year 1 (2022/2023 academic year) – £10,000 administered on 20th March 2023, to be spent by 11.59pm (GMT) 30th September 2023

- b. Year 2 (2023/2024 academic year) – £10,000 administered on 2nd October 2023, to be spent by 11.59pm (GMT) 30th September 2024
 - c. Year 3 (2024/2025 academic year) – £10,000 administered on 7th October 2024, to be spent by 11.59pm (GMT) 31st August 2025
11. If students do not spend the full £10,000 within the timelines outlined in point 10 above, they forfeit the funds and lose access to any remaining balance for that academic year.
 12. The winners' surname and country will be available on request after 28/02/2023 for 30 days. The winners' information and winning entries (if applicable) must be provided to the Advertising Standards Authority on request in the event of a dispute. Please contact santander.universities@santander.co.uk to obtain these.

General terms

1. The Grantor reserves the right to withdraw any application to the Grant that is found to be in breach of any of the pre-established conditions and / or rules laid out in the Term and Conditions.
2. The Grantor reserves the right to update or amend these Terms and Conditions or foreclose the Grant without prior notice at any time.
3. The Grantor 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 Grant and these Terms and Conditions are governed by English law and any disputes will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England.
5. To the fullest extent permitted by law and excluding death or permanent injury caused as a result of the Grantor's negligence, the Grantor accepts no liability for loss or injury as a result of the Grant or receipt or misuse of any prize fund.
6. No cash or other alternatives to the Grant will be offered and the Grant is not transferable.
7. The Grantor accepts no responsibility for applications lost, damaged or delayed in transit.
8. The decision of the Grantor is final, and no other correspondence will be entered into.
9. The Grant will be provided by the Grantor.
10. The Grantor may disclose any information related to the applicants (i) to any person as required or requested by law/regulation, to any regulatory or supervisory body, or in connection with any claim, dispute or legal proceedings; (ii) to any partner business or partner university or other UK university in connection with the Grant; (iii) to our affiliates, in connection with the Grant.

Please be advised that the Grantor will notify the applicant's associated university of their participation and (if applicable) success in the Grant. If requested by a partner university, and if consent by the applicant is provided, the Grantor will also inform partner universities which students from their university have applied for the Grant (whether or not such applicants are successful).

Winners of the Grant may be invited by Santander Universities or by the relevant applicant's university to provide a testimonial or case study. Please note, we will not publish a testimonial or a case study without the relevant student's permission.

Data protection

For information on how Santander Universities processes applicants' personal data, please read the Santander Universities privacy notice in the link below. Expand the 'Santander Universities Scholars Programme' accordion after accessing the following link:

<https://www.santander.co.uk/universities/events>

The Santander Universities privacy notice is also available to download and read from the application landing page.

As part of the Grant, winners will be enrolled by JS Group onto the Santander Aspire webstore, which is owned and managed by JS Group. We encourage you to review JS Group's privacy notice.

[JS Group privacy policy](#)

Santander Universities 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