

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Masters Scholarships

Application guidance notes

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About the Birmingham Masters Scholarship Scheme

For 2015 entry the University has 224 new £10,000 scholarships available for Masters students from under-represented groups. These scholarships have been jointly funded by the British Government; the allocation of the awards, which is the fourth highest in the UK, further cements Birmingham's place amongst the very best higher education institutions for postgraduate study.

Eligibility criteria:

The Birmingham Masters Scholarships will be available to students:

- **Domiciled in the UK or EU**
Students recorded as Home or EU for fee-status purposes are eligible, provided that they meet the other eligibility criteria.
- **Progressing from an undergraduate course for which they were charged the higher tuition fee (applicable since 2012–13)**
To be eligible you must have attended a UK university at which you paid a tuition fee of £9,000 per year. Students who already hold a Masters degree are not eligible.
- **Studying full time or part time for a maximum of two years**
A standard taught Masters course lasts one year if taken on a full-time basis, or two years if taken part time. Full-time courses that last two years are eligible. Any course that lasts longer than two years is not eligible for the funding.
- **Undertaking a Masters course in an eligible subject (exclusions include Nursing and teacher training)**
All taught Masters courses that are not already part funded by the Government are eligible for the awards.
- **From a group that is evidentially under represented among the institution's taught-Masters population**
See the 'Under-represented student criteria' section below.

Awards will then be allocated on the basis of merit – simply meeting the criteria will not guarantee that your application is successful.

Under-represented student criteria:

a) Did you attend a state school or college?

Did you attend a state, non-fee-paying school or college for your A-Levels? If yes, please specify the name and location of the school or college.

b) Are you a UK student in receipt of a maintenance grant from the Student Loan Company (SLC) at undergraduate level, in receipt of a means-tested bursary or currently in receipt of income support? Please upload evidence below.

Please tick 'Yes' if you received a maintenance grant from the SLC during your undergraduate studies, or if you received a means-tested bursary from your university, or if you receive income support (Job Seekers Allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Universal Credit, etc.).

If you have ticked 'Yes', please upload evidence to demonstrate this fact. This might include a letter from Student Finance England confirming the maintenance grant, a copy of your Student Finance Breakdown, a letter from your university confirming the bursary, or official documentation proving that you receive income support.

c) Have you previously participated in the University of Birmingham Access to Birmingham Scheme (A2B), Realising Opportunities or a similar outreach or widening participation programme through another university?

Please tick 'Yes' if you participated in an outreach scheme at undergraduate level such as Access to Birmingham (A2B) or Realising Opportunities at Birmingham or a similar scheme at another university. If you have ticked 'Yes', please give the name of the scheme, and of the university if not Birmingham.

d) Did you enter university at undergraduate level from a care background?

Please tick 'Yes' if you have ever been in local authority care or supported by the Foyer Federation. If so, please upload evidence to demonstrate this fact, such as a letter from your local authority, or a letter from your previous university confirming that you received a Care Leavers or Foyer Bursary.

e) Have you received Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) as an undergraduate student or are you registered disabled?

Please tick 'Yes' if you received DSA during your undergraduate degree or if you are registered disabled. If so, please upload evidence of this, such as your DSA report or a letter confirming your DSA award, or an official document confirming that you receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

f) Do you come from a home in which neither parent attended university (in the UK or abroad)?

Please tick 'Yes' if neither of your parents have completed a Bachelors-level degree at a university or any other higher education institution.

g) Please provide your home postcode at the time that you were studying for your A-levels (or equivalent)

This will be used to determine whether your address is in a neighbourhood that has a low progression rate to higher education as measured by the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Participation of Local Areas (POLAR3) classification (quintiles 1 and 2).

Frequently asked questions

Please see the Higher Education Funding Council for England's FAQ page here:

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/crosscutting/pg/pss/faqs/>

Application process

Round 1 deadline: 23:59 BST, 31 March 2015

To be considered for an award, applicants must, by the 31 March deadline, have:

- Made an application to their intended Masters programme. Please apply through the relevant programme page on the Course finder section of the University of Birmingham website (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/listing.aspx>).

AND

- Completed the Birmingham Masters Scholarship application form (https://uobasops.formstack.com/forms/birmingham_masters_scholarships). Applicants should enter the application ID number that they were given during the application to the Masters programme.

Selection process

Round 1 applications will be assessed by mid-April 2015, and all applicants will be informed by email whether they have been successful or not.

Candidates who are selected for the awards will be asked to accept/decline the award by a given deadline. If a successful candidate fails to respond by the given deadline or declines the offer, their award will automatically be transferred to a reserve candidate who is next in line for the award.

Contact us

Postgraduate Recruitment team

pg@contacts.bham.ac.uk

General enquiries

Admissions Office

admissions@bham.ac.uk

Postgraduate Enquiry Service

Web: <http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24>

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5005

Website

Information on the Birmingham Masters Scholarship Scheme can be found at:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/Birmingham-Masters-Scholarship-Scheme.aspx>