



## UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

### AI and Data Science Conversion Masters Scholarships

Academic year 2023-2024

#### Terms and Conditions

The 120 individual awards, that are cash payments worth £10,000 each, are part of £8.1 million funding from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and Office for Artificial Intelligence to encourage more women, Black students, disabled students, and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to study artificial intelligence (“AI”) and data science postgraduate programmes.

If your application is successful, all offers are based upon the terms and conditions of the scholarship and further eligibility checks will be undertaken. All offers are made upon the assumption that any and all information you submit is truthful and accurate; the scholarship can and will be revoked if you are found to be in violation of the scholarship's terms and conditions at any point.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be eligible for the AI and Data Science Conversion Masters Scholarship, you **must meet all of the following criteria**:

1. Applicants must have submitted an application for a place on a University of Birmingham Data Science- or AI-related Masters conversion course, commencing in the 2023 academic cycle.
  - a. Eligible courses include the full- or part-time studying of:
    - i. MSc Bioinformatics
    - ii. Online MSc Bioinformatics
    - iii. MSc Computer Science
    - iv. MSc Data Science
    - v. MSc Financial Technology
    - vi. MSc Health Data Science
    - vii. MSc Responsible Data Science
2. Applicants must have UK nationality or residence status and be classified as ‘Home fee status’ for tuition fee payment prior to the commencement of the applicant’s course start date that is outlined in their offer letter.
3. Applicants must have **not** previously studied a STEM degree or STEM-related degree, at either undergraduate or postgraduate level, as outlined in condition 3a, prior to their enrolment onto one of eligible Masters conversion courses at the University of Birmingham.
  - a. Applications will not be considered from students who have previously studied:

- i. STEM degrees, identified as “core-STEM”, including: science, technology, engineering and mathematic subjects such as physics, engineering, mathematics, statistics, IT; **or**
    - ii. STEM-related degrees, identified as “cognate” degrees, such as studying the same broad subject area as one of the above conversion courses including but not limited to: computer science, artificial intelligence (AI) or data science.
  - b. Applications will only be considered from students who have previously studied:
    - i. “far-STEM” degrees: other STEM subjects, such as biology, geology, psychology, medicine etc.
    - ii. “non-STEM” degrees: any other subject, such as economics, business, the arts etc.
  - c. The University of Birmingham reserves the right to exercise discretion when considering whether applicants have studied one of the above categories: “core-STEM”, “cognate”, “far-STEM” or “non-STEM”.
- 4. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are from at least **one** of the nine under-represented groups as identified by the Office for Students:
  - a. The nine under-represented groups identified are:
    - i. Black students (as defined by HESA codes: 21; 22; 29; 41; 42)
    - ii. Female students
    - iii. Disabled students
    - iv. Students from low participation neighbourhood (POLAR Q1 and Q2)
    - v. Care experienced students
    - vi. Estranged students
    - vii. Gypsy, Roma, Traveller students
    - viii. Refugees
    - ix. Children from military families, veterans and partners of military personnel.
  - b. Of all the under-represented groups listed in 4a, priority will be given to applicants identified as Black, Female, or Disabled.
  - c. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are classified as one of the above under-represented groups, as per the criteria identified by the Office for Students, outlined in the below table. All scholarship offers are conditional until sufficient evidence has been provided after the scholarship is offered to the applicant; no payment will be made until evidence has been provided and failure to produce evidence, within a timeframe stated in the scholarship offer email, may result in the withdrawal of the scholarship offer.
- 5. Applicants must self-funding or applying for a Postgraduate Government Loan to pay your fees and **not** in receipt of any other financial support including but not limited to scholarships, awards, bursaries, sponsorship or any other funding.
- 6. Successful awardees of this scholarship who do not meet the standard entry requirements for their chosen course, out of the eligible courses outlined in 1a, will be required to attend and successfully pass a Maths Pre-Sessional Bootcamp taking place between 29 August – 22 September 2023. If you do not meet the attendance requirement nor a 50% pass grade on the Maths Pre-sessional Bootcamp, your scholarship offer will be withdrawn. Progression onto the MSc course will also be revoked if this condition is not met. Further details

regarding the Maths pre-sessional bootcamp are available here:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/fees-funding/ofs-scholarship/maths-bootcamp>

- a. Upon successful completion of the Maths Pre-sessional Bootcamp, successful awardees will be issued with a study offer to progress onto their chosen MSc course. Failure to meet the attendance and 50% pass requirements will result in the withdrawal of this study offer for the chosen MSc course.
- b. Successful awardees who meet the standard entry requirements for their chosen course can choose to attend the Maths Pre-sessional Bootcamp although this is not a requirement.

## Eligibility Definitions

|   | Under-represented Group             | Eligibility Specification  | Demonstrable Evidence  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Black                               | In line with the <a href="#">HESA student ethnicity codes 2018/19</a> :<br>21 - Black or Black British - Caribbean<br>22 - Black or Black British - African<br>29 - Other Black background<br>41 - Mixed - White and Black Caribbean<br>42 - Mixed - White and Black African   | To evidence, ethnicity data will be collected on the scholarship application form and verified against the personal data recorded at course application. |
| 2 | Female                              | Applicants who are 'female or identify as female' gender.  | To evidence, data will be collected on the scholarship application form and verified against the personal data recorded at course application.           |
| 3 | Disabled                            | You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. 'Substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed. 'Long-term' means 12 months or more, e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection. There are special rules about recurring or fluctuating conditions, e.g. arthritis. | To evidence, data will be collected on the scholarship application form and verified by Student Disability Services.                                     |
| 4 | Student from postcode areas Q1 & Q2 | Postcodes classified as 'POLAR 4, Quintile 1 and 2' by the Office for Students as 'those wards with the lowest participation for entering Higher Education'.   | To evidence, 'Low Participation Neighbourhoods (POLAR 4, QUINTILE 1 and 2)' residential postcode data will be collected on the scholarship application   |

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|   |                        | <a href="#">Check to see if your area is in quintile 1 or 2 (Q1 or Q2)</a>   | form and verified by the University.  |
| 5 | Care experienced       | A care experienced person is someone who has spent time in care during their childhood.  | Proof of care leaver status in the form of written documentation from the student's local authority (corporate parent) will be required.  |
| 6 | Estranged              | An irreconcilably estranged person is someone who has not had any verbal or written contact with their parents for a significant period of time, and this is unlikely to change. This can include your biological or adoptive parents, or your only living parent. A significant period of time is usually considered to be twelve months or longer, but this can also depend on your circumstances.   | Proof of estranged status through a professional in the community i.e. doctor, teacher, will be required before any payment can be made. Applicants over the age of 21 will be required to provide evidence of prior estrangement.  |
| 7 | Gypsy, Roma, Traveller | 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. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English or Welsh Romany Gypsies</li> <li>• European Roma</li> <li>• Irish Travellers</li> <li>• Scottish Gypsy Travellers</li> <li>• show people such as people linked with fairground or circus professions</li> <li>• people living on barges or other boats</li> <li>• people living in settled (bricks and mortar) accommodation</li> <li>• New Age Travellers</li> </ul> | To evidence Gypsy Traveller, data will be collected on the scholarship application form and verified against the personal data recorded at course application.  |
| 8 | Refugee                | The definition of a Refugee as defined on the UKCISA website is: (a) you must be ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of your course; and (b) you must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have been recognised as a refugee by the UK Government and have remained ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands since then;</li> <li>• Or be the spouse/ civil partner of such a refugee and have been in that relationship on the date on which he/she made his/her application for asylum;</li> </ul>  | Applicants must be able to verify their immigration status and are required to provide evidence in the form of a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)</li> <li>• Home office letter confirming immigration status</li> <li>• Passport with vignettes</li> <li>• Application registration card (asylum)</li> </ul> |

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Or be the child of such a refugee, or the child of such a refugee's spouse / civil partner, and be able to show that on the date that refugee made his/her application for asylum, you were: under 18 years of age; and the refugee was your parent, or your parent's spouse / civil partner</li> </ul> |  |
| 9 | Child from UK Military family, veterans or partner of UK Military personnel | From a military family, where immediate family member (partner, child, sibling) is or was part of the UK military/ military personnel/a veteran.   | To evidence UK Military family, data will be collected on the scholarship application form and additional written documentation from the appropriate UK military body may be required. |

7. All applications must be submitted before the application **deadline of 23:59 (UK Time) on 31 July 2023**, with the exception of applicants holding a conditional or unconditional offer for MSc Bioinformatics (Online), who must apply according to the below deadlines in accordance with the applicant's course start date:
  - a. June 2023 Intake - **19 May 2023 deadline**
  - b. October 2023 Intake - **15 September 2023 deadline**
  - c. February 2024 Intake - **19 January 2024 deadline**
8. Applicants who do not meet **all of the above criteria** will **not** be considered for a scholarship.

## Judging Criteria

1. Only applications that meet all of the Eligibility Criteria will be considered.
2. Applications submitted after the deadlines outlined in section 5 of the Eligibility Criteria will not be considered.
3. The awards will be allocated on the basis of merit – simply meeting the eligibility criteria will not guarantee that an application is successful. We will adopt a gathered field approach where decisions on the final allocation of all 120 awards will be considered by a scholarship selection panel.
4. Selection will be determined by a University scholarship panel based on the following criteria:
  - a. Under-represented group score - All applications will be assessed using a points-based system and priority scoring will be given to criteria.
  - b. Academic achievement, aptitude and skills - Scholarships will consider performance in previous studies. An aptitude test may be offered. Learners will be ranked by the Scholarship Panel based on performance.
  - c. Student motivation - Based upon the personal statement submitted, the panel will consider the student's interest in the subject, ability to demonstrate that their background has sufficiently prepared them for the programme, relevant academic, professional, and extra-curricular activities, alongside any relevant experience and how the course will fit into their future plans.

5. In the case of oversubscription, scoring will prioritise:
  - a. Students who are identified within two or more under-represented groups as outlined in Eligibility Criteria 4.
  - b. Black students based on the rationale that they are just 5% of new Postgraduate taught entrants in within University of Birmingham and are under-represented in highly-skilled employment: 426 new entrants in academic year 2022/2023; the largest distinction attainment gap of all ethnicities of 23.4% in 2020/2021; and lower non-completion rate than White or Mixed individuals.
  - c. Female students based on the rationale that they are under-represented in the technology sector although females are still the majority of new Postgraduate Taught entrants within the student body at University of Birmingham.
  - d. Disabled students based on the rationale that they are the second most under-represented group within University of Birmingham with 501 new entrants in academic year 2022/2023 and are under-represented in highly-skilled employment.

## **Payment of the Scholarship**

As outlined in 4c of the Eligibility Criteria, payment will only be made once sufficient evidence has been provided to verify applicant's status as a part of their under-represented group. Once all evidence has been verified, the scholarship will be paid in two instalments:

- 50% will be paid upon enrolment and the student has completed online registration;
- The remaining 50% will be paid in Semester 2.

All payments are subject to the termination conditions outlined below.

## **Termination**

In any of the circumstances set out below the AI and Data Science Conversion Scholarship will be withdrawn and you will receive no (or no further) payments from the University:

1. If you permanently leave the University due to illness (whether or not following a Leave of Absence under the University's Code of Practice on Leave of Absence procedures);
2. If you leave the University voluntarily for reasons other than illness;
3. If you are required to withdraw from the University due to disciplinary or fitness to practise proceedings;
4. If you fail to complete satisfactorily the requirements of your programme.

The University reserves the right to demand the repayment of any instalment or instalments (or part thereof) of the AI and Data Science Conversion Scholarship paid to you in conditions 2 or 3 set out above.

## **Leave of Absence**

In the event that you take, or are required to take, a Leave of Absence during the academic year any AI and Data Science Conversion Scholarship payments still due will be suspended until you return from your Leave of Absence and re-register as a normally registered student with the University.

Upon re-registering you will be paid the balance of any instalments due from the academic year when the Leave of Absence was taken.

If you fail to return to the University after a Leave of Absence then the AI and Data Science Conversion Scholarship will be terminated and you will receive no (or no further) payments from the University, as outlined above.