

Undergraduate Tuition Fee Grants - Regulations

Background

The scheme derives from the intention of the Trust's Founder, Andrew Carnegie, "to render attendance at the Universities of Scotland and the enjoyment of their advantages more available to the deserving and qualified youth of Scotland to whom the payment of fees might act as a barrier".

The scheme aims to support students who do not receive government funding towards the costs of their tuition fees. Applicants must demonstrate that their financial circumstances will hinder access to their chosen course of study when making a request for funding to the Carnegie Trust.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. When deciding on an application the Trust employs a holistic approach that considers, in addition to the student's financial situation, their personal circumstances, previous study and motivations for undertaking their current degree course.

To be considered for support, the eligibility criteria listed below must be met.

Criteria for support

A. Course eligibility

1. Application can be made **only** in respect of study at one of the following **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Scotland**: University of Aberdeen, Abertay University, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, University of Glasgow, The Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow Caledonian University, Heriot-Watt University, University of the Highlands and Islands, Queen Margaret University, Robert Gordon University, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, University of St Andrews, University of Stirling, University of Strathclyde, University of the West of Scotland or Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).
2. Students enrolled on a course validated by one of the above institutions but delivered at a different HEIs institution located in Scotland are also eligible for support.
3. No restriction is placed on the subject or mode of study, and students can be enrolled on, or hold an unconditional offer to study for, a **full-time, part-time, or distance learning undergraduate degree course** offered by one of the above listed Scottish institutions.
4. In all cases, courses of study acceptable for Trust support must be directly connected with the acquisition of a **first** degree from an eligible HEI. Access courses, postgraduate qualifications, and sub-degree qualifications are not supported. See Section C for information on funding for eligible 2nd undergraduate degrees.

B. Applicant eligibility

5. At the time of applying, applicants must:
 - a. have **at least two full years of secondary education in Scotland** (two years of full-time college education is also acceptable)
 - OR
 - b. be able to demonstrate (to the Trustees satisfaction) **a substantial connection with Scotland** on the basis of factors such as residency, education (excluding university level education) family or working life.

Applicants wishing to be considered on the latter basis should contact the Trust in the first instance.
6. Applicants must **not be eligible** for support towards the cost of fees from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) or any other public body such as Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales or Student Finance Northern Ireland, US Federal Loans or Canadian Loans etc.
7. Part-time students, who **only** receive tuition fee support from SAAS and are **not eligible** for any grants, bursaries or loans from SAAS, their employer or a university scheme, may apply if the amount awarded by SAAS is less than the total amount of fees payable.
8. At the time of applying applicants must be **ordinarily resident in Scotland** and continue to be so for the duration of

their course (excluding any years abroad that comprise part of the curriculum).

9. The scheme is open to students who are not UK nationals. In such cases, applicants must either:
 - a. be entitled to remain indefinitely in the UK, **OR**
 - b. if an immigrant with Limited Leave to Remain, hold a visa that is valid for the entire duration of their course; **OR**
 - c. be an asylum seeker.

C. Funding for a 2nd degree

10. The Trust will consider applications from students who meet the general eligibility criteria of the undergraduate tuition fee grant scheme **AND** also meet **ALL** of the following criteria. 2nd degree applicants must:
 - a. have completed their first degree at least two years before the start of their new course.
 - b. enter the first year of their course in academic year 2026-27 (**Note:** Students enrolled on an Allied Health Professional Course as a second degree and whose SAAS funding ends in year 2 of their course should contact the Trust to discuss eligibility).
 - c. have been unable to gain employment in the subject area of their previous degree, are unemployed, have been made redundant or are facing redundancy.
 - d. wish to reskill in a different field of study, unrelated to their previous qualifications (whether at undergraduate, postgraduate or vocational level) and recognised as being in a skills shortage area for the Scottish economy. Eligible undergraduate degree courses are (listed by subject area):
 - i. **Medicine and health:** medicine; dentistry; nursing; midwifery; medical and diagnostic radiography; paramedic science; speech and language therapy; occupational therapy; psychology (BSc); veterinary science
 - ii. **Social work**
 - iii. **IT & Computing:** software development and engineering; web design, cyber security; big data analysis
 - iv. **Engineering and architecture:** civil, mechanical and electrical engineering; chemical and production engineering; building engineering, quantity surveying and architecture
 - v. **Quantitative sciences:** economics, actuarial science, statistics
 - vi. **Geosciences:** geology; geochemistry; geophysics; hydrology
 - vii. **Biosciences:** biology; biochemistry
 - viii. **Cultural and creative studies:** performing arts; arts, culture and heritage studies, specifically management and enterprise studies in the heritage, creative and performing art sectors.
11. In considering applications, the Trust will take into account, in addition to evidence of eligibility, the following:
 - a. previous qualifications (whether vocational, undergraduate or postgraduate).
 - b. length of time since previous qualification was obtained.
 - c. current circumstances of the individual and motivation for returning to university.

D. Type and level of award made

12. Applications must be made only in respect of **undergraduate tuition fees** and requests for maintenance costs cannot be considered.
13. The Trust is only able to offer tuition fee grants up to a **maximum value of £1,820** (equivalent to the Scottish Home fee rate). Any student charged tuition fees exceeding the Home fee rate will be asked to demonstrate that they have the financial means to cover the remaining fee amount.
14. Applications will be subject to a **financial means test** (indicative thresholds for support can be found in the Annex below).
15. Successful applicants may receive **either** the full fees for the relevant year of study **or** such part thereof as may appear appropriate to the Trust, having regard to all the circumstances disclosed in the application.
16. All awards provided by the Trust are in the form of grants, paid directly to the recipient's university.

January 2026

Annex: Indicative Thresholds for Support

Household	Dependents	Indicative Income Thresholds
Single person household	No children	£30,000
	1 child	£35,000
	2 children	£40,000
	3 children	£45,000
	Per additional child	£5,000 per additional child
Couple	No children	£35,000
	1 child	£40,000
	2 children	£45,000
	3 children	£50,000
	Per additional child	£5,000 per additional child

Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. When deciding on an application and determining the level of award for successful applicants, the Trust will consider, in addition to income, other extenuating circumstances such as any long-term illness suffered by the main earner, disabilities, having been in local authority care, coming from a single parent family, redundancy, etc. The Trust may request additional evidence supporting these extenuating circumstances.