

Home and EU student Scholarships Policy for Aston University students whose year of entry is 2018/19 only

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UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Aston University reviews its portfolio of scholarships on an annual basis. Scholarships offered for one entry cohort may not be offered for following cohorts. The Terms and Conditions of specific scholarships may differ dependent on the year of first offering.

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 This section of the document outlines the eligibility and assessment criteria for students to receive scholarships from Aston University as part of the Higher Education funding arrangements for students starting undergraduate degree programmes in 2018/19. This policy is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

2. General Provisions

2.1 A student qualifies to be considered for an Aston Scholarship if:

- (a) the student will start a new full time undergraduate degree programme at Aston University between 1st September 2018 and the 31st August 2019.
- (b) the student will be liable to pay the full time Year 1 and Placement Undergraduate tuition fees confirmed for that academic year. These fee amounts are subject to inflationary increases in line with government policy.
- (c) the student is not a resident of the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man (unless the student is entitled to benefit from European Community provisions relating to employment or establishment and is in receipt of UK student support funding as a home or EU student).
- (d) the student qualifies to receive student support funding as part of the finance arrangements for new students starting their degree programmes between 1st September 2018 the 31st August 2019.

2.2 A student who is awarded a scholarship will be eligible to receive that scholarship in line with the conditions that applied in their original year of entry irrespective of subsequent transfers or suspension of studies.

2.3 The household income thresholds used to assess eligibility for the award of a scholarship approved on household income will be reviewed once in the academic year where a student enters stage 1 of a programme of study.

2.4 A student will not be entitled to receive a scholarship in any academic year for which they do not have to pay tuition fees.

2.5 With the exception of a placement year, a student will only be eligible to be considered for an Aston Scholarship approved on household income for an academic year if they have made an application to be income assessed for the same year by Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Finance Services.

2.6 A student who has their fees paid by a sponsor will not be eligible for an Aston Scholarship¹.

2.7 A student will not be eligible to receive a scholarship in full or in part if they are, at the time when payment is due to be made to them, considered by the University to be in academic debt². For the purposes of this policy a student will be considered to be in academic debt to the University if they have received the third notice that a payment is overdue.

3. Approving and awarding

3.1 Students will only be approved for Aston Scholarships once in an academic year. Scholarship entitlement will normally be determined by the 30th November 2018 using the information that is available to Aston University at that time. Any scholarship assessments which cannot be considered at the end of November because the required information is not yet available will be reviewed on a monthly basis until all relevant information has been received and the student's scholarship entitlement can be determined. It is not normally possible to consider a student for an award of an Aston Scholarship after 30th May of the academic year in question.

3.2 Students do not need to apply to be considered for a scholarship because Aston University will use UCAS data, household income information provided by the Student Loans Company and information held on University records for placement years, to determine awards.

3.3 Students who are eligible for one or more of the Aston Scholarships will receive communications concerning their award/s through My Aston Portal (MAP).

3.4 Students who are eligible for one or more of the Aston Scholarships or the Aston Scholarship Programme will be required to confirm the format they wish that scholarship to take, in line with the choices offered in the first term of each academic year. This confirmation of choice will be final and will not be amended.

3.5 The Student Loans Company charges interest on tuition fee loans at a daily rate from the date payments are made to universities. Aston University cannot accept any responsibility for interest applied to tuition fee loans by the Student Loans Company.

3.6 Eligibility for a scholarship approved on household income will be determined on the basis of information provided by the Student Loans Company once the student has been fully enrolled on the degree programme. Aston University aims to consider scholarships based on household income within eight weeks of receiving household income information from the Student Loans Company. Any student who is approved for an income-based scholarship will be notified via MAP. The University will notify the Student Loans Company about fee discounts and changes in tuition fee liability.

¹ For the purposes of this policy a sponsor is an external organisation, not a family member nor the Student Loans Company.

² As defined in the Aston Finance Sanctions Policy

3.7 Eligibility for a scholarship during a placement year will be approved on the basis of information held on University records about previous scholarship approvals and placement details. Approvals of scholarships for placement years will be communicated to students via MAP usually by the end of term one of that academic year³. The University will notify the Student Loans Company about any fee discounts and changes in tuition fee liability.

3.8 Where a student has a choice to take their scholarship in the form of tuition fee discount and has taken out a tuition fee loan from the Student Loans Company, the University is required to notify the Student Loans Company of any changes in a student's tuition fee liability. If a student has taken out the maximum tuition fee loan available to pay their tuition fee in full, their maximum tuition fee loan entitlement and payments should be adjusted accordingly by the Student Loans Company. If a student has only taken a partial tuition fee loan to pay part of their tuition fees, the student will need to contact the Student Loans Company to adjust the amount of loan they wish to borrow.

3.9 For Aston Scholarships where eligible students are given a choice of award, students must make their choices by the deadline that will be published on MAP.

3.10 For Aston Scholarships where eligible students are given a choice of award and they have selected payment directly into their bank account, students must provide their bank account details when asked to by the published deadline on MAP.

3.11 For Aston Scholarships where eligible students are given a choice of award and a student does not make a choice by the published deadline, the award will default to a tuition fee discount. Students must provide their bank account details when asked to by the published deadline on MAP, if the student does not provide these by the published deadline, the award will default to a tuition fee discount.

3.12 Aston Scholarships will normally only be available to students who have been in attendance, as defined by the University throughout term one and term two and are still in attendance at the start of term three. Students who withdraw from Aston University part way through an academic year will not be eligible to receive a scholarship in respect of that year. Any Aston Scholarship applied to the student for that academic year will be revoked and the full cost for that period will be recovered.

3.13 Students who have been assessed as eligible for a Placement Scholarship but whose eligibility changes after the award has been confirmed for reasons other than income related, may have their award amended on a pro-rata basis to reflect the period of time that the eligibility was in place. Students will be liable to repay any overpayment of the award that may result from this.

3.14 Students who are repeating their studies are not eligible for scholarships regardless of whether they are repeating with attendance, without attendance, or with partial attendance.

3.15 Where a student suspends their studies and takes a Leave of Absence for a complete academic year, no tuition fee is charged and, therefore, the student will not be eligible to receive a scholarship.

³ The academic year is defined in the Glossary

3.16 Students who suspend their studies part way through an academic year will be eligible to receive a scholarship for the academic terms they have completed in full. Students who suspend their studies and return from a suspension of studies part way through an academic year will only be eligible to receive a scholarship for the terms they will complete in full. The amount of scholarship will be approved on a pro rata basis and in line with Aston University's Tuition Fees Charging Policy for that academic year.

4. Eligibility criteria for Aston University Undergraduate Scholarships

Aston University offers two scholarship packages. The first scholarship package is approved on the basis of academic excellence or placement details. The second scholarship package is approved based on other criteria as defined in the details.

Scholarships that are approved on the basis of academic excellence or placement details

4.1 Aston Excellence Scholarship

4.1.1 A student is eligible to receive an Aston Excellence Scholarship if:

- (a) at enrolment the student meets the general provisions outlined in paragraph 2.1 and
- (b) prior to enrolment the student has achieved grades AAB+ in their A levels (or equivalent qualifications as outlined in Appendix A). The grades refer to the student's highest qualifications, not their entry qualifications.

4.1.2 A student who is awarded an Aston Excellence Scholarship will be eligible when they enter stage 1⁴ of a programme of study to receive:

- (a) a payment of £500, paid in two equal instalments of £250 into their bank account in the second and third terms.

4.1.3 Eligibility for an Aston Scholarship based on achievement will normally be approved on the basis of information provided by UCAS. Eligibility for Aston Scholarships based on achievement will be communicated to students by Aston University and will normally be confirmed by the end of November 2018. Information will be available through the student homepage on MAP. Notification will be sent to the Student Loans Company about fee discounts and changes in tuition fee liability where appropriate by Aston University.

4.2 Aston Placement Scholarship

4.2.1 A student is eligible to receive an Aston Placement Scholarship if:

- (a) the student meets the general provisions outlined in paragraph 2.1, and
- (b) the student is undertaking an unpaid placement for their sandwich placement year, or

⁴ Students who are entering stage 0 of the integrated Foundation Year Programme and meet all the other criteria will receive their scholarship as they enter stage 0. These students will not be eligible for a further Excellence Scholarship in Year 1 of their chosen degree programme.

(c) the student is undertaking a work or study placement overseas, or

(d) the student undertaking the Integrated Masters Programme (MEng/MBiol/MOptom/MPharm/MPhys) integrated placement study year.

4.2.2 A student who is awarded an Aston Placement Scholarship will be eligible to choose between receiving either:

(i) a £1,250 tuition fee discount,

or

(ii) a payment of £1,250, paid in two equal instalments of £625 into their bank account in the second and third terms.

4.2.3 A student can only be awarded one scholarship for the placement year so students cannot receive any other Scholarship awards for this specific year.

Other Aston Scholarships

4.3 Aston Care Leavers Scholarship

The Aston Care Leavers Scholarship is targeted at:

- UK domiciled students who have identified that they are a care leaver⁵ at pre-enrolment.

4.3.1 A student is eligible to receive an Aston Care Leavers Scholarship if:

(a) the student meets the general provisions outlined in paragraph 2.1, and

(b) the student is regarded as a “home student” for fee purposes and

(c) has identified that they are a care leaver at pre-enrolment and has provided a standard letter on headed paper from their local authority personal/advisor/social worker, confirming which category of care leaver they fall into. This letter is to be provided by the deadline which will be published on MAP.

4.3.2 A student who is awarded an Aston Care Leavers Scholarship will be eligible when they enter stage 1⁶ of a programme of study to receive:

- (i) a payment of £1250, paid in two equal instalments of £625 into their bank account in the second and third terms for each year they are enrolled on their programme of study including the placement year.

⁵ For the purposes of this policy a care leaver has identified this at pre-enrolment and is defined as “If you were looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and were in the care of the local authority and/or a health and social care trust on your 16th birthday”

⁶ Students who are entering stage 0 of the integrated Foundation Year Programme and meet all the other criteria will receive their scholarship as they enter stage 0. These students will not be eligible for a further Excellence Scholarship in Year 1 of their chosen degree programme.

In their subsequent Placement Year⁷ they can choose to receive this payment as:

(b) either:

i) a £1,250 tuition fee discount,

or

(ii) a payment of £1,250, paid in two equal instalments of £625 into their bank account in the second and third terms.

4.3.3 A student can only be eligible for one scholarship award for the placement year.

4.4 Aston Aspire Placement Scholarship

The Aston Aspire Placement Scholarship is targeted at UK domiciled students who have been assessed by Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Finance Services to have a household income up to and including £18,000 and are undertaking a placement year.

4.4.1 A student is eligible to receive an Aston Aspire Placement Scholarship if:

(a) the student meets the general provisions outlined in paragraph 2.1, and

(b) the student is regarded as a “home student” for fee purposes and

(c) the student has currently been assessed by either Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Finance Services to have a household income of up to and including £18,000.

(d) the student is undertaking a sandwich placement year, or

(e) the student undertaking the Integrated Masters Programme (MEng/MBiol/MOptom/MPharm/MPhys/MBCHB) integrated placement study year

4.4.2 A student who is awarded an Aston Aspire Placement Scholarship will be eligible to choose in their Placement Year⁷ between receiving either:

(i) a £1,250 tuition fee discount,

or

(ii) a payment of £1,250, paid in two equal instalments of £625 into their bank account in the second and third terms.

4.4.3 A student can only be awarded one scholarship for the placement year so students cannot receive any other Scholarship awards for this specific year.

⁷ This includes students on the MEng/MBiol/MOptom courses with an integrated placement study year

Appendix A Qualifications and Grades that qualify for the Aston Excellence Scholarship for 2018/19 entry.

UK and EU undergraduate students starting degree programmes in 2018/19 holding one of the following qualifications or combinations of qualifications and grades will be eligible to be considered for an Aston Excellence Scholarship.

Students do not have to apply separately for the Aston Excellence Scholarship. Eligibility is normally confirmed via the UCAS process on publication of results and on enrolment at Aston University.

Aston University is not able to consider other alternative qualifications or combinations of qualifications or grades for the Aston Excellence Scholarship but does admit and make offers to students who have lower or different qualifications. The qualifications listed below do not guarantee entry to Aston University as our requirements may include particular grades in specific subjects.

Other Aston scholarships may be available to Aston students in 2018 entry including scholarships based on household income and placement year/year abroad.

www.aston.ac.uk/scholarships

Acceptable grade/qualification combinations are:

Qualifications	Grades
<p>A-levels (best 3 grades)</p> <p>A Double Award A-level counts as two single awards at the grade awarded.</p>	<p>A*, A*, A*</p> <p>A*, A*, A</p> <p>A*, A, A</p> <p>A*, A*, B</p> <p>A, A, A</p> <p>A*, A, B</p> <p>A*, A*, C</p> <p>A, A, B</p> <p>A*, A*, D</p> <p>A*, A, C</p> <p>A*, B, B</p>

Qualifications	Grades
<p>Level 3 BTEC Nationals (QCF/RQF) <i>from the suite of qualifications that include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x BTEC National Extended Diploma (RQF) • 1 x BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF) • 3 x BTEC Subsidiary Diplomas(QCF) • 3 x BTEC National Extended Certificate (RQF) • 1 x BTEC Diploma (QCF) +1 x subsidiary diploma (QCF) • 1 x BTEC Diploma (QCF) + 1 x National Extended Certificate (RQF) • 1 x BTEC National Diploma (RQF) + 1 x subsidiary diploma (QCF) • 1 x BTEC National Diploma (RQF) + 1 x BTEC National Extended Certificate (RQF) 	<p>Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*</p> <p>Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction</p> <p>Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction</p> <p>Distinction, Distinction, Distinction</p>
<p>2 x BTEC 90 Credit Diplomas (QCF)</p>	<p>Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*</p> <p>Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction</p> <p>Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction</p> <p>Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction, Distinction</p> <p>Distinction, Distinction, Distinction, Distinction</p>
<p>2 x BTEC National Foundation Diploma (RQF)</p>	<p>Distinction*, Distinction*</p>

	Distinction*, Distinction Distinction, Distinction
OCR National Extended Diploma	Grade D1
OCR National Diploma + OCR National Certificate	Grade D, Grade D
3 x OCR National Certificates	Grade D, Grade D, Grade D
OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction, Distinction
1 x OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma + 1 x OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma	Distinction*, Distinction* + Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction* + Distinction Distinction*, Distinction + Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction + Distinction Distinction, Distinction + Distinction* Distinction, Distinction + Distinction
3 x OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diplomas	Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction, Distinction
2 x OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Subsidiary Diplomas	Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction*. Distinction, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction, Distinction, Distinction
Progression Diploma	Grade A* Grade A
Scottish Advanced Highers (best 3 grades)	A, A, A A, A, B
International Baccalaureate	Minimum of 32 points, with 6,6,5 in Higher Level Subjects
Irish Leaving Certificates – Higher Level (best 4 grades)	Final Award 2016: A1, A1, A1, A1 A1, A1, A1, A2 A1, A1, A1, B1 First Award 2017: H1, H1, H1, H1 H1, H1, H1, H2

Qualifications	Grades	
3 x Cambridge International Pre-U Certificate OR 2 x Cambridge International Pre-U Certificate and 1 x Global Perspectives and Research Please note the Cambridge International Pre-U Certificate (Short Course) is not acceptable	D1/D2 D1/D2 D1/D2	
	D1/D2 D1/D2 D3	
	D1/D2 D1/D2 M1	
	D1/D2 D1/D2 M2	
	D1/D2 D1/D2 M3	
	D1/D2 D1/D2 P1	
	D1/D2 D3 D3	
	D1/D2 D3 M1	
	D1/D2 D3 M2	
	D1/D2 D3 M3	
	D1/D2 M1 M1	
	D1/D2 M1 M2	
	D3 D3 D3	
	D3 D3 M1	
	D3 D3 M2	
D3 M1 M1		
A postgraduate research degree		
A postgraduate taught degree		
A first degree		
1 x A level + 2 x Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diplomas (QCF) or National Extended Certificate (RQF)	<i>A level grade</i>	<i>BTEC grades</i>
	A*	Distinction*, Distinction*
	A	Distinction*, Distinction*
	A*	Distinction*, Distinction
	A	Distinction*, Distinction
	A*	Distinction, Distinction
	A	Distinction, Distinction
	B	Distinction*, Distinction*
	B	Distinction*, Distinction*
B	Distinction*, Distinction	
2 x A level + 1 x Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diplomas (QCF) or National Extended Certificate (RQF)	<i>A level grades</i>	<i>BTEC grade</i>
	A*, A*	Distinction*
	A*, A*	Distinction
	A*, A*	Distinction*
	A*, A	Distinction
	A*, A	Distinction*
	A, A	Distinction
	A, A	Distinction*
	A*, B	Distinction
	A*, B	Distinction*
	A, B	Distinction*
A*, C		

Qualifications	Grades	
1 x A level + 1 x Level 3 BTEC Diploma (QCF) OR 1 x Level 3 BTEC National Diploma (RQF)	<i>A level grade</i> A* A A* A A* A B B	<i>BTEC grades</i> Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction` Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction
2 x A levels + 1 x OCR National Certificate	<i>A level grades</i> A*, A* A*, A A, A A*, B	<i>OCR grade</i> Distinction Distinction Distinction Distinction
2 x A levels + 1 x OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma	<i>A level grades</i> A*, A* A*, A* A*, A A*, A A, A A, A A*, B A*, B A, B A*, C	<i>OCR grade</i> Distinction* Distinction Distinction* Distinction Distinction* Distinction Distinction* Distinction Distinction* Distinction* Distinction*
1 x A level + 2 x OCR National Certificates	<i>A level grade</i> A* A	<i>OCR grades</i> Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction
1 x A level + 2 x OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diplomas	<i>A level grade</i> A* A A* A A* A B B	<i>OCR grades</i> Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction` Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction

Qualifications	Grades	
1 x A level + 1 x OCR National Diploma	<i>A level grade</i> A* A	<i>OCR grades</i> Distinction Distinction
1 x A level + 1 x OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma	<i>A level grade</i> A* A A* A A* A B B	<i>OCR grades</i> Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction` Distinction, Distinction Distinction, Distinction Distinction*, Distinction* Distinction*, Distinction
2 x A levels + 1 x Cambridge Pre-U Certificate OR 2 x A-Levels and 1 x Cambridge International Pre-U Certificate in Global Perspectives and Independent Research Grade Tariff	<i>A level grade</i> A*, A* A*, A A, A A*, B A*, C A*, D A*, A* A*, A A, A A*, B A, B A*, A* A*, A A, A A*, B	<i>Cambridge Pre-U grade</i> D1/D2 D1/D2 D1/D2 D1/D2 D1/D2 D3 D3 D3 D3 D3 M1 M1 M1 M1
1 x A level + 2 x Cambridge Pre-U Certificates OR 1 x A-Level + 1 x Cambridge Pre-U Certificates + 1 x Cambridge International Pre-U Certificate in Global Perspectives and Independent Research Grade Tariff	<i>A level grade</i> A* A A* A B A* A B	<i>Cambridge Pre-U grade</i> D1/D2, D1/D2 D1/D2, D1/D2 D1/D2, D1/D2 D1/D2, D3 D1/D2, D3 D1/D2, D3 D3, D3 D3, D3 D3, D3
Access to Higher Education Diploma	Overall Pass - must include 45 credits at Level 3, of which 39 credits must be at Distinction and the remainder at Merit or higher	

Appendix B Glossary

These meanings apply only to Aston University Home and EU Scholarship Policy 2018/19 and may not hold the same meanings or be interpreted in the same way in other documents.

Academic Term

The academic year is divided into three academic terms for undergraduate payment arrangements.

Academic year

This is the period over which Aston University teaches a programme. For most undergraduate programmes, this normally begins at the start of October and ends in the middle of June. Students should normally be in attendance during this period.

Attendance

For the purposes of Aston Scholarship approvals, a student is considered to be in attendance if Aston University's student records systems show that they are a current student. Attendance requirements to pass a degree programme may differ and should be clarified with the specific programme leader.

Care Leaver

For the purposes of this policy a care leaver has identified this at pre-enrolment and is defined as "If you were looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, and were in the care of the local authority and/or a health and social care trust on your 16th birthday"

Deferred studies

This is when exams and/or assessments are delayed until an agreed period of time has elapsed.

Equivalent or Lower Qualification

A student holds an Equivalent or Lower Qualification⁸ if they already hold an awarded qualification which is at the same level as or is higher than the programme they will be studying at Aston University.

EU student

This is a student who is an EU national (or the relevant family member of an EU national) and who qualifies to be considered for a tuition fee loan from the UK government. These students cannot be charged more than £9,250 for their tuition fees. The rules about who qualifies as an EU student depend on the immigration status of the student and their family members and where they have all been living.

Home student

This is a student who qualifies to be considered for a tuition fee loan and grants and loans for living costs from the UK government. These students cannot be charged more than £9,250 for their tuition fees. The rules about who qualifies as a home student depend on nationality, the immigration status of the student and their family members and where they all have been living.

Household Income

⁸ As defined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England

This is the household income as calculated by the relevant funding authority for a student's application for student funding from the UK government. It is not possible for Aston University to accept any alternative assessment method of a student's household income.

My Aston Portal (MAP)

This is the Aston University online student portal through which students can view and update personal information and find information about their programme. Students will be able to access information about the progress of Aston Scholarship assessments and approvals from their student homepage on MAP.

Re-enrolment

All students are expected to re-enrol each September, irrespective of their start date. The purpose of re-enrolment is to confirm that the student accepts the University's terms and conditions and the University's Regulations for that specific academic year. The re-enrolment process is also used to update any changes to the student's personal information. Re-enrolment is via MAP and the student will be emailed when the MAP task is available for the student to complete.

Repeating studies as if for the first time

This is when exams, assessments or modules are retaken but are treated as a first attempt and the mark the student receives is not limited to the pass mark, this is usually due to exceptional circumstances that are agreed on an individual case by case basis.

Repeating studies with attendance

This is when a student does not progress to the next level of study and has to retake exams and/or assessments in the following year and is required to attend all of the lectures, classes and tutorials for those modules.

Repeating studies without attendance

This is when a student does not progress to the next level of study and has to retake exams and/or assessments in the following year and is not required to attend any of the lectures, classes and tutorials for those modules.

Repeating studies with partial attendance

This is when a student has to retake exams, assessments and/or modules in the following year and is required to attend some of the lectures, classes and tutorials for those modules.

Sandwich placement year

This is a period of industrial, professional, linguistic or occupational training/work experience or study abroad which is approved by the University and forms part of the assessment for a sandwich degree or language degree at Aston University. Sometimes a student is paid during their placement for the work they do by their placement employer which is called a paid placement. In other cases, students do not receive any money from their placement employer for their work and this is called an unpaid placement. If the placement takes place outside of the UK then it is considered to be a work or study placement overseas.

Satisfactory academic performance

For the purposes of Aston Scholarship approvals, a student is considered to have a satisfactory academic performance if they have been accepted to start the first year of their programme or they have been considered by an Examination Board to have passed and to be eligible to progress into the next stage of study.

Special Support Grant

This is a grant for living costs from the UK Government which is for students who have an entitlement to receive Social Security Benefits (for example they have children or are disabled). It is assessed and awarded by the relevant Student Finance body.

Stage of study

Stage 1 equates to the entry to year 1 of a degree programme or year 0 of the Integrated Foundation Year Programme,

Stage 2 follows stage 1 after successful completion of that year of study,

Stage P is the placement/sandwich year and often follows stage 2,

Stage 3 follows stage 2 after successful completion of that year of study for those students whose programme of study is made up of four or more taught years of study e.g. MPharm,

Stage F is the final year of study of a degree programme.

Student Awards Agency for Scotland

This is the organisation that assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to Home students who live in Scotland. This organisation also assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to EU students who study in Scotland.

Student Finance England

This is the organisation that assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to Home students who live in England.

Student Finance Northern Ireland

This is the organisation that assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to Home students who live in Northern Ireland.

Student Finance Services

This is the organisation that assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to EU students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is also sometimes known as the EU Team or the European Services Team.

Student Finance Wales

This is the organisation that assesses and awards student funding from the UK government to Home students who live in Wales.

Student Loans Company

This is the organisation that manages the payment and repayment of loans and grants for student support funding. This organisation is also responsible for collating information about household income and sharing this information with Universities for bursary and scholarship assessments.

Suspending studies (Leave of Absence)

This is when a student stops their studies for a period (normally longer than 60 days) for reasons such as illness. This is also sometimes called a Leave of Absence.

UCAS

This stands for the University and Colleges Admission System. It is the system students use to apply for undergraduate places at universities and colleges in the UK.