

Refugees Welcome

Guidance for Universities on Providing
Asylum Seekers and Refugees with
Access to Higher Education **2021**

- University of Aberdeen
- Abertay University
- University of Dundee
- University of Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Napier University
- University of Glasgow
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow School of Art
- Heriot-Watt University
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- Open University in Scotland
- Queen Margaret University Edinburgh
- Robert Gordon University
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Scotland's Rural College
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of the West of Scotland

Contents

Page	Section
3	1. Introduction
4	2. Rights and Entitlements
5-6	3. Admissions selection
7-8	4. Issues to consider in supporting refugees and asylum seekers
9	5. Asylum
10-11	6. Entitlement to “Home” Fees and Student Support
12-13	7. Resettlement & Special Categories
15	8. Resources

This guidance was developed by Universities Scotland with close involvement from Scottish Refugee Council and heads of admissions from a range of universities. They identified issues around admissions processes when applicants are unable to provide all of the necessary documentation as a key challenge and provided the following good practice recommendations.



1. Introduction

Higher education institutions are well placed to be able to provide wide-ranging support to people who are fleeing violence and persecution. They can and are supporting people and communities in different circumstances: in their home countries, in refugee camps, and when they are settled in the UK.

Academic staff contribute research and knowledge on issues around international law, immigration, displacement, conflict, health, integration, language, community, construction, design, and many other areas. Institutions have experience delivering services like housing, career advice, counselling, health and welfare services, English language training, and visa advice. Universities have access to large student and staff bodies willing to dedicate their time, skills and resources to helping people fleeing conflict who are trying to make better lives for themselves.

These are all useful support mechanisms but arguably the most transformational support that higher education institutions can provide is education. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that there is an understanding across the HE sector of entitlements and that any displaced person living in Scotland that wants to access higher education is not discouraged by the administrative procedures required to gain entry into higher education. We want to reassure those who are displaced that universities have some level of flexibility when working with applicants who might not be able to meet all of the normal requirements because they have had their lives severely disrupted.

At this point in time the number of displaced people enrolled in higher education institutions is relatively low, so if these guidelines are embraced and followed then the administrative workload for institutions required to take a flexible approach to processing these types of applications is likely to be minimised. Relevant staff will need to be familiar with the guidelines, which may require some staff training. For support, institutions can share knowledge and experience and where to get additional help.

2. Rights and Entitlements

The 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees defines who is a refugee and the rights that refugees should enjoy. Rights relating to higher education are set out in Article 22 (2):

The Contracting States shall accord to refugees treatment as favourable as possible, and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, with respect to education other than elementary education and, in particular, as regards access to studies, the recognition of foreign school certificates, diplomas and degrees, the remission of fees and charges and the award of scholarships.

Key considerations for institutions and students, alongside academic suitability for a course, are fee status and access to financial support. It is important that institutions apply the fees regulations fairly and consistently and that students have clear information about financial support to which they may be entitled.

Fee status and entitlement to statutory support from the [Student Awards Agency for Scotland](#) (SAAS) will depend primarily on a student's status determined by the Home Office and [place of residence](#) both at under- and postgraduate level. Students who applied for asylum and have had a

decision from the Home Office recognising them as refugees or granting Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave to Remain are normally entitled to the same fee status and student support as other UK students. If they are resident in Scotland on the relevant date, they will be entitled to 'home' fees and, if the course is SAAS funded, they can apply to SAAS for support. Such a student at undergraduate level who is based in England, Wales or NI would be classed as Rest of UK (RUK) for fees purposes and charged the 'middle rate' fee. They would apply for Student Finance England, Wales or Northern Ireland for support.

Asylum seekers are not normally entitled to student support, and are usually classified as "international" fee payers. However, institutions may exercise discretion to charge the lower rate of fee. This is discussed in section 4.

It is worth noting that both asylum seekers and those with a Home Office decision may, in some cases, meet the residence requirements of another category of student in the relevant fees and student support regulations (for example, by virtue of a parent or spouse's status). Institutional fees assessment processes should be thorough and consider all potential categories when assessing individuals.

In sections 5, 6 and 7 we have summarised in more detail what the entitlements are for the relevant groups of people that might want to access higher education. It is important to bear in mind that this information can change so we encourage institutions to refer to advice provided by the [UK Council for International Students](#) (UKCISA).

It is also important to recognise that in some circumstances it is possible for a student's fee status to change throughout their studies.

Hardship funds & other financial support

Students who are entitled to 'home' or 'RUK' fees by virtue of their Refugee Status, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave will be able to apply for SAAS-funded Discretionary Funds. Those in receipt of SAAS funding will also be entitled to apply for Childcare Funds if appropriate. This does not normally apply to asylum seekers. However, SAAS have confirmed that for the academic year 2021-22, asylum seekers can access the SAAS Coronavirus Discretionary Fund.

Like many other students, prospective refugee students who are currently in receipt of welfare benefits may need expert advice about the financial support available to them during study and the impact of study on benefit entitlements, whether studying part-time or full-time.

3. Admission selection

In 2016 Universities Scotland convened a meeting of heads of admissions to discuss access issues for asylum seekers and refugees. A particular focus for those discussions were issues around admissions processes when applicants are unable to provide all of the necessary documentation. The following good practice recommendations are an outcome from those discussions and have been updated following feedback sought from the sector and relevant bodies in 2021. Applications should be considered based on people's entitlements. When there are issues about documentation, institutions should have clear guidelines to refer to in order to assess what else applicants can provide or what can replace the information required.

Institutions are encouraged to take individual approaches for people who do not have full entitlements to funding for HE and for whom special arrangements may be made by institutions to improve access to education. In these circumstances the guidance encourages members to take this individual approach and reflect this in institutions' policies.

In addition to this document there is other useful guidance on this issue, particularly work done by [UCAS](#). We have listed some other useful resources for the sector in this section.

Systems and processes

Institutions should have policies in place that allow staff to treat each application individually thereby easing the process for working with applicants who are unable to provide verifiable documentation because they have had to flee their homes quickly or because the government or institutions from their home country will not provide them. Whilst the number of people in this situation who are applying to study in Scotland is very low (with exceptions in certain areas) it is important that institutions are able to deal with this situation when it arises. Admissions staff within institutions should be made aware of the policy and the admissions processes should be clearly explained to the applicant.

Flexibility

Institutions should take a flexible approach when working with applicants who cannot provide documentation. This is not just in relation to standard applications but also in relation to other applicants in similar situations. For example, the way an institution might make an assessment of someone's knowledge of biological science might be very different to the way they would assess someone's knowledge of graphic design. Admissions staff should be confident that they have multiple options for working with students in this situation.

Be guided by the applicant

Admissions staff should be able to have a conversation with the applicant to understand their particular situation. Staff should be guided by the applicant and their suggestions for how they might be able to demonstrate their knowledge and experience in their discipline. Institutions are likely to choose different approaches depending on the volume of numbers which vary across Scotland as long as they are clearly laid out and applied consistently.

3. Admission selection

English Language Competence

It is helpful to take a flexible approach to assessing English language competence. Refugees and asylum seekers are not subject to the language requirements imposed by the Student Route and therefore a wider range of qualifications may be considered. Many refugees and asylum seekers will have studied ESOL courses at Further Education colleges in the UK.

A useful guide to equivalences has been produced by the Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA) and is available [here](#).

Include Recognition of Prior Learning Policies

All higher education institutions in Scotland already have Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policies in place. These policies allow institutions to make an assessment of whether an individual's work experience, informal learning, and formal education has given them the necessary skills and knowledge they will need to undertake the course they are applying to. The methods used to make these assessments can also be used to understand the position of an applicant who cannot supply the normal documentation. It is good practice for admissions staff to explain to the applicant how RPL can be applied to their situation. It is reassuring for the applicant to know that institutions are used to making these kinds of assessments.

Understand the context

It is important for admissions staff to understand the context for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. It is likely that Scottish higher education frameworks and bureaucracies will be unfamiliar to them. Many may have had negative experiences dealing with bureaucratic institutions and some will have left their countries because they have been persecuted by their own government. So it is important that staff take time to build trust and reassurance.

Alternative approaches to demonstrating knowledge

If an applicant cannot provide formal documentation to evidence their qualifications and prior learning then there are several options institutions can use to assess their knowledge. A refugee may not be familiar with the different types of HE assessment, or what may be expected of them, institutions could use alternative approaches that must be accompanied by clear, supportive information and advice to help applicants prepare.

These approaches could include:

- Interviews
- Written assessments
- Examinations
- Practical demonstrations
- Submitting a portfolio of work
- Participation in pre-entry programmes e.g. Widening Participation Summer Schools

4. Issues to consider in supporting refugees and asylum seekers

Community cohesion and support for other vulnerable groups

Refugee communities and organisations like Scottish Refugee Council welcome the positive response from the sector to the needs of refugees.

Any support mechanisms put in place by universities and colleges targeting refugees and asylum seekers should be designed in line with initiatives that enable the long-term integration of displaced persons (“New Scots”). Consideration should also be given to how these are structured and promoted in the wider context of the sector’s support for vulnerable groups particularly in relation to Widening Access agendas.

Wherever possible, support for refugees should be comparable to the support offered for other vulnerable groups. Refugee students share many support needs with other groups. It can assist with the integration of refugees for support to be offered within the context of a wider programme of support for students, rather than offering services specifically labelled for “refugees”.

Impact of financial support on existing entitlements

When considering offering financial support through universities’ discretionary funds or scholarships for example, it is important to consider the impact of this support on a prospective student’s existing entitlements. Financial support teams will already be familiar with potential impact of discretionary funds on benefits or other state support. Asylum seekers who are in receipt of living costs and/or accommodation support from the Home Office may have their support reduced, or even removed in response to other income they receive. There are examples where institutions have designed scholarships for instance that bear this consideration in mind.¹

Asylum seekers, study and Student Route compliance

Prospective students who are awaiting the outcome of their asylum application or subsequent appeal should be advised to discuss their proposed studies with their legal representative. They should clarify any effect their proposed studies may have on their asylum claim and whether there are any other legal considerations that might affect the decision to take up the offer of a place for study. It is also important to assess the impact of studies on entitlements to asylum support. In this case, prospective students may also need to seek advice from organisations knowledgeable about asylum support entitlements, e.g., Scottish Refugee Council.

Contingencies should also be considered for responding to a student who receives an adverse Home Office decision during their studies. This may result in the student requiring extensive legal support, or even withdrawal from study, depending on the stage of the asylum process the student has reached.

It is for each institution to determine its own approach to the issue of Student Route.

¹ University of Strathclyde’s Asylum Seeker Scholarship

4. Issues to consider in supporting refugees and asylum seekers

Immigration Bail and the BAIL 201 Letter

Many asylum seekers are subject to Immigration Bail. If so, they will normally have a BAIL 201 Letter which will confirm the conditions of their bail. It is possible for the Bail 201 letter to include a condition prohibiting study, but the Home Office have confirmed that this condition should only be applied where an asylum application has been refused and the appeals process exhausted. Where an asylum seeker was previously on a Student or Tier 4 visa, there may be a restriction on studying related to the conditions of their previous visa. In cases such as these, further advice will be needed on how such a restriction would impact proposed studies and the prospect of this restriction being amended or lifted.

Asylum seekers without a relevant Bail condition are free to study. If an asylum seeker appears to have had a study prohibition imposed incorrectly, it may be possible to query this by contacting SNIAylumOperations-Admin&Workflow@homeoffice.gov.uk.

This should normally be undertaken by a student adviser or member of a compliance team familiar with potential compliance issues that may arise. Asylum seekers can also be referred to their solicitor or the Scottish Refugee Council for further advice on this issue.

Particular consideration should be given to admitting asylum seekers to courses involving work placements (paid or unpaid). The Home Office provides guidance on circumstances in which an asylum seeker can make a request to have a general work prohibition lifted, which also clarifies that asylum seekers may “volunteer”. However, some course work placements (even if they are unpaid) may be construed by the Home Office to constitute work. Asylum seekers should seek advice from their legal representative about starting a course that includes such a placement.

Access to legal advice

Asylum seekers need access to specialist legal advice about their asylum claim and some refugees and people with Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave may need advice about making further applications to the Home Office for refugee family reunion, for travel documents and for extension to the immigration leave. Most university advice services will not be resourced to provide the highly specialised advice that these students need. The University may be in a position, however, to help a student access appropriate legal representation. Many student support services already have links with specialist solicitors and organisations which may be helpful in this regard.

How to get legal advice:

- Lawyers
- Qualified Immigration advisers and how to find qualified advisers

5. Asylum

Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is someone who is in the UK, either recently arrived or who has been here for some time and has applied to the UK Government to be recognised as a refugee and is awaiting a decision on their application or appeal. Asylum seekers are not entitled to tuition fee or living cost support from SAAS.

There is no legal restriction for asylum seekers to access Higher Education, unless they are subject to an Immigration Bail condition prohibiting or restricting study. If asylum seekers meet the academic requirements, they can be offered places to study in Higher Education. They will however need to support themselves.

Asylum seekers may also be charged the higher rate of 'international' fees. Institutions may, however, adopt a policy to charge the lower, 'home' rate of fee provided this is done consistently. Students charged the lower rate of fee under an arrangement such as this would not be included in SFC funding returns and would therefore not attract any additional funding. Institutions may want to consider charitable organisations that may provide funding support for asylum seekers, such as the Carnegie Trust, with whom many Scottish universities have links.

The situation is further complicated by the lack of information for students with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) conditions on their visa, a standard condition applied to those with a temporary permission to be in the UK and asylum seekers. Institutions need to be aware that education funding does not fall under the statutory definition of public funds. Consequently, having NRPF does not in itself mean that an individual cannot receive funding for their further or higher education.

If an asylum seeker is granted Refugee Status, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave to Remain while studying they will normally become entitled to be charged home fees the next time fees fall due (usually the next academic year) and, depending on their course and previous study, may be able to receive SAAS support. This is discussed more fully below.

Long residence, and the children of asylum seekers & unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

A small number of asylum seekers may qualify to be categorised as "Home" fee payers and be eligible for student support if they meet the requirements of "long residence". This may apply where the applicant is under 18 and has lived in the UK for seven years or more, or is older and has lived in the UK more than half their life, or

for more than 20 years. Additional requirements related to residence also apply and are explained in detail on the following web pages provided by UKCISA:

[UKCISA fees status](#)

[UKCISA Student Support](#)

The Scottish fees and student support regulations also contain a special provision relating to young asylum seekers whose asylum claim (or that of the person on whom they were dependant) was made prior to 1st December 2006. This provision is explained in detail on the UKCISA web pages linked above.

It is worth noting that one of the aspirational objectives of the [New Scots Strategy](#) is for the Scottish Government to review the regulations and update the criteria.

If a young asylum seeker is able to meet the residence conditions for Home fees and Student Support, institutions should be aware that unaccompanied children (and some accompanied children) will be considered care-experienced when applying to Higher Education and may be entitled to receive the Scottish Government's Care Experience bursary.

6. Entitlement to “Home” Fees and Student Support

Asylum applicants who obtain Refugee status, or who are refused Refugee status but given an alternative status such as Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave, Leave Outside the Rules or Limited Leave will normally be entitled to “Home” fees and SAAS support, provided they are or were ordinarily resident in Scotland on the “Relevant Date”². If they are/were resident elsewhere in the UK, they should be treated as “RUK” (Rest of UK) fee payers and may be able to apply for support from the relevant student support body in England, Northern Ireland or Wales. Members need to be aware that applicants coming through the UCAS route may not necessarily be able to choose the option that accurately reflects their status when completing their UCAS form.

Dependents (civil partner, spouse and/or children³) will normally have the same entitlements as the person with the immigration status.

If an asylum seeker obtains a positive Home Office decision during their studies – either Refugee Status or an alternative status – their fee status should be reassessed for the next academic year to avoid interruption in financial support and housing.

With each of the following forms of immigration status and before their leave expires people need to consider the relevant applications they need to do to extend their leave. People may need to access legal advice for this and can contact an [immigration solicitor](#) or [find an OISC \(Office of Immigration Services Commissioner\) adviser](#).

After an application for further leave has been submitted to the Home Office, it can take many months to get a decision. However, during this application process the same entitlements to education and funding continue, provided the application was made before existing leave expired. Once the extension of leave is obtained, these entitlements will need to be reassessed on a case-by-case basis according to the new form of status received. Establishing good relationships with these individuals is an important part so institutions can be kept up-to-date and provide support as best as possible.

Refugee Status

Given to a person who has been recognised as a Refugee under the definition in the UN Convention on Refugees 1951. Normally five years Leave to Remain. People with Refugee Status are eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) towards the end of their initial 5-year grant of leave. If such applications are made in time, applicants keep the same entitlements to education and funding during the application process. If the application is successful, the person keeps their right to education and funding.

² 1 August nearest the start of the course for courses that start between 1 August and 31 December
1 January nearest the start of the course for courses that start between 1 January and 31 March
1 April nearest the start of the course for courses that start between 1 April and 30 June
1 July nearest the start of the course for courses that start between 1 July and 31 July

³ Including anyone for whom the relevant person has parental responsibility

6. Entitlement to “Home” Fees and Student Support

Humanitarian Protection

If a person does not meet the criteria of the 1951 Refugee Convention but the Home Office believe a person is at risk of serious harm or human rights violations should they return to their home country, they may be granted Humanitarian Protection.

As with Refugee Status, Humanitarian Protection is awarded for 5 years. People with Humanitarian Protection are eligible to apply for ILR at the end of their initial 5-year grant of leave. If such applications are made in time, applicants keep the same entitlements to education and funding during the application process. If the application is successful, the person keeps their right to education and funding.

‘Discretionary Leave, “Leave outside the Rules” and other forms of immigration status if Refugee status is refused’

If the applicant’s asylum claim has been processed and they have not been recognised as a Refugee nor been granted Humanitarian Protection, they may be granted Discretionary Leave, “Leave Outside the Immigration Rules” or Limited Leave. As mentioned in section 5, should Discretionary Leave to Remain be granted while studying, the student will normally become entitled to be charged home fees and, depending on their course and previous study, may be able to receive SAAS support.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who may be refused asylum may be granted Discretionary Leave until they are 18 years of age, and may require specialist legal advice on the options open to them to apply for further leave after they reach the age of 18. Discretionary Leave to Remain is usually granted for a period of up to 2.5 years and the recipient can often apply for an extension of this leave. If such applications are made in time, applicants keep the same entitlements to education and funding during the application process. If the application is successful, the person keeps their right to education and funding. People may need to access legal advice for this and can contact an [immigration solicitor](#) or [find an OISC adviser](#).

The Home Office sometimes grants “discretionary leave”, “exceptional leave” or “leave outside the immigration rules” to people who have not made a claim for asylum. It is important to note that the fees and student support regulations only make provision for “home fees” status and access to student support where such leave has been granted as the result of an asylum application.



7. Resettlement & Special Categories

The UK Government has made provision for special categories of people who need to come to the UK and who are offered support to enter and stay in the UK. In the Scottish fees and student support regulations, some of the categories below are specifically mentioned, and others are collectively referred to as “those not recognised as refugees but allowed to remain in the UK and family.”

The following groups of people and their immediate families (spouse and children) will normally be entitled to “Home” fees and SAAS support if they are resident in Scotland on the relevant date, or “RUK” fees and relevant support if they are resident elsewhere in the UK.

Gateway Resettlement Scheme – closed March 2021

This was a Scheme operated by the UK Government in conjunction with UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) to resettle vulnerable refugees in the UK. People settled in the UK under this programme were granted Refugee Status and ILR.

Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) – closed March 2021

This scheme was to resettle vulnerable people in the UK who had fled the conflict in Syria and were still in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and not in Europe. Possible candidates were identified by UNHCR. The scheme was open to people of all nationalities not just Syrian people. The scheme was specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations, though the regulations specified that they applied to Syrians.⁴

Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) – closed March 2021

This scheme was to resettle vulnerable children and their families in the UK where UNHCR deem resettlement to be in the best interests of the child. They had to be in the MENA region and not in Europe. Possible candidates were identified by UNHCR. The scheme was open to children of all nationalities.

UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) – Opened March 2021

The UKRS brings together the Gateway, VPRS and VCRS schemes and is widened out to include all nationalities and stateless people. Possible candidates are identified by the UNHCR. From October 2021 onwards, everyone will get Indefinite Leave to Remain. Those who arrived between March and October 2021 have refugee status but can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain. It is expected that they and dependant family members will be included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

⁴ **Until June 2016**, everyone who came through VPRS and VCRS got **Humanitarian Protection** for five years on entering the UK, when both schemes were considered temporary responses and described as ‘relocation’ schemes. In **July 2016** the schemes changed to ‘resettlement’ as a durable solution, and now everyone in the VPRS and VCRS programmes is given **Refugee Status** for five years. Those who arrived before July 2016 have the option to change to Refugee Status and many have done so.

7. Resettlement & Special Categories

Afghanistan Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme

Some Afghan nationals who worked for the British Army have been granted leave to enter the UK under the Locally Engaged Staff scheme. They and dependant family members are specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

Afghan interpreters under the Locally Employed Staff (LES) scheme who have been granted Leave to enter under the Locally Employed Staff (LES) scheme will be eligible to apply to SAAS for funding providing they meet the conditions set out below:

- have been granted Leave to enter under the LES scheme; and
- have been living in the UK since the UKVI granted them this status; and
- be ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date.

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) was launched on 1 April 2021 following the UK Government's announcement of their intention to withdraw from Afghanistan by Autumn 2021. This scheme offers relocation or other assistance limited to any current and former locally employed staff who are at risk of serious threat to life in Afghanistan, regardless of their role, employment status and length of service. People will have Indefinite Leave to Remain. It is expected that they and dependant family members will be included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) – NOT OPEN YET

The UK Government announced this scheme on 18th August 2021. It aims to resettle Afghans who are at risk of persecution and identified as in need of protection, including those who assisted the UK government efforts to promote democracy and rule of law in Afghanistan for example judges, journalists, politicians, activists and those who are at risk because of sexual orientation, gender, ethnic and religious identity. The scheme is not yet open. People will have Indefinite Leave to Remain. It is expected that they and dependant family members will be included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

Iraqi Locally Engaged Staff – Direct Entry Assistance Scheme

Some Iraqi nationals who worked for the British armed forces have been granted indefinite leave to enter the UK. They and their dependant family members are specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

7. Resettlement & Special Categories

Victims of modern slavery

Home Office may grant permission to stay to vulnerable people who have been victims of modern slavery or trafficking. People who are granted leave to enter or remain in this category are specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

Stateless Person Leave to Remain

Given to a person who is not recognised as a citizen of any country and unable to live permanently in any other country. This is Leave to Remain valid for five years. They and their dependant family members are specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) Leave

Specifically given to children who cannot be returned to their country of origin because there are no safe reception arrangements in place in the country of origin. Leave until the young person is aged 17½ years old when arrangements will be made to return them to their country of origin on or near their 18th birthday. This is not a protection status and young people can challenge the Home Office for a protection status (Refugee status or Humanitarian Protection) and while this is being considered they will not be returned to their home country. It is essential that such children have access to good quality legal advice. There is no specific provision in the fees and student support regulations for this category, but if they have applied for asylum and Refugee status has been refused, and this leave has been granted instead, they will be covered by the provisions for those granted leave on refusal of Refugee Status (see section 6).

Calais Leave (sometimes known as 'Dubs' Leave)

Given to those children transferred to the UK from Calais between 17 October 2016 and 13 July 2017, and who do not qualify for Refugee Status or Humanitarian Protection. Period of leave is five years, this can be extended for a subsequent five years, and people can then apply for ILR. They and any dependant children granted leave in line are specifically included in the Scottish fees and student support regulations as eligible students.

8. Resources

Guidance on the recognition of qualifications of displaced people:

- [European Area of Recognition Manual](#) (containing the standards and guidelines on the international recognition of qualifications)
- Council for Europe: [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees](#)
- European Association of International Education (EAIE) [webinar: qualifications recognition for refugees](#)
- [UK ENIC](#) (designated UK agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills)
- [Bridges Programmes](#) (support for refugees in Scotland to obtain recognition and equivalences of home-country qualifications)

Information and support on admissions and outreach:

- Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) [Good Practice Considerations in Admissions for Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#)
- [Refugees and asylum seekers applying for postgraduate study in the UK | Postgraduate | UCAS](#)
- Article 26 resources including [Guiding Principles on Sanctuary Scholars in UK Higher Education](#) and [Reaching out to Sanctuary Scholars](#)

Fee status, funding and scholarships:

- UK Council for International (UKCISA) [guidance on tuition fee status in Scotland, and scholarships for vulnerable groups including refugees](#)
- Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) [funding guide](#) and information on [funding eligibility requirements](#)
- UCAS: information sheet on [student finance for refugees and people seeking asylum](#)
- Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Equal Access Project: [scholarships and grants for refugees and people seeking asylum](#)

Support from refugee sector organisations:

- Scottish Refugee Council: [offer training and information on rights and entitlements in Scotland](#) and [advice services to asylum seekers and refugees](#)
- Join the growing [Universities of Sanctuary](#) network to develop a culture of welcome within universities, wider communities, and across the Higher Education sector. Have a look at the [Universities of Sanctuary Resource Pack](#) and consider applying for a University of Sanctuary Award
- Scottish Refugee Council is launching a suite of Universities of Sanctuary courses for HEI's that are interested in going for the Universities of Sanctuary Award in November 2021
- [Refugee Education UK](#): offers support services and resources to help students access university, along with training for practitioners

Networks and mailing lists:

- Sanctuary [JISCMAIL email group](#) for HE professionals with an interest in refugees' access to Higher Education
- [STAR Equal Access to Higher Education mailing list](#) for updates on higher education opportunities for asylum seekers, refugees and those with limited leave to remain
- Register for the Scotland-specific mailing list for Universities of Sanctuary [here](#)

- University of Aberdeen
- Abertay University
- University of Dundee
- University of Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Napier University
- University of Glasgow
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow School of Art
- Heriot-Watt University
- University of the Highlands and Islands
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