

NUSU Participation Bursaries Eligibility Criteria 2020-2021

To be eligible for a NUSU Participation Bursary, you must meet at least **one** of the eligibility criteria below.

Eligibility Criteria	Further information	Evidence required
You receive a 2020/21 Opportunity Scholarship from Newcastle University	This can be either the partial or full scholarship.	You must provide a scanned copy of your 'Bursary and Scholarship Entitlement for Academic Year 2020/21 letter from Newcastle University as part of your application.
You are a care experienced student	You must have spent at least 3 months in local authority care.	None required as part of your application. Your status as a care leaver must have been declared as part of your UCAS application; this will be confirmed with the universities designated care leaver contact.
You are disabled or have a long-term illness	You must be in receipt of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).	You must provide a copy of your PIP decision letter OR your annual updating letter if your decision letter is more than twelve months old.
You are a young carer	You must be looking after a relative or friend who has a long-term illness or disability or misuses substances.	You must provide a document (on headed paper) confirming your status as a carer which can be one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Carer's Allowance statement/letter

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carer's support group • Social Services/Local Authority • Your relative's NHS or Private Support Worker • A letter from your GP
<p>You are an estranged student</p>	<p>You would be eligible if you are a young person who is living independently of your parents/guardians and has no communicative relationship with either of your biological parents/legal guardians and you do not expect this situation to be reconciled.</p>	<p>You must provide a document (on headed paper) confirming your status as an estranged student which can be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estranged student support group/network, such as StandAlone or the Unite Foundation • Social Services/Local Authority • A letter from your GP • A statement from your school/college
<p>You are a Black, Asian or Minority (BAME) Ethnic student</p>	<p>You are eligible for the Participation Bursary, if you are from a BAME background.</p> <p>This criterion is fulfilled if you belong to one of following ethnic groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black or Black British – Caribbean • Black or Black British – African • Other Black background • Asian or Asian British – Indian • Asian or Asian British – Pakistani • Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi • Chinese • Other Asian background 	<p>State your ethnicity. <i>We ask everyone applying to state this.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed White and Black Caribbean • Mixed White and Black African • Mixed White and Asian • Other Mixed background • Arab • Other Ethnic background 	
Gypsy, Roma or Traveller	You are eligible for the Participation Bursary if you are from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller community.	You must provide a document (on headed paper) confirming your status as a member of the Gypsy, Roma or Traveller community by your school or college that you have attended.
Refugees	You are eligible for the Participation Bursary if you have refugee status.	You have been given permission to stay in the UK, and granted official 'refugee status'. You should have a letter from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to confirm this. Please provide this as evidence.
Military Families	<p>You are eligible for the Participation Bursary if either/both of your parents/carers are serving or have served in the armed forces at key educational times. You are also eligible if you have served in the armed forces.</p> <p>The British Armed Forces consist of:</p>	You must provide a document (on headed paper) from your school or college confirming which armed forces your parent(s) or you have served in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Navy • Royal Marines • British Army • Royal Air Force • Regular Reserves • Volunteer Reserves • Sponsored Reserves 	
Home Postcode	To be eligible you must live in a neighbourhood that has a low progression rate to higher education and has a high level of financial, social or economic deprivation.	<p>Proof of address –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student loan letter of offer from Student Loan Company • Phone bill • Bank statement <p>We will check your home postcode to determine eligibility using POLAR and IMD data.</p> <p><i>We ask everyone applying to state their home postcode.</i></p>
You are Commuter/Live at Home Student	You are eligible for the Participation Bursary if you live alone or cohabit with non-students (eg – parents, family, legal guardians etc) and/or the time taken to travel to campus greater than a 30-minute walk.	<p>Proof of address –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student loan letter of offer from Student Loan Company • Phone bill • Bank statement • Confirmation of home address of your parent/guardian • Letter of confirmation of your term address from the university

Prioritising Eligible Applicants

First priority given to **Care Leavers, Young Carers, PIP students, Estranged Students, Refugee Status Students, Military Families Students and Gypsy, Roma or Traveller Students** as they have very specific, difficult circumstances and are most underrepresented as such. Attention is then given to students that come from **neighbourhoods (using postcode provided)** that generally have a low progression rate to higher education in addition to a high level of financial, social or economic deprivation. These students may or may not receive the **Opportunity Scholarship recipients**, may or may not be a **BAME background**, and may or may not be a **Commuting student**.

When looking at students according to home postcode- students have to qualify under both IMD and POLAR metrics as the Higher Education regulator, the Office for Students makes it clear not to singularly use the POLAR metric when assessing applications regarding financial assistance.