

## Queen Mary University of London Bursaries Policy 2019/20

The Queen Mary University of London Bursaries are for undergraduate students who are liable for fees and have been assessed by Student Finance England (SFE) or their relevant Student Finance Authority (Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Finance Wales or Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS)) as being eligible for means tested support towards their maintenance costs. The bursaries are awarded on the basis of a student's household income. The bursaries do not apply to EU students who are eligible for the tuition fee loan only or International students.

### 1. Bursary Rates for 2019/20

The amount of bursary a student may be eligible for is determined by the funding cohort they fall in. This is usually determined by the academic year the student started their current course; however in some circumstances where a student has previously started a higher education course they may be assessed within the cohort for their original course. The tables below detail the bursary rates for the 2019/20 academic year.

#### a. Students who started their course in 2018 or 2019

SFE Assessed Household Income	Queen Mary University of London Bursary
Less than £20000	£1700
£20000 - £35000	£1000
More than £35000	£0

#### b. Students who started their course in 2015, 2016 or 2017

SFE Assessed Household Income	Queen Mary University of London Bursary
£0 - £25000	£1571
£25001 - £42600	£1256
More than £42600	£0

#### c. Students who started their course in 2012, 2013 or 2014

SFE Assessed Household Income	Queen Mary University of London Bursary
£0 - £25000	£1500
£25001 - £42600	£1200
More than £42600	£0

d. Students who started their course in 2011, 2010, 2009 or 2008

SFE Assessed Household Income	Queen Mary University of London Bursary
£0 - £25000	£1159
£25001 - £34613	£925
More than £34613	£0

## 2. Assessment

Students are assessed each academic year for QMUL Bursaries. The Student Loans Company (SLC) provides QMUL with the household income details for our students in order for us to assess them for a bursary. Students do not need to apply directly to QMUL but do need to:

- Apply to SFE or their relevant Student Finance Authority for student support each academic year
- Give consent for the SLC to share their information each academic year

Students applying for student support for the first time also need to ensure that SFE or their relevant Student Finance Authority has verified their information and confirmed this to the SLC before we can assess them for a bursary. The final date that we will assess a student for a bursary is 31 July 2020 for the 2019/20 academic year. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that we receive the information from the SLC by this date.

## 3. Payments

Payments are made in two equal instalments, towards the end of February 2020 and the end of May 2020. Students are sent a letter to inform them of their bursary entitlement and they will receive BACS payments to the account the SLC hold details for.

## 4. Overpayments

If an overpayment occurs due to a student interrupting, withdrawing or transferring after the payment date then this will not usually be recovered.

If an overpayment occurs due to the bursary amount being reduced as a result of an income reassessment then any further bursary payments during the academic year will be adjusted otherwise the amount will not usually be recovered.

## 5. Non-standard situations

### **Students are eligible for a bursary in the following circumstances:**

- a. A student repeating a year of study on a full-time basis is eligible for a bursary provided that they meet the criteria in 1 and 2 above.
- b. Bursaries are paid on a pro-rata basis to students who attend for part of the academic year or repeat a year on a part-time basis. The pro-rata amount is calculated based on the student's tuition fee liability for the academic year.
- c. Students who study abroad as part of their course remain eligible for a bursary provided that they are eligible to receive means-tested support from SFE.
- d. Students who become eligible for government student support part way through their course are eligible for a QMUL bursary from that point onwards. Certain students, such as those who gain EU nationality or refugee status, may become eligible for government student support and home fee status part way through their degree course. They will become eligible for a QMUL bursary under the standard rules, from the point that they become eligible for government student support.

### **Students are not eligible for a bursary in the following circumstances:**

- a. NHS funded students are not eligible for a QMUL bursary. Students are usually funded by the NHS from year 5 of the MBBS and BDS and from year 2 of the GEP MBBS and GEP BDS.
- b. MBBS students who take an intercalated degree during year 5 of their course are NHS funded and are not eligible for a QMUL bursary.
- c. Students who already hold an honours degree and are studying for a second degree at QMUL (with the exception of Medicine or Dentistry) are not eligible for a QMUL bursary as they are not eligible for any element of student support from SFE.
- d. Students who fail the personal eligibility rules for government student support, but who are eligible for home fee status, are not eligible for a QMUL bursary.

## 6. Students who transfer out, interrupt or suspend their studies in 2019/20

Withdrawal, interruption or transfer date	Percentage of Queen Mary University of London Bursary
Students who withdraw, transfer to another institution or interrupt before 6 January 2020	25% of their bursary entitlement
Students who withdraw, transfer to another institution or interrupt before 05 May 2020	50% of their bursary entitlement
Students who withdraw, transfer to another institution or interrupt on or after 05 May 2020	100% of their bursary entitlement

## 7. Deadlines and appeals

### QMUL Deadline

In order to be assessed for a bursary in 2019/20 QMUL must have an approved and assessed Student Finance record provided via the SLC HEI Portal by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that this data reaches QMUL by this deadline and assessments during peak periods can take in excess of 8 weeks of submission of a complete application.

### Student Finance Deadlines

Student Finance have their own deadlines for applications, students have 9 months from the beginning of their academic year to apply for all funding. This is calculated based on entry period and for QMUL courses in 2019/20 students will have until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 to apply.

### Appealing a deadline

If Student Finance have made an error on a student's account which has resulted in the assessment being provided to QMUL after the deadline then the Bursaries Office will work with the student to gather evidence of this. If the error is confirmed then we can support an extension to the deadline and will work to grant the student a QMUL Bursary.

If Student Finance are not prepared to acknowledge any error on their part and the student wishes to appeal the deadline, they will need to submit an appeal via the QMUL Appeals Office. The Bursaries Office will be unable to support an appeal if there is no error on the part of Student Finance.