Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/134)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 12 March 2021, reference K/21/134.

Your request read:

“Please can you provide me with:
1. A description of any scholarships OR bursaries OR other financial support made available by your institution to students holding refugee OR asylum seeker status.
2. The total number of applications to such awards made by potential students holding refugee OR asylum seeker status in the academic years 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 OR from the date the award was established, if after the academic year 2016/2017, to the current academic year.
3. If applicable, both the number of awards offered AND the number of awards taken up in the academic years 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 OR from the date the award was established, if after the academic year 2016/2017, to the current academic year.”

The University of Leeds holds this information. For your convenience we have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

1. A description of any scholarships OR bursaries OR other financial support made available by your institution to students holding refugee OR asylum seeker status.

The University of Leeds offers the following scholarships which are relevant to your request.

The Sanctuary Scholarship
The Sanctuary Scholarship has been awarded annually from the 2018/19 Academic Year onwards, providing the full cost of tuition and £10,000 a year maintenance costs to students from a range of forced migration backgrounds to study any Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate or Research degree. The eligible residency statuses have evolved over the years, and as of 2021/22, they include:

- Asylum Seeker - currently seeking asylum within the UK or Refused Asylum Seeker where your application for refugee status has been denied and a fresh claim is in process
- Refugee status or the spouse or child of someone with refugee status
- Limited or Discretionary leave to remain
- Humanitarian Protection status or the spouse or child of someone with Humanitarian Protection status
- Indefinite leave to remain
- Section 67 Leave
- Calais Leave

Furthermore, all applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria (for 2021/22 entry):

- Be a forced migrant to the United Kingdom (a person displaced from their homeland or place of residence for political, economic, ethnic, environmental, or human rights pressures)
- Be unable to access mainstream funding, for example from Student Finance England or a local authority grant
- Have already applied to study at the University in September 2021 or January 2022 (PG only). You must have received your offer to study by 10 May 2021.
- Not have a degree from a UK University of the same level or higher that you wish to study at Leeds in 2021/22.

For the first year of the scholarship (2018/19), a total of three scholarships were made available. For all subsequent years, the scholarship had a total budget of £150,000 with which to fund scholars’ full tuition costs and £10,000 maintenance costs for each year of study.

The Verder Leeds Scholarship
Verder Leeds Scholarships are one-year fully-funded scholarships for forced migrants to the UK wishing to study selected taught Masters courses in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. The eligible courses are:
- MSc(Eng) Advanced Mechanical Engineering
- MSc Mathematics
- MSc Physics

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:
- Be a forced migrant to the UK (a person displaced from their homeland or place of residence for political, economic, ethnic, environmental or human rights pressures)
- Have the residency status of one of the following:
  - An asylum seeker – a person who has made a claim within the UK for refugee status
  - A refugee who is unable to access funding from Student Finance England
  - A person who has been granted Limited Leave to Remain in the UK (as a result of an asylum application)
- Continue to have immigration status that allows them to study for the duration of their course
- Be unable to access mainstream funding, for example from Student Finance England or a local authority grant
- Hold an unconditional offer of a study place
The total value of the award is €25,000, which will provide full Home Fees, with the remaining amount providing a maintenance grant of between £8,000 and £9,000.

2. The total number of applications to such awards made by potential students holding refugee OR asylum seeker status in the academic years 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 OR from the date the award was established, if after the academic year 2016/2017, to the current academic year.

3. If applicable, both the number of awards offered AND the number of awards taken up in the academic years 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 OR from the date the award was established, if after the academic year 2016/2017, to the current academic year.

We address these questions together.

Please find the information set out in the attached excel spreadsheet.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University’s response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer
Secretariat
University of Leeds