

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence MSc Conversion Programme

Office for Students Scholarships

School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science

Information for applicants

What is the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence conversion MSc Scholarship?

Queen Mary University of London has secured funding from the UK Office for Students to offer three scholarships of £10,000 each to students studying the MSc Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in the academic year 2020-2021. These scholarships are for under-represented groups in the field of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. To be eligible you need to be a member of at least one of the under-represented groups mentioned below. Priority will be given to the groups a, b and c. In the event that we have more eligible applicants than scholarships, funding decisions will be made based on a written personal statement provided by the applicant as well as academic merit.

To apply for the scholarship, you must have already submitted your application for the programme and have a Queen Mary University of London Student ID, which will be assigned to you as part of the MSc application process.

What is the eligibility criteria for the scholarship?

You are eligible for the scholarship if one or more of the following criteria apply. Please note: all applications will be assessed and priority will be given to those in groups a, b and c. Preference will also be given to students resident in the UK, but not exclusively so.

- a. Female student
- b. Black student
- c. Registered disabled students
- d. Students from POLAR Q1 and Q2 (UK students only) [1]
- e Care experienced student (UK students only) [2]
- f. Estranged student (UK students only) [3]
- g. Gypsy, Roma, Traveller student (resident in the UK)
- h. Refugees (resident in the UK)^[4]
- i. Children from UK military families, veterans and partners of UK military personnel.

[1] POLAR is an acronym for Participation Of Local Areas, which is used in the UK Higher Education (HE) sector as a measure of disadvantage? It is founded on postcode. The UK Government compiles statistics on how many young people in different postcode regions typically go into HE. The 20% of areas with the lowest participation rates are designated as “Quintile 1” (Q1), the top 20% are “Quintile 5” (Q5), and so on. To find out whether your home address is within a Q1 or Q2 area check out: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by->

[area/](#).

[2] A "Care Experience Student" is a student who has been, or is currently, in care, or from a looked-after background, at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after. This care may have been provided in a one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care, or through being looked-after at home with a supervision requirement.

[3] The UK Office for Students defines "estranged students" as students between the age of 18 to 24 who are not communicating with either of their parents. Consequently these students lack the support of a wider family. They may be estranged before entering higher education but can also be at risk of estrangement or becoming estranged during their studies.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

You must have already applied for the MSc Data Science and Artificial Intelligence conversion programme. You will need a Queen Mary University of London student ID number (which you receive as part of the application process) to be able to apply for the scholarship. Apply by completing and submitting the scholarship application form which can be found on our [Scholarships webpage](#).

Can I apply for the scholarship if I've not been offered a place on the MSc course?

Yes, you can apply for the scholarship before you received an offer but you need to be in possession of a Queen Mary University of London ID number. However, the selection committee will only award the scholarships to students that hold an offer for the MSc programme at the time they make award decisions.

Who is the scholarship awarded by?

The UK Government Office for Students <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/news-blogand-events/press-and-media/funding-boost-for-new-courses-in-artificial-intelligence-and-datascience>

How much is the scholarship?

£10,000 per student. The funding will be awarded during the academic year in three instalments.

Does the scholarship have to cover tuition fees?

No, scholarships can be used for tuition fees or as a stipend to cover expenses, or as a mixture of the two.

Is this available for full time and part time study?

No, it is only available for full time students.

Can I still apply for/receive a Government Postgraduate Loan if in receipt of the Data Science and AI scholarship?

Yes.

Can the scholarship be combined with other Queen Mary University of London bursary schemes?

Applicants for this scholarship can also apply for other scholarship schemes at Queen Mary University of London. Students on this programme are exempt from applying to the Science and Engineering Global Excellence Scholarship however.

If I already have external funding can I still apply for the scholarship?

Yes.

Is there a deadline for applying for the scholarship?

Yes, the deadline for applications is 12 August 2020 for students who wish to start the programme in September 2020. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by 1 September 2020.

For students applying to start the programme in January 2021, the deadline for applications is 12 November 2020 and applicants will be advised of the outcome by 1 December 2020.

The application page will be closed when all scholarships have been awarded.

How are the scholarship applications assessed?

Applicants must meet one of the eligibility criteria. Priority will be given to the groups a, b and c. Decisions will be made according to the personal statement provided by the applicant as well as academic merit. Preference will be given to students already resident in the UK students, but not exclusively so.

If successful, how long do I have to formally accept the scholarship?

If a scholarship is offered, you will receive your offer via email. Applicants are given two weeks to respond and accept the scholarship. A reminder email will be sent during this period. If no response is received by the end of the two-week period the offer will be withdrawn.

If I am a current final year undergraduate student at Queen Mary University of London and receive the scholarship, will I still be able to get the Queen Mary Alumni Loyalty Award?

Yes, if you're a current Queen Mary University of London undergraduate progressing to this postgraduate taught course from 2020-21 you are eligible to receive our Queen Mary Alumni Loyalty Award: a £1,000 reduction in tuition fees.

Is the scholarship available to students who have already completed an MSc?

Yes.

Is the scholarship available to students who have completed an integrated masters?

Yes.

Are applicants who are applying for a PG Certificate or PG Diploma eligible to apply?

No, these scholarships are for full Data Science and AI MSc conversion programme only.

Are there any restrictions on household income thresholds to receive the scholarship?

No.

Can the scholarship offer be deferred?

No.

Who do I contact if I have any questions about the scholarship?

For any questions please email: ioc@qmul.ac.uk