

# Postgraduate Conversion Courses in AI and Data Science Scholarships 2020-21

The Data Science and AI Scholarship is available to new Home, EU and International Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Masters students taking up a place to study in academic year 2020-21 on the following programmes of study:

- MSc Data Science & Applications
- MSc Applied Data Science
- MSc Artificial Intelligence & Applications

The scholarship comprises of a £10,000 award to be used on one, or a combination of the following:

- Course tuition fee payment/course tuition fee discount and any remaining balance as stipend
- Course stipend

## Terms and Conditions

The following document outlines the full terms and conditions of this scholarship, please ensure you read them in full before you complete and submit an application form.

### 1. Eligibility

Preference will be given to applicants who meet one, or a combination of the following:

- Female applicants
- Disabled applicants
- Black applicants, specifically:
  - Black or Black British – Caribbean
  - Black or Black British – African
  - Other Black background
  - Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
  - Mixed – White and Black African

Those applicants who meet the above criteria will be prioritised before allocating to other underrepresented groups which are listed below:

- Applicants from POLAR Q1 and Q2
- Care experienced Applicants
- Estranged Applicants
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Applicants
- Refugee Applicants
- Applicants from military family, veteran, partner of military personnel

In order to be eligible for this scholarship you must meet all of the following conditions:

- Home (UK), EU and overseas students who are entirely self-funded. It is not available to students who are fully or partly sponsored.
- Hold an offer of admission onto the full-time or part-time conversion programmes in

Data Science and AI commencing in January 2021 by 25 October 2020; the offer can be unconditional or conditional.

- Receipt of the scholarship is subject to applicants firmly accepting the offer of study, registering as students of the University of Essex for the 2020-21 academic year, and meeting all conditions of our offer;
- This scholarship does not apply to deferred entry. Where a student, to whom a scholarship has been offered, requests deferred entry, the award will be considered again in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- Only one scholarship award can be made per student and the award cannot normally be held in conjunction with other University of Essex awards, including Alumni Loyalty Discount; where a student applies for and is awarded a scholarship and subsequently obtains full external funding, the University will rescind the scholarship offer.

## **2. How do I apply?**

To be considered for this scholarship, you need to:

- Meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the section above
- Have received an offer to study on relevant PGT programme
- Have submitted your application for the Postgraduate Conversion Courses in AI and Data Science Scholarship by the published deadline

Apply for the Scholarship using the application form. This is separate to your application for study, and instructions on returning the form and what information you need to provide are included in the document.

## **3. Selection process**

The Postgraduate Conversion Courses in AI and Data Science Scholarships support talented postgraduate students who can demonstrate an excellent academic background and the potential for future achievement, as well as financial need. We will use the information you provide on your course application and your scholarship application to make our selection. Selection will be based on your eligibility and the information and supporting statements that you provide as part of the scholarship application process.

An initial review will take place to ensure applications meet the criteria lists. All applications that meet the criteria will be passed to the selection panel, chaired by Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health, Prof Maria Fasli, and will include members of academic and administrative staff at the University of Essex.

They will consider the following:

- Eligibility to meet the scholarship criteria
- Target Demographics
- Academic background
- Application standard

## **4. When will I be notified of the award?**

Successful candidates will know the outcome by 12 November 2020 . Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. A scholarship will not commence until you have formally registered on the relevant course at the University of Essex.

## **5. How will I be paid?**

The scholarship can be used for one, or a combination of the following:

- Course tuition fee payment/course tuition fee discount and any remaining balance as stipend
- Course stipend

The tuition fee discount will be automatically deducted from your course tuition fee and the stipend (if there is an outstanding amount) will be paid in four instalments throughout the academic year.

## **6. Intermission**

The University expects students to complete their training in a single continuous period, and does not encourage the suspension of awards. Where suspensions are agreed, the total period of suspension must not normally exceed one calendar year. Sympathetic consideration will be given to requests for abeyance due to personal or family reasons.

The scholarship cannot be continued for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

## **7. Scholarship termination**

If you withdraw from your studies, or are required to withdraw, no further payments will be made. Further stipend payments will be terminated if you cease to be registered as a student with the University. If a scholarship is terminated prematurely for any reason, a scholar must repay to the University any monies including maintenance, travel, subsistence, fees overpaid from the date of the termination of the scholarship. If a student takes up full-time employment whilst in receipt of a scholarship, the scholarship will be terminated as of the first day of employment.

## **8. Dispute resolution**

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the Student Funding Team ([funding@essex.ac.uk](mailto:funding@essex.ac.uk)) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under an award, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and their decision will be final.

*These terms and conditions apply to the Postgraduate conversion courses in AI and Data Science scholarships awarded to students for the academic year 2020-21. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*