



University of  
St Andrews | FOUNDED  
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# SCAPP / University of Sanctuary

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# University of Sanctuary

December 2018	Refugee and Forced Migration network established
March 2019	Academic Council endorses a proposal to apply to become a University of Sanctuary
March 2019	Application submitted by the St Andrews lead, Prof Rebecca Sweetman
Summer 2019	Feedback and improvement process
August 2019	University awarded Sanctuary status
November 2019	Meeting of Sanctuary Operations Group
March 2020	Celebratory event in St Andrews
Sep 2020	Welcomed first cohort of Sanctuary Scholars



# St Andrews Sanctuary Scholarships

Sanctuary Scholarships support maintenance and tuition

- UG Sanctuary Scholarships – 2
- PGT Sanctuary Scholarships – 4
- PGR Sanctuary Scholarships – 2

Open to any applicant that has one of the following official Home Office statuses

- Asylum Seeker
- Refugee
- Humanitarian protection
- Limited leave to remain
- Discretionary leave to remain

Additionally, St Andrews has reclassified asylum seekers as ‘home’ students for tuition fee purposes

# 2020 Our first Sanctuary Scholarships



- Good range of applications, which made the selection process difficult
  - Supporting statements varied in content and focus
  - Clearer guidelines for application were needed
- Complexity of individual situations, there is no one size fits all
  - Each scholar had specific circumstances which needed to be fully understood to ensure we were providing the best suited support
  - Created additional processing and delays in awarding
  - Changes to offer letter were made, including a request for scholars to take advice from legal representatives and/or advise us of the best options so that we are led by the student and their needs
- Later awarding of scholarships was aimed at giving students more time to apply, however, this also created shorter timescales for students to move and source suitable accommodation
  - Earlier awarding of funds required
  - More input from Accommodation Services

# 2020: Our first Sanctuary Scholarships



- Classification of Home Fee Status, prevented applicants accessing our Foundation Programmes
  - Wider discussions to explore options to mitigate this
- Lower applications and acceptances from PGR students
  - Explore options for promotion through Scholarships team, Admissions and Schools

# Lessons learned from 2020 Sanctuary Scholarships



- Clear selection criteria required for application statement
  - Academic merit and potential;
  - Applicant's demonstrated interest in the field of study;
  - Financial need;
  - Impact of the applicant's forced migration status on their access to education.
- Sanctuary Operations subgroup formed to advise Scholarships team, as well as focus on selection, review and individual cases
- The deadline for applications and the announcement of awards need to be carefully considered in order to allow flexibility
- Further discussions needed regarding how best to support foundation programme applicants
- Opportunity to use a remaining PGR scholarship to support a Cara Fellow



## Induction and support for Sanctuary scholars

- Virtual induction and welcome session held in August 2020;
- Weekly Sanctuary consultation hours held virtually during the academic year;
- Sanctuary scholars invited to international events hosted by the Global Office;
- New student diversity internship will focus on enhancing our induction and resources for Sanctuary scholars.



## Outreach

- Embedding of Sanctuary Status within our Access & Widening Participation Portfolio and raising awareness across admissions staff to promote
- As part of the Syrian Futures programme, St Andrews welcomed 17 Syrian young people in February to tour the University and attend taster sessions







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