



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Asylum-seeking students given help to meet costs of education**

Students who are seeking asylum are to benefit from a package of financial support introduced by the University of Edinburgh.

Fully funded scholarships are to be provided for five asylum-seeking undergraduate students admitted to the University in 2016.

Additional undergraduate students seeking asylum will benefit from a significant reduction in costs. These students will pay tuition fees of £1,820 – the amount the Student Awards Agency for Scotland contributes for each Scottish student – instead of rates applied to international students, which begin at £16,700.

Postgraduate taught asylum-seeking students will also benefit from additional support. One student taking a taught Master's degree will benefit from a full scholarship, and further asylum seekers on similar programmes will be liable for around half the costs that would normally apply to students from overseas.

The University will continue to support student refugees arriving in Edinburgh from Syria. Three Masters students will have fully funded scholarships and living costs paid for in 2016.

A further £100,000 will be set aside to provide other forms of assistance, including English language support, for new students who are asylum seekers or refugees, or who have humanitarian protection status.

The University will also approach the Scottish Government to suggest that a solution be found that improves access to Higher Education for asylum seekers across all institutions in Scotland.

Professor Sir Tim O'Shea, Principal of the University, said: "We want to support the aspiration of asylum seekers to continue their education at the University of Edinburgh.

"Asylum seekers are routinely charged international fees and are not permitted to apply for any student loans, effectively placing a University education beyond their financial means.

"We are therefore offering one of the best packages of support for asylum seekers in the UK, delivering access that would not otherwise be possible."

For further information, please contact:

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