UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Artificial Intelligence and Data Science scholarships 2023/4

Guidance for applicants

Background

The fourth industrial revolution is here: artificial intelligence and big data is set to transform our society, bringing changes to the way we work and transforming our approaches to healthcare, food security, and tackling climate change. The UK government’s industrial strategy includes the Grand Challenge to “put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution”. There is increasing demand for workers with digital skills, both within the AI and data science sector and in traditionally non-digital industries, but research indicates that there is a significant skills shortfall in the current UK workforce. In addition, the lack of diversity within the AI and data science sector has been shown to affect the equitability of results from technology processes. If UK AI cannot improve the diversity of its workforce, the capability and credibility of the sector will be undermined. It is therefore essential that AI developed in the UK reflects the needs and make-up of society as a whole.

To tackle this challenge, the UK government’s Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has committed up to £8.17 million to fund scholarships for postgraduate conversion courses in AI and data science in 2023-24. These funds are distributed across 30 UK institutions. To support increasing diversity in the sector, the scholarships are aimed at applicants from the following under-represented groups:

- Women
- Black students
- Students registered disabled
- Students from low socioeconomic background
- Care experienced students
- Estranged students
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students
- Refugees
- Children from military families, veterans and partners of military personnel

The University of York has been awarded 61 scholarships for new starters on the MSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence (online) and the MSc Computer Science with Data Analytics (online) commencing their studies between September 2023 and March 2024. In addition, we have one scholarship provided by ETAS, a subsidiary of Bosch, to further support the aims of the scheme. Each scholarship is worth £10,000 and is intended to support the costs of studying (e.g. tuition fees) and/or living costs incurred whilst studying.
How to apply

Please read this guidance document and the accompanying terms and conditions before applying. Acceptance of an offer of a scholarship will be taken as acceptance of the terms and conditions.

Applications must be made through the online form. All questions must be answered; incomplete forms will not be considered. We will only use information provided in the form to assess your application so it is important that you answer all questions in full.

If you have any questions about your eligibility or the process, please contact us at enquiries@online.york.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1904 211 030.

Eligibility

The first section of the form checks your eligibility for the scholarships. The criteria around residency and prior subject knowledge are set by the Office for Students. We may check the information you provide in this section against other information you have provided as part of your application to study with us.

You must have an unconditional offer to study on one of the following eligible programmes:

- MSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
- MSc Computer Science with Data Analytics

Personal details

The information provided in this section enables us to contact you and to update the student record for successful applicants so that the 10% tuition fee discount can be applied.

Group criteria

The scholarships are aimed at applicants from under-represented groups, as identified by the Office for Students. If we receive large numbers of applications, this section will be used to prioritise them for consideration. The groups are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Including trans and non-binary individuals</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Black students</td>
<td>As defined by the following HESA student ethnicity codes, as self-identified by the student:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21 - Black or Black British - Caribbean</td>
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<td>22 - Black or Black British - African</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>29 - Other Black background</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41 - Mixed - White and Black Caribbean</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>42 - Mixed - White and Black African</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Students registered disabled</td>
<td>Students who have declared their disability to the University. You’re disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities. ‘Substantial’ is more than minor or trivial, eg it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed. ‘Long-term’ means 12 months or more, eg a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection. There are special rules about recurring or fluctuating conditions, eg arthritis.</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Students from low socio-economic backgrounds</td>
<td>We will use a combination of measures to assess eligibility for this criterion:  ● POLAR4 Quintile 1 and 2, or Index of Multiple Disadvantage deciles 1-4;  ● occupation of main household earner when aged about 14;  ● eligibility for free school meals; and,  ● whether or not your parents attended university. You can use this <a href="https://www.geostats.org/polar4">website to check whether the neighbourhood is part of POLAR4 Quintile 1 and 2</a> and <a href="https://www.google.com">this website to check whether the neighbourhood is part of deciles 1-4 in the Index of Multiple Disadvantage</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Care experienced students</td>
<td>‘Care experienced’ refers to anyone who has been in care at any time up to the age of 18. This care may have been provided in many different settings, including living with foster carers; living in a residential children's home; being looked after at home under a supervision order; living with friends or relatives in kinship care.</td>
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<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Estranged students</td>
<td>The term ‘estranged student’ describes someone who has no communication with both of their biological or adoptive parents, and the situation is likely to remain permanent. To be eligible for the scholarship, this situation should have arisen before the age of 18.</td>
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<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller students</td>
<td>The term Gypsy, Roma and Traveller encompasses a range of ethnic groups or people with nomadic ways of life who are not from a specific ethnicity, including:  ● English, Scottish or Welsh Gypsies or Travellers and other Romany people  ● Irish Travellers  ● European Roma and related groups  ● Show people such as people linked with fairground or circus professions  ● People living on barges or other boats  ● People living in settled (bricks and mortar) accommodation</td>
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<td>New Age Travellers</td>
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| 8 | Refugees | At the time of application, you must be:  
  ● A refugee recognised by the UK government; or  
  ● the spouse / civil partner of such a refugee and you must have been the spouse or civil partner of that person on the date on which their asylum application was made; or  
  ● the child of such a refugee or of a refugee's spouse or civil partner and at the time the refugee made the asylum application you must have been the under-18-year-old child of the refugee or of the refugee's spouse or civil partner;  

AND  

you have not ceased to be ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands:  
  ● since you were recognised as a refugee; or  
  ● if you are a spouse / civil partner, or child, of a refugee, since you were given leave to remain in the UK. |
| 9 | Children from military families, veterans and partners of military personnel | Where you, your parent(s) or your partner is or was in the military |

Priority will be given to applicants in groups 1-4, with each set of characteristics considered equal. Within this group, priority will be given to applicants with multiple characteristics, with those having the most characteristics receiving the highest priority.

Please tick all the boxes that you feel apply to you but be aware that we may check what you have told us against other information we hold on you and we may ask for evidence if we deem necessary.

**Personal statement**

The personal statement consists of three questions:

1. Please tell us why you have applied and how this scholarship will impact you.
2. How have the barriers you have faced affected or disrupted your education?
3. How will this scholarship help you achieve your ambitions for the future?

Answers should be no more than 250 words for each question.

The panel will be looking for a clear articulation of your circumstances, the impact of those circumstances to date, and what you hope to achieve with your future studies and through this scholarship. The panel don’t necessarily need detailed information about your background or how you came to be in one of the under-represented groups. Any information you do provide will be treated in confidence.
Informing you of the outcome

We will inform you of the panel’s decision at least one week before the course enrolment deadline.