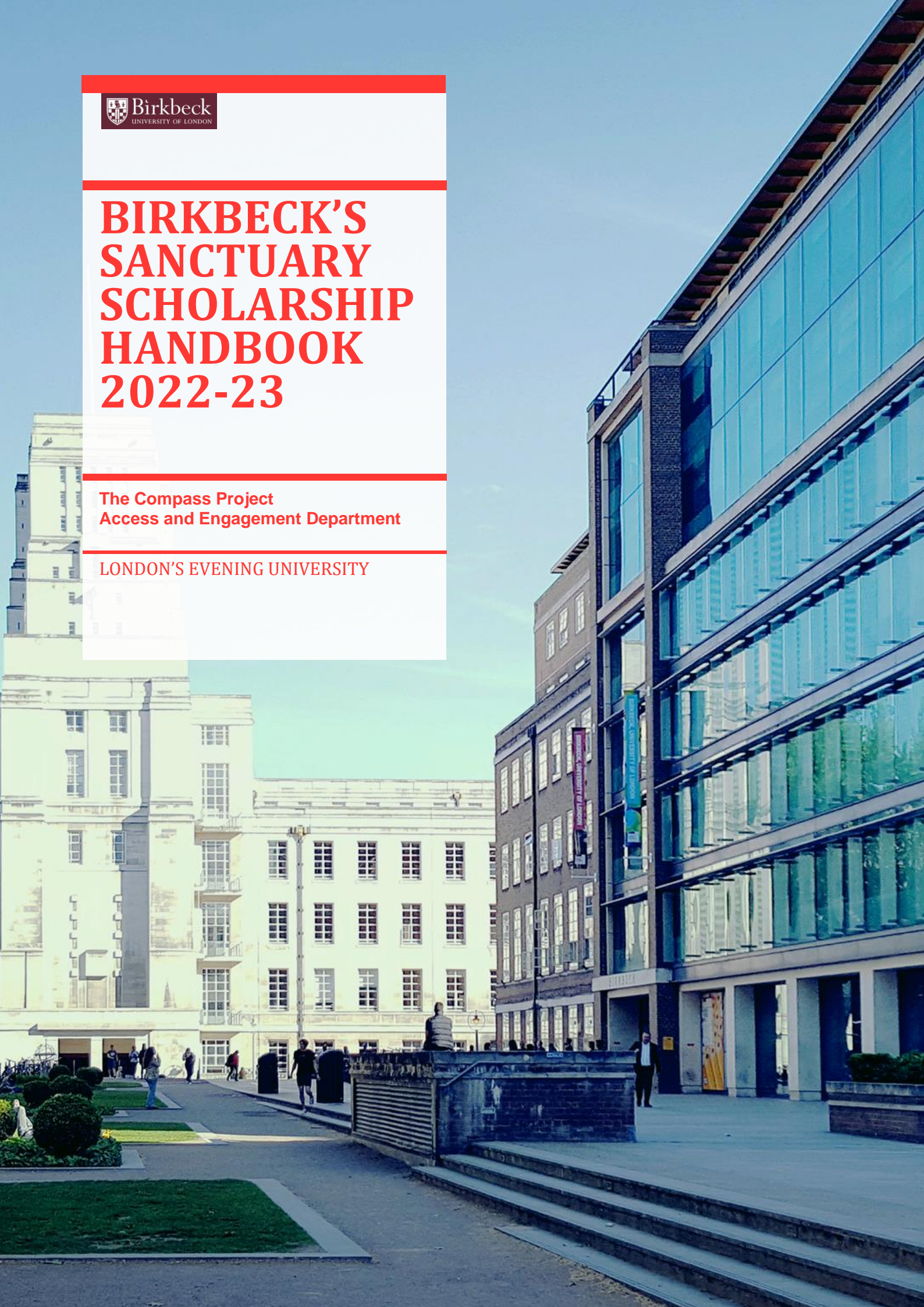


# **BIRKBECK'S SANCTUARY SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK 2022-23**

**The Compass Project  
Access and Engagement Department**

**LONDON'S EVENING UNIVERSITY**



# BIRKBECK'S SANCTUARY SCHOLARSHIPS 2022-23

---

This handbook is a guide for prospective students who wish to study at Birkbeck, University of London through the Compass Project, Sanctuary Scholarship.

---

## WHAT IS THE COMPASS PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP?

---

“Because of the Compass Project, I can hold my head up high.”

- *\*Grace, a 2018  
Compass Scholar*

The Compass Project provides students from a forced migrant background, who are not eligible for student finance, with a sanctuary scholarship to study a university-level programme at Birkbeck.

Birkbeck is committed to supporting those who have taken a less traditional route into higher education. The Compass Project is focused on helping those who may face difficulty in accessing other educational opportunities due to lack of previous academic documentation, or for those who have been out of education for a long period of time.

The qualification gained through receipt of the Compass Project Scholarship will act as a springboard to further opportunities at Birkbeck or other educational institutions.

Successful applicants will receive:

- a **full tuition fee waiver** for relevant courses
- additional financial support to cover costs such as **transport, childcare and books**

Watch our [video](#) to find out more about The Compass Project.

---

## THE SCHOLARSHIPS

---



### WHAT DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDE?

#### TUITION FEES

Successful applicants will be given a tuition fee waiver for an appropriate course. This typically covers 1-year of a full-time programme or 2 years part-time.

#### BURSARY

Successful applicants to the scholarship will receive a £3000 bursary that should be spent on the cost of travel to classes, books and other study materials.

Students will be awarded £1000 per-term if enrolled onto a full time programme. Students who receive NASS support will be offered the bursary in vouchers.

#### ONE TO ONE SUPPORT

Successful applicants will also receive additional support around navigating university. Every student is paired with an Academic Mentor and is invited to attend academic and cultural workshops throughout the year.

### WHAT COURSE CAN I STUDY?

We offer scholarships for the following types of degree programmes which can be taken as either part-time or full-time:

- [Foundation Year](#) (120 credits)
- A [Certificate of Higher Education](#) in one of the following courses
  - [Life Sciences for subjects Allied to Medicine](#)
  - [Psychodynamic counselling](#)
  - [Physics and Maths](#)
- [Postgraduate degree including Masters](#) (Up to 180 credits)

You must apply for a degree programme that starts in October 2022.

We do not support applicants to shared programmes with other institutions.

If you are unsure what programme you would like to study, we encourage you to get in touch with the department directly.

---

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

---

If you are unsure as to whether you meet the eligibility criteria or if anything requires clarification, please contact us. You may also find [this video on eligibility](#) useful.

## ELIGIBILITY

The Compass Project offers opportunities to those who would not otherwise be able to access university level education elsewhere. As a result, we prioritise applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Those who have not previously studied a degree at a UK institution.
- Those who have been out of formal education for more than 5 years.

## IMMIGRATION STATUS

You must meet one of the following criteria

1. [Asylum Seeker](#)

You have made a claim for asylum in the UK and not yet had a decision (asylum seekers).

Or you are currently appealing an asylum decision and can evidence making a fresh claim.

Or you have made a claim under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights and not yet had a decision.

## 2. Discretionary/limited leave to remain

You have been granted temporary status as a result of an asylum claim or an Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights claim.

## 3. Other

You are the spouse/civil partner of a person meeting these criteria (must have been the spouse or civil partner of the applicant on the date of asylum application).

Or you are the child of a person meeting these criteria (must have been under 18 years old and the child of the applicant or their spouse/civil partner at the time of asylum application).

You will need to provide documentation to confirm your immigration status in the UK.

**If you have refugee status or humanitarian protection you will not be entitled to receive the scholarship as you can access government student finance. [What am I entitled to?](#)**

## **OTHER**

In addition to the above, you must also meet all of the following criteria:

- You must be resident in the UK.
- You must be ineligible to receive student finance ([find out more about eligibility requirements for student finance here](#)).
- You will need to demonstrate a good level of English language skills (spoken and written). This is assessed via the application process, and you may be asked to participate in an informal assessment if necessary.
- As we are unable to offer accommodation, you will need to already be living within a commutable distance of central London.

---

## HOW DO I APPLY?

---

If you are eligible to apply for the scholarship, please ensure that you have read the following guidelines on how to submit a full application. If you do not complete all necessary steps, your application will not be considered.

### STEP ONE: DISCOVER BIRKBECK

Before applying for the scholarship, it is important that you have had the opportunity to get to know Birkbeck as well as exploring which course is right for you. Remember to check out the events taking place throughout April and May from the Compass Project.

### STEP TWO: APPLY FOR YOUR COURSE

When you are ready to apply to your course, you will need to do one of the following:

**1. If you are applying to a foundation year:**

Applying for this level of study requires a UCAS account

1. Create an account on [UCAS](#) and complete the sections
2. Write a [Personal Statement](#)
3. Add the Birkbeck course with foundation year as one of your options

**2. If you are applying for a Certificate of Higher Education or Postgraduate course:**

Applying for this level of study does not require a UCAS account, instead you apply directly to Birkbeck

1. Find the [course online](#) and follow the instructions on 'how to apply'
2. Write a Personal Statement if required by the course programme
3. Apply directly to the course when you are ready

For support with UCAS application, [see here](#).

For support with writing a personal statement, consider using Birkbeck's '[Personal Statement Checker](#)' or watching this short video on [Writing a Personal statement](#).

Please note, you will be required to add an academic referee for both application routes.

## **STEP THREE:**

Once you have completed the previous steps, you may apply for the Compass Project online. You will need to:

- 1. Make sure you have attended one of the [Compass Events](#).**
- 2. Ask someone to be your Referee**
- 3. Complete an [online application form](#)**

### **1. SELECTING A REFEREE**

You will need to provide a reference from someone who knows you and who is able to comment on your suitability for study. Examples of possible referees are educators (e.g., schoolteachers, ESOL instructors, college instructors), lawyers, social workers, NGO workers, or local authority officers.

**Please make sure that you have asked the permission of your referee before submitting their details on your application form. We require your referee's:**

- Full name
- Name of the organisation they work for and the address
- Role in the organisation
- Telephone number
- Email address

**We will contact your referee after applications have closed on 1<sup>st</sup> June if we require a reference from them.**

### **2. ONLINE APPLICATION FORM**

**The online application form is divided into a number of sections including:**

- Personal information

- Educational history
- Intended course details
- Immigration status + funding eligibility
- Referee details
- Supporting information (series of 4 questions that focus on your reasons for study and applying to the scholarship)

**The application will go live on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and you can access it here:**

We advise that you prepare your answers to the questions that make up your supporting statement on a Word document, then copy them into the application text boxes when you are ready to complete the form.

Below are the 4 questions which you will find under 'Section 9: Supporting Statement' of the application form. **Please note that each question requires a response of between 150-250 words:**

1. Why do you want to study at university and why is Birkbeck the right place for you?
2. How have you engaged with learning and/or education, in order to prepare for university this year?
3. How have you engaged with the Compass Project in the lead up to your application?
4. How will you benefit from this particular scholarship programme?

Remember to watch the following videos for tips on answering these questions.

- [How to Apply for the Compass Sanctuary Scholarship](#)
- [How to approach a scholarship application](#)
- [Writing a supporting statement](#)

## **WHEN CAN I APPLY?**

- **Applications will open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**
- **The deadline for applying is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022**



