KMi Annual Summer Scholarship
A scholarship for young people from a Black background
Terms and Conditions 2024

The KMi Annual Summer Scholarship

1. The Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) Annual Summer Scholarship is for individuals aged 16 to 20 who identify as being from a Black background (see Appendix 1 for full details). Three scholarships are available in 2024.

2. There is no requirement to be a student registered at The Open University (OU) to be eligible to apply. We anticipate that applicants will be in education, but this is not a requirement.

3. Successful scholarship recipients will carry out a short computer science project in KMi, lasting 9 weeks between 1 July and 30 August 2024. The project may be conducted online, at The Open University campus in Milton Keynes or both.

4. Successful recipients will receive non-repayable funding of up to £2,700, to be used at their discretion, for example, it could be used for project costs or other living expenses. A payment schedule will be agreed which is appropriate to the needs of the scholar and their project.

5. The scholarship is intended as a contribution towards costs and is not a tuition fee payment method.

6. A scholarship includes mentoring and support from KMi researchers, students and technicians. The project findings will be shared with KMi, for example, by depositing a report in the OU's Open Research Online (ORO) repository or depositing data or code in the Open Research Data Online

(ORDO) repository, or by making a short video to show your findings, with the support of KMi members.

Terms & Conditions

7. These conditions contain the terms of the KMi Annual Summer Scholarship. They set out the rights and responsibilities of each party which will apply in relation to your application for the scheme and, for successful applicants only, whilst you are undertaking the project.

8. Please read these conditions carefully before you apply and make sure that you understand them.

Eligibility

9. In order to qualify for a scholarship, you must meet **all** the following criteria:

- Identify as being from a Black background (see Appendix 1 for full details)

- Be aged between 16 and 20 years on 31 May 2024

- Have an interest in technology and sufficient time available during the summer

- Be ordinarily resident in the UK

- Be able to provide details of two referees whom we can contact if you are selected for a scholarship (at least one is required from your educational institute, the other can be from a personal referee)

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- Will be available to carry out a project which will start on 1 July 2024 and run for 9 weeks until 30 August 2024

Scholarship payments

10. Successful applicants will receive their scholarship funding by BACS directly into their bank account.

11. A payment schedule will be agreed which is appropriate to the needs of the scholar and their project. For example, payment might be made in three instalments.

12. All payments will be subject to the university verifying that you are actively participating in study.

13. Scholarships do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant.

14. Any scholarship payment made by The Open University in error or paid as a result of false information submitted will be recovered from the applicant.

Applications

15. Applications should be submitted to Miss Ortenz Rose by email to STEM-kmi-scholarship@open.ac.uk and she will acknowledge that it has been received.

16. The deadline for submitting applications is midday on 26 April 2024. No further applications will be accepted after this date.

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17. It is your responsibility to provide any supporting evidence required for your application. Any application form received which is incomplete cannot be considered.

18. Applications on behalf of another person will not be accepted.

19. The Open University accepts no responsibility for applications that are lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete or cannot be delivered.

20. Only one application per person.

21. Awards will be made by a panel of OU staff, comprised of a Senior KMi academic, a KMi doctoral student, a People Services Representative and an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Representative from the STEM faculty. Funds are limited, and no guarantee of an award can be made.

22. Up to £2,700 will be payable as detailed in these terms and conditions.

23. Successful applicants will be notified by 31 May 2024. If the applicant rejects the scholarship or the application is in breach of these terms and conditions, the award will be forfeited, and The Open University shall be entitled to select another recipient.

24. The project will start on 1 July 2024 and run for 9 weeks until 30 August 2024.

25. Successful applicants will be asked to meet and collaborate with other awardees during the 9 week project period.

26. Successful applicants may be offered the opportunity to take part in promotional activity related to the KMi Annual Summer Scholarship such as attending fundraising events or taking part in forums.

27. The Open University shall use and take care of any personal information supplied to it as described in its [Privacy Notice](#), a copy of which is available on request, in accordance with data protection legislation.

28. By submitting your application, you agree to the collection, retention, usage and distribution of your personal information in order to process your application and contact you.

29. The Open University accepts no responsibility for any disappointment incurred by the applicant as a result of entering the application process. The scholarship is discretionary, and the decision of the panel is final.

30. The Open University will take all reasonable steps to continue the services offered as part of this scheme. There may be circumstances outside of our control where we are unable to provide those services in full or in part for reasons such as fire, flood, pandemic, terrorist acts or industrial disputes. Where those, or similar, circumstances arise we will minimise disruption so far as we are reasonably able to.

31. Promoter: The Open University, Walton Hall, Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

Frequently Asked Questions

How were the eligibility criteria decided?

We want to do our best to ensure that the OU reflects the whole of our society. The aim of the scholarship is to offer participation in a summer project at the Knowledge Media Institute (KMi) to individuals who identify as Black. Among the visitors who come to KMi every summer, there has been an under-representation of those from a Black background. Individuals who identify as Black are also under-represented among computer science post-doctoral students. This annual scholarship, now in its fifth year, aims to improve representation and create greater awareness of computer science research to help address these inequalities.

Chapter 2 of [The Equality Act 2010](#) allows service providers to take action that may involve treating one group more favourably where this is a proportionate way to help members of that group overcome a disadvantage or participate more fully, or in order to meet needs they have that are different from the population as a whole. This is called 'positive action'.

Why isn't the scholarship open to all?

Scholarship funds are limited, it is therefore not possible to open the scheme up to all people. This limit on funds was considered when determining who the scholarship would be available to. The eligibility criteria are in place to

maximise the benefits of the scheme and ensure it reaches those who will benefit from it most.

What happens if I withdraw from the scholarship?

Scholarships do not normally have to be paid back, as they are a grant. However, if you withdraw, or take a leave of absence, you will not receive further instalments until you resume activity.

What can the scholarship money be spent on?

There are no restrictions on what you can spend the money on, however the scholarship is intended to support you with project costs or other living expenses during the project.

Appendix 1 - Ethnicity

Applicants must have one of the following ethnicities:

- Black African
- Black Caribbean
- Black Other
- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African
- Other mixed background (to include Black African, Black Caribbean or Black Other)