The Open University

KMi Annual Summer Scholarship 2026

A scholarship for young people from a Black background

- Eligible applicants may apply for a scholarship of up to £2,700, paid according to an agreed schedule.
- Before making an application, please ensure you have read the full Terms and Conditions available at http://kmi.open.ac.uk/scholarship.
- Applications for the 2026 scholarship will close at midday on **30 April 2026**.
- Please note: Scholarship funds are limited. There are 3 scholarships available for 2026. Fulfilling the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you success. 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.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to an interview in mid-May. Successful applicants will then be contacted by 1 June 2026.

Completing the application

To be included in the selection process you must complete this application form correctly and in full, providing supporting evidence where required.

Section 1: Your details

1.1

Title	Forename(s)	Surname	Date of birth

Address

Postcode	Email address

Telephone number	How old will you be on 28 May 2026?

1.2 I confirm that I have read, understand and accept the Terms and Conditions (available at http://kmi.open.ac.uk/scholarship) for applying for a KMi Annual Summer Scholarship.

Section 2: Your eligibility for a Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship you must meet all the following criteria:

- You identify as being from a Black background
- You are aged 16-20 on 28 May 2026
- You have an interest in technology and sufficient time available during the summer
- You are ordinarily resident in the UK
- You can provide details of two referees (at least one is required from your educational institute, the other can be from a personal referee)

2.1   I confirm that I am resident in the UK.

2.2   I confirm that I 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), please state:

Section 3: Your previous qualifications

3.1   Do you already hold, or are you working towards any of these qualifications (tick all that apply)?

GSCE

A Level

Access level

BTEC

Other (give details)

3.2   The Open University has many practical qualifications in Computing and IT. There is also an Open Futures Scholarship for Black Students that covers OU undergraduate and credit-bearing modules and qualifications. Would you like more information on studying at The Open University?

Yes   No

Section 4: Your personal statement

Important note: While it's okay to use text generators such as ChatGPT to help with your personal statement, we recommend writing it yourself. Sharing your own words and real experiences will make your application stand out more. The selection committee wants to hear your unique story and get to know the real you. This will give you a better chance of being noticed and remembered.

4.1 **In no more than 500 words, describe what interests you about technology and about doing a project in KMi. What excites you most when you use technology for study or play?**

You will enjoy the project more if you're curious about technology and its impact on people and society. Do you like exploring how things work, imagining future technologies, or thinking about how AI could help or harm communities? Maybe you enjoy understanding why people do what they do, or you like spotting patterns and making sense of numbers or building/taking technologies apart to see how they are made. Tell us about your interests and give example - these could be hobbies, subjects/modules or any experience you've had.

4.2   In no more than 500 words describe either:

- an example of when you have worked well in a pair or team. What did you do? What did you like? **or**
- an example of when you have effectively managed your time. How did you do this?

4.3 In no more than 500 words, explain which one of the research streams appeals most to you and why.

Please read through the three research streams on the website and include what you like about **one** of the research streams or what you think you will enjoy most about it. For example, you might tell us about any relevant hobbies or experience you have or describe how you think you would approach a project in the area. Are there skills or experience you could bring to **one** of the projects?

4.4 **In no more than 500 words, please explain what other time commitments you have during the summer and how will you keep on top of your project work. You might give examples of when you have managed your time if you have not already done so in section 4.2**

Section 5: Your bank or building society details

5.1   Your bank or building society

Please enter your UK bank or building society account for payment of the scholarship funding should your application be successful. If you do not enter your full details here, we will be unable to make your payment and you will forfeit the right to a scholarship. The account should be in your name.

Name of the account holder

Account number or building society roll number   **Sort code**

Scholarship payments could affect your entitlement to claim benefits. It is your responsibility to check this with the Department for Work and Pensions or Citizens Advice.

Section 6: Declaration

Read the declaration below carefully before signing it.

6.1   Your declaration

- The information provided in this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I have read the Terms and Conditions and I understand the conditions of receiving a KMi Annual Summer Scholarship for young people from a Black background.
- I understand that if I give The Open University false information, or fail to give complete information, my scholarship funding will be withdrawn.
- I understand that The Open University will award the scholarships by a selection panel and that there is no right of appeal should my application be unsuccessful.

Your signature   **Date**

Section 7: Referees

7.1   Please provide details of two referees whom we may contact if you are selected for a scholarship. At least one should be from your educational institute, another may be a friend or other person you know.

Referee 1

Name

Role (if applicable)

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Postcode   Email address

Telephone

How do you know this person?

Referee 2

Name

Role (if applicable)

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Postcode   Email address

Telephone

How do you know this person?

Section 8: Checklist

8.1   Use the checklist to make sure that your application is complete. Please confirm that you have:

read the Terms and Conditions available at http://kmi.open.ac.uk/scholarship

completed all required sections of this application form

included your bank details in Section 5.1

signed and dated the declaration in Section 6.1

provided two details of referees

Section 9: Consent to contact

The KMi Annual Summer Scholarship is funded by The Open University. If your application is successful, we may wish to contact you inviting you to attend events with other recipients or to share your story for the purposes of promoting the scheme for the benefit of other students. We will not use personal data of any persons in any materials without prior consent. (Your answer to this question will not affect your eligibility for a scholarship or your prospects of selection.)

9.1   If my application is successful, I consent to The Open University contacting me regarding promotional events and material.

Yes   No

Data Protection Legislation

The following statement describes who will use the information provided on this form and what they will use it for.

We will use the information you give on this form to process your Knowledge Media Institute Annual Summer Scholarship application.

The Open University needs the information you give on this form to work out whether you are eligible for support and is the data controller for that information. The Open University will keep personal information about you so that we can audit the assessment of Knowledge Media Institute Annual Summer Scholarship.

The data provided on this form will be retained by The Open University for a period of time based on the duration of your qualification.

As a data subject, you have a number of rights. If you wish to see the information the University holds about you, or if you wish for any information to be corrected, deleted or blocked ("restricted"), please contact us using the details below.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. Our Data Protection Officer can be contacted on the details below.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not in accordance with the law you can complain to the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). See www.ico.org.uk.

Open University Data Protection Officer University Secretary's Office
PO Box 497
The Open University Walton Hall
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA
Email: data-protection@open.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1908 653994

Please scan and email your completed application and supporting evidence to:

Stem-kmi-scholarship@open.ac.uk
Phone +44 (0)1908 654774

quality standard for information
advice and guidance services
● approved by the **matrix** Accreditation Body

The Open University Academic Services

February 2026