

Welcome
to

School

in Scotland

S4 -S6



This book is a gift from The Educational Institute of Scotland

www.eis.org.uk/welcometoscotland

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Scotland's largest
and most effective
education trade union





This book belongs to

.....

who comes from

.....

and who speaks

.....



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMIE SQUIRE

Welcome to Scotland

This booklet is for any young person from age 15 to 18 who has recently arrived in Scotland from another country and goes to school here.

Whether you have arrived in Scotland with your family or on your own, and after an easy journey or a difficult journey, you are welcome in Scotland.

This pack will tell you a bit about Scotland, and what your rights at school are here. We hope you will find it useful.

This booklet has been written by an organisation which promotes education in Scotland, the EIS. We have 56,000 members who are teachers in Scotland. We campaign for a good education for every child and young person.

What you brought to Scotland

When you came to Scotland, you might have brought a bag, a suitcase, and all of your favourite things. Or you might have had to leave home very suddenly, and brought nothing at all. Whatever the way that you came to Scotland, did you know that you brought things that are very valuable? Let us explain what we mean.

Every young person who comes to Scotland brings with them lots of skills and knowledge from their home country. This will make Scotland a better place for everyone. You bring knowledge of your language, your culture, your food and your music. People who already live here in Scotland have a lot to learn from you.

Thank you for bringing your skills, talents, knowledge and experience to Scotland.



Scotland's geography

Scotland is a country that is part of a group of countries called the United Kingdom (sometimes called the UK).

The UK is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Scotland is part of the mainland. It is in the northern part of the island of Great Britain and it shares a border with England.

The capital city of Scotland is Edinburgh, which is located on the east coast of the country.

Can you mark where you live on the map of Scotland?



Western Isles



The country is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to the east and the North Channel and the Irish Sea to the south-west.

Scotland has more than 790 islands, including the Northern Isles and the Hebrides.



Loch Ness



Glasgow

Edinburgh



This is a map of the continent of Europe. Scotland is one of the 44 countries in Europe.





North America



This is a map of the world, showing the continents, Scotland and the UK.

Scotland

UK

Euro

Africa

South America

On the map, you can add your home town, city or country.

If you want to, you can draw the journey that you made to come to Scotland.



pe

Asia



Australia



Antarctica

Scottish weather

Scotland has a mixed climate. Sometimes it is warm and dry, mainly in the summer, but often is rainy and cold - even in summer - and a lot in the winter, when there is sometimes snow. There does not tend to be dramatic weather in Scotland - for example, no hurricanes or monsoons.



Schools, colleges and universities



Scottish Parliament



U.K. Parliament



European Parliament

Politics and society

Scotland has many of its own laws and its own education system (schools, colleges and universities).

It has its own Parliament, which is in Edinburgh (the capital city). It's called Holyrood and makes decisions about many issues, including housing, education and healthcare.

The politicians who are elected to the Scottish Parliament are called MSPs (Members of the Scottish Parliament). Because Scotland is part of the United Kingdom, it also has politicians called MPs (Members of Parliament) in the UK Parliament, which is in London and is called Westminster.

Scotland has membership of the European Parliament, but this might change when the UK leaves the European Union (after what is commonly called 'Brexit').

The people of Scotland






There were 5,200,000 people living in Scotland in 2011. The country's population has been growing in recent years.







People have come from all over the world to live in Scotland so its people are from many different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are almost 150 languages spoken in Scotland. The main language is English, but some people speak Scots, Gaelic, Hindi, Urdu, Polish, Arabic, Kurdish, Cantonese, and many other languages.

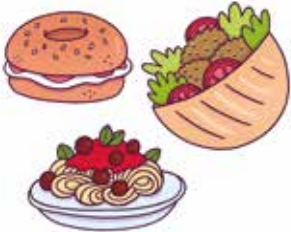




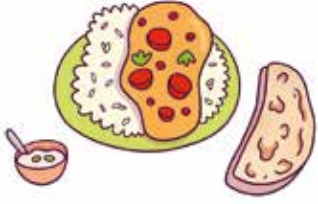
Think about the languages that are spoken and written in your home country and in your home. You might be bi-lingual (able to speak two languages) or multi-lingual (able to speak more than two languages). Be sure to tell your teacher about the languages that you can speak or write. These are very important skills to have.












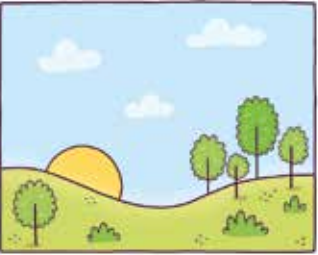


Here are some words in English that you will see and hear every day in Scotland. We have translated these words into Polish, French and Arabic. If none of these is your language, you can choose to say or write down each word in your own language.

	<p>house</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>dom maison منزل</p>
	<p>mother / mum</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>mama mère أم</p>
	<p>father / dad</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>ojciec/tato père الآب</p>
	<p>sister</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>siostra sœur أخت</p>
	<p>brother</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>brat frère شقيق</p>

	<p>grandmother gran / granny</p>	<p>..... babcia grand-mère جدة</p>
	<p>grandfather grandad granpa</p>	<p>..... dziadek grand-père جد</p>
	<p>aunt</p>	<p>..... ciotka tante عمة</p>
	<p>uncle</p>	<p>..... wujek oncle اخو الام</p>
	<p>cousin</p>	<p>..... kuzyn cousine / cousin ولد عم</p>
	<p>family</p>	<p>..... rodzina famille عائلة</p>


	<p>food</p>	<p>..... żywność / jedzenie aliments / nourriture طعام</p>
	<p>drink</p>	<p>..... drink/pić boisson/boir يشرب</p>
	<p>eat</p>	<p>..... jeść manger تأكل</p>
	<p>breakfast</p>	<p>..... śniadanie petit déjeuner وجبة افطار</p>
	<p>lunch</p>	<p>..... drugie śniadanie déjeuner وجبة افطار</p>
	<p>dinner</p>	<p>..... obiad dîner وجبة عشاء</p>


	<p>play</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>gra jouer لعب</p>
	<p>games</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>gry jeux ألعاب</p>
	<p>phone</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>telefon téléphone هاتف</p>
	<p>bus</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>autobus autobus حافلة</p>
	<p>car</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>samochód voiture سيارة</p>
	<p>train</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>pociąg train قطار</p>


	<p>shop</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>sklep magasin / boutique متجر</p>
	<p>supermarket</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>supermarket supermarché سوبر ماركت</p>
	<p>library</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>biblioteka bibliothèque مكتبة</p>
	<p>morning</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>ranek matin صباح</p>
	<p>afternoon</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>popołudnie après midi بعد الظهر</p>
	<p>night-time</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>noc nuit وقت الليل</p>

Use the next few pages to add to the word list with more new words you are learning in English.

You might want to draw a picture for each word to help you remember.

<p>picture</p> 	<p>English word</p>	<p>word in your language</p>

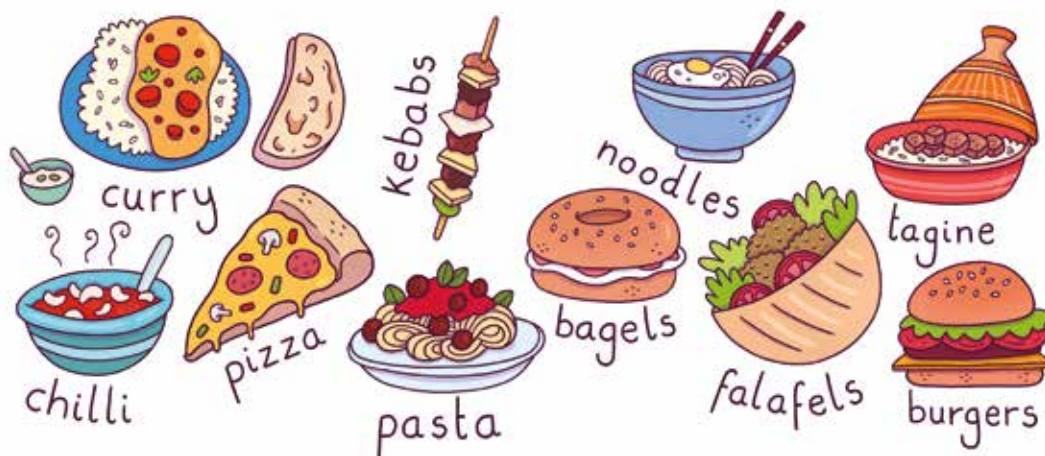
<p>picture</p> 	<p>English word</p>	<p>word in your language</p>

<p>picture</p> 	<p>English word</p>	<p>word in your language</p>

Scotland's food

People living in Scotland eat foods from countries and regions all over the world and some traditional Scottish food too.

In cafes and restaurants, and at home, people eat food cooked from recipes and ingredients from many countries- France, Spain and Italy; Greece and Turkey; China, Japan, Thailand and Korea; India and North Africa; and the USA and Mexico, for example.



There are also some traditional Scottish meals that some people eat at home and that you might see on menus in cafes or restaurants, like steak pie, stew and haggis.

Haggis, neeps and tatties is Scotland's national dish. It is made from heart, liver, onions spices and oatmeal. It is usually eaten with neeps (turnip) and tatties (potatoes). Vegetarian haggis is also very popular today.

Scotland is also well known for a variety of delicious soups, fish like smoked salmon and mackerel, and fantastic seafood like prawns and crab.

Tell your teachers and the others in your classes about the foods from your home country.



Clothes worn in Scotland

People in Scotland wear many different types of clothing. What people wear depends on the weather, the occasion or what they are doing, and sometimes their cultural or religious backgrounds.

The national dress of Scotland is the kilt. It can be worn by both females and males and is woven into many different colours and patterns called tartan. Tartans are linked to families that people belong to.

The kilt is often worn at weddings and other special occasions.



Scotland's music

Scotland's traditional music and dancing has a long history. Some people play bagpipes, fiddles and other traditional musical instruments when they are making what's called 'folk music' or 'ceilidh music'.



Some people also like to do traditional Scottish dancing, sometimes called 'ceilidh dancing', 'Highland dancing' or 'Scottish country dancing'. Each dance has its own special movements and steps. You might see people doing these dances at festivals, weddings and other special occasions. You might learn some of these dances in P.E. at school.

Lots of different kinds of music and dance are popular now in Scotland- pop music, hip hop, dance music and rock and roll are among the modern favourites. Many people like classical music and ballet too.

Your classmates will be interested to hear about the music that you like.



Scottish poetry

You may have heard of the very famous Scottish poet - Robert (Rabbie) Burns. He lived in Scotland more than 200 years ago but his poems and songs are still very well known and loved today. Among the hundreds of poems and songs that he wrote, one of the most famous is 'Auld Lang Syne' which is sung in Scotland and in many countries around the world on Hogmanay (December 31st). Hogmanay is a Scottish celebration of the year past and a welcome to the new year to come, beginning on January 1st.



Today, Scotland's national poet is called 'The Makar'. Currently the Makar is Jackie Kay. She has written some excellent poems about growing up in Scotland, about people's hopes and fears, and about our land and sea.



Your rights at school in Scotland

'Rights' are things every child or young person is entitled to have or be able to do to live safe, healthy and happy lives. The United Nations says that all children and young people who are under the age of 18 years old have the same rights no matter who they are, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or a girl, what their culture is, whether they are disabled or not, or whether they are rich or poor.

Your rights as a young person are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which almost every country in the world has signed up to. All of the UNCRC rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important.

There is a guide to your rights here: www.unicef.org/rightsite

Your right to education

A very important right is the right to education. All children and young people have the right to go to school and to receive a good quality education.

If you have had to leave your own country or arrived here as a migrant or refugee, you have the right to a good education in Scotland.



The right to extra support with your education if you are disabled

The United Nations says that all children and young people in the world have a right to extra support with their education if they are disabled. In Scotland, we have added to this by ensuring that all young people have the right to ask for extra help and support with their learning in school. It is very common for young people to receive additional support for their learning at school in Scotland. You can ask for extra help when you need it too.

Your right to learn from education

Your education should be designed to help you to use your talents and abilities, and to help you live peacefully, to protect the environment and to respect other people.

All of the world's children and young people have the right to their own culture, religion and language, and to learn about their own family's history, background and beliefs. You have the right to learn about these things from your education.

At school you will be able to find out and discover things in many areas of knowledge and to learn new skills. You will be able to share your thoughts and opinions with others through writing, talking and artistic expression unless this would cause harm and distress to others.

Your right to choose your friends

All children and young people in the world have the right to choose their own friends. School gives many good opportunities to meet new people your age, from backgrounds which may be similar or different to yours, and to make friends with them.



Education in Scotland: what you have a right to and what to expect

Every child in Scotland has a right to a free place at school between the ages of 5 and 16. The law expects everyone to take part in education between these ages.

After age 16, young people can choose if and how they want to continue their education.

Type of educational establishment	Who it's for	When they attend
<p>Secondary</p> <p>Secondary years 1-4 are mandatory</p> <p>Secondary years 5-6 are optional</p>	<p>Children and young people aged 12 - 16</p> <p>Young people aged 16- 18</p>	<p>Monday - Friday, usually around 9am - 3:30pm, 190 days per year.</p> <p>Schools close for holidays at various points during the year. Check with your local council when your local schools open and close, or with the school itself.</p>
<p>College is optional for young people aged 16 or over who qualify for entry</p>	<p>Young people aged 16 and over</p>	<p>Times vary - it depends on the young person and what they are studying.</p> <p>Some students can attend for free. Check with the college.</p>
<p>University is optional for young people aged 17 or over who qualify for entry</p>	<p>Young people, usually aged 17/18 and over</p>	<p>Times vary - it depends on the young person and what they are studying.</p> <p>Some students can attend for free.</p> <p>Young asylum seekers may be able to access a scholarship to undertake learning at university. Check with the university.</p> <p>Further information is given in the appendix.</p>

The school year

In Scotland, the school year starts in August and ends in June. There are various holidays during the year, and a long summer holiday during late June, July and early August, when there is no school. Schools are open 190 days per year.

The curriculum

Schools in Scotland provide a curriculum (meaning all the things that are taught in nursery, school and college) for children and young people aged 3 to 18. The aim of the Scottish curriculum is to make each child a:

- successful learner
- confident individual
- responsible citizen
- effective contributor

Curriculum content

The curriculum covers eight areas:

- expressive arts
- health and wellbeing
- languages
- mathematics
- religious and moral education
- sciences
- social studies
- technologies



Pupils in ‘the senior phase’ within secondary schools can study various qualifications in Scottish schools, across these curriculum areas.

Making sure you're OK

It's everyone's job – parents, teachers, school support staff - to make sure you're OK. Children and young people have the right to be safe, healthy, and cared for both at home and in school.

Pastoral care in school

Teachers care about the children and young people in their school. You can talk to any teacher you trust about any issue that might be affecting your learning or causing you to be worried or upset at school.

In secondary schools there are teachers called 'Pastoral Care Teachers', or 'Guidance Teachers' whose job is to help pupils with any worries they have and give them support and advice. You may have been introduced to your Pastoral Care Teacher already. She or he will be interested to know how you are doing throughout your time at secondary school and will try to talk to you often.

Additional Support Needs

The law in Scotland says that pupils who need extra support to help them to learn should have that support provided. There might be lots of different reasons why a pupil needs extra support for their learning, for example, having difficulties with reading or writing, being disabled, being looked after by the local council or having experienced bereavement or loss.



English as an Additional Language (EAL) support and ESOL qualifications

Schools offer particular kinds of support to students who speak English as an extra language as well as the language(s) they speak at home. This is offered by the EAL services. Young people who are multilingual can also study ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) qualifications which are aimed at developing knowledge and skills in English language- in speaking, writing, listening and reading in English. Ask your school about what help and qualifications they can offer if you think that this would help you.

School ethos

Schools in Scotland aim to be places where everyone can feel safe, included and involved, and where everyone can achieve. Scottish schools aim to provide an excellent education for every child.

A typical school day

The school day usually runs from about 9am until about 3:30-4.00pm, from Monday to Friday, with a break in the middle of the day for lunch. Every school has its own timetable. Some schools close at lunchtime on a Friday. Your school will provide you with a timetable.



Moving between classrooms

In secondary schools, pupils usually move between classrooms for different lessons, and have different teachers for different subjects. Your timetable will tell you which classroom to go to for each lesson and will usually tell you the name of the teacher that you will have for each subject too.

Cost of the school day

Although school education is free, there can sometimes be costs linked to school attendance. School uniforms, lunches and other items all cost money. Sometimes there are charges for:

- school trips
- dress-up / dress down days
- fundraising activities
- book sales
- school fayre

There is help available for meeting some of these costs. You should talk to your Guidance/Pastoral Care/Pupil Support Teacher about this.

Uniform/clothing grants

Most schools have a uniform, meaning that pupils should wear certain items of clothing, in certain colours. Parents/carers on low income can get some money (called a 'clothing grant') to help them buy school uniform for their children. Ask your Guidance/Pastoral Care/Pupil Support Teacher about getting an application form if you think this would help you.

Some schools also have supplies of spare items of uniform such as ties and jumpers. Ask if your school has extras that they can give out.

Pupils usually need a set of clothes for P.E. (physical education), called a 'P.E. kit', such as leggings, shorts, tee-shirt and gym shoes/trainers. Some schools also have spare items of P.E. kit that students can have or borrow. Again, speak to your Guidance/Pastoral Care/Pupil Support Teacher about this.



Lunch/Free school meals

Free school meals are provided for children in Primary 1, 2 and 3 (and in Glasgow for Primary 4). Children from Primary 4 can also receive a free school meal if they are from a family which has a low income. Higher income families have to pay for school meals for children from Primary 4 through to S6.

Schools provide lunch for pupils in a special dining area or cafeteria. Pupils can choose to bring a lunch from home (called a packed lunch) or, if they live near enough, they can go home for lunch. Speak to your Guidance/Pastoral Care/Pupil Support Teacher if you think that you might be entitled to Free school meals.



Snacks

Many Scottish school students take a small snack with them to eat during the break between morning lessons (the break is sometimes called the interval, or 'playtime'). Their snack might be a piece of fruit, a sandwich or biscuit. In most schools the cafeteria is open in the morning selling snacks and some schools have tuckshops where pupils can buy snacks too.

Extracurricular activities

Many schools have clubs and sports teams that pupils can get involved with outside of lessons and/or school hours, for example, at lunchtime or after school. Many of these are free though some have a cost. The school can tell you more about what is available, and how they can help with any costs of taking part.



Trips

Most schools take pupils on day trips to places of interest like museums, historical sites and leisure parks. Longer trips to outdoor education centres may be offered. Many of these trips are free though some have costs. The school should be able to tell you about any trips that you might be involved in with your year group or classes and offer help with any costs that there might be if needed.

Religious observance

Schools in Scotland have some kind of religious observance or 'time for reflection'. This varies from school to school. It can be every week, or a few times a year. Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from religious observance and young people's preferences should also be respected. Talk to your Pastoral Care/Pupil Support/ Guidance Teacher if this is something that you'd like to discuss with the school.



Attendance at and absence from school

Parents/ carers of children who are registered with a school need to tell the school if they will not be at school because of illness or any other reason. This is so that the school knows that you are safe when you are not there. Make sure that if you are absent from school your parent/carer (or you if you are aged 16 or over) lets the school know why either by phone-call or email on the first day that you are absent or by letter when you return to school.

Behaviour and discipline

Schools in Scotland are not allowed to hit students, or punish them with any kind of violence. Physical punishment is against the law in Scottish schools.

Schools have positive behaviour policies to try and encourage good behaviour so that everyone feels safe at school and able to learn.

Schools also ensure that unacceptable behaviour, such as bullying, is dealt with and can withdraw privileges, give detention and exclude pupils whose behaviour has caused harm to others.

Bullying, racism and religious prejudice

Bullying means behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened or left out. It can happen face to face and online.






Racism means treating someone differently and unfairly because of their race, culture or skin colour.







Religious prejudice means treating someone differently and unfairly because of their religion or because someone thinks that they belong to a particular religion or faith.





Bullying, racism and religious prejudice are never acceptable. If you experience these at school you should tell a teacher in school, such as your Guidance, Pastoral Care/Pupil Support Teacher, and an adult who you trust at home.

Useful words

Here are some words that might help you while you are getting used to school in Scotland and learning a new language.


	pupil/student uczeń élève التلميذ
	school szkoła école مدرسة
	teacher nauczyciel enseignant/professeur مدرس
	friend przyjaciel amie/ami صديق
	classroom sala lekcyjna salle de classe قاعة الدراسة


	<p>pencil</p>	<p>..... ołówek crayon قلم</p>
	<p>pen</p>	<p>..... długopis stylo قلم جاف</p>
	<p>paper</p>	<p>..... papier papier ورقة</p>
	<p>jotter / notebook</p>	<p>..... notatnik cahier دفتر</p>
	<p>book</p>	<p>..... książka livre كتاب</p>
	<p>pencil rubber / eraser</p>	<p>..... gumka gomme ممحاة قلم رصاص</p>


	<p>ruler</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>linijka règle مسطرة</p>
	<p>toilet / bathroom</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>toaleta toilette الحمام</p>
	<p>backpack / bag</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>plecak sac à dos حقيبة ظهر</p>
	<p>coat</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>plaszcz manteau معطف</p>
	<p>water</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>woda l'eau ماء</p>
	<p>homework</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>zadanie domowe devoirs واجب منزلي</p>

Use the next few pages to add to the word list with more new words about school you are learning in English.

Draw a picture for each word to help you remember.

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More useful information

Advice services:

Scottish Refugee Council: www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Citizens' Advice Bureau: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland

Local government: www.cosla.gov.uk/scottish-local-government

Education:

3-18 curriculum: education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland/About%20the%203-18%20curriculum

General information for parents: education.gov.scot/parentzone

Information about parental involvement with schools:
www.sptc.info/your-school/

Education guide for asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland:
www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/05/04143503/35049

Additional Support for Learning, parents' guide:
enquire.org.uk/information/parents-guide

Keeping safe:

Anti-Bullying service: respectme.org.uk

What to do about racist bullying: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/racial-bullying

Children's free helpline: www.childline.org.uk / 0800 1111

Outside of school:

Free things to do: www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/free

Country parks: www.list.co.uk/article/69045-the-best-country-parks-near-glasgow-and-edinburgh

Free museums:

www.museumsassociation.org/members-free-entry/scotland

www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/free-museums-and-art-galleries

Young Scot:

A charity which offers a card for young people aged 11-26 living in Scotland, which includes various benefits including travel discounts:
young.scot/the-young-scot-card

Appendix

Asylum seekers' access to University education

Asylum seekers and those staying in the UK on humanitarian grounds because of their immigration status are not supported through the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) which funds most Scottish students.

However there is other support out there such as scholarships and from other organisations who support asylum seeker students or those without immigration status.

Scholarships

Scholarships meet the cost of your tuition fees and include an allowance for essential study-related expenditure. In seeking entry to a university on a scholarship basis, applicants should apply for their preferred course through UCAS.

Universities look at scholarship applications from potential students who:

- hold a conditional or unconditional offer for study at the institution that they have applied for; and
- have submitted, or are the dependant of someone who has submitted, an application to the Home Office for recognition as a Refugee under the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees (hereafter “The Convention”) and not yet received a decision from the Home Office on that application or the outcome of an appeal on that application; or
- have been offered leave to remain in the UK on the grounds of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights provided that the student has not become eligible for Student Support from the relevant student funding body in Scotland, England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Applications will also be considered from students who have already started their course of study but have subsequently applied for asylum and can no longer access their original funding. In these cases, it will be necessary to establish that the original funding for study is no longer available and applicants will be required to provide supporting evidence.

University scholarships for asylum seekers are available at:

- The University of Strathclyde via asylum-scholarship@strath.ac.uk

More detail on this scholarship can be found here:

www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/asylumseekersscholarship

- Glasgow University via mrio-scholarships@glasgow.ac.uk

More detail on this scholarship can be found here:

www.gla.ac.uk/scholarships/humanitarianscholarships/#/eligiblecountries

www.gla.ac.uk/scholarships/humanitarianscholarships/

Fee waivers and home fees

The University of the West of Scotland and the University of Glasgow both consider fee waivers and granting of home fees on a case by case basis.

The Carnegie Trust is also a potential funding source for prospective students who have lived in Scotland for a while. The Carnegie Trust can help with fees if a university has agreed to consider granting home fees on an exceptional basis.

www.carnegie-trust.org/schemes/undergraduate-schemes/fee-assistance.html#background

Glasgow Refugee and Migrant Network (GRAMNet)

Glasgow University also helps asylum seekers through a group called GRAMNet: www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/gramnet/

You can email general enquires to David Wright, Network Administrator at: david.wright@glasgow.ac.uk or gramadmin@glasgow.ac.uk

Or write to: 11 The Square, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ

Advice on these matters and referrals for legal advice are available from the Scottish Refugee Council and/ or appropriate UK agencies.



