

# Santander Universities Bursaries Information and Guidance Notes for applicants

## What are the Santander Universities Bursaries?

Santander Universities are generously providing two types of financial support for undergraduate students, commencing their studies in the academic year 2019/20.

1. The Santander Bursary - Investing In Your Future
2. Santander Starter Bursary

The University of Reading is committed to ensuring that none of our applicants are disadvantaged in accessing our undergraduate degree programmes because of their background. We recognise that some students are more likely than their peers to face barriers to higher education, through no fault of their own.

These bursaries are designed to provide financial support for applicants who live in areas of the United Kingdom with high levels of deprivation and low participation in Higher Education and whose assessed taxable household income is £0.

## What is The Santander Bursary – Investing In Your Future?

The *Santander Bursary – Investing in your Future* is intended to provide the award winners with financial support throughout the three years of their undergraduate degree, to supplement tuition fee and maintenance loan funding available from the Student Finance Authorities.

Studying abroad is a great way of enhancing future career prospects. This bursary also provides additional funding to support a study abroad opportunity in year two of the degree programme at one of our partner universities around the world. Award winners will be provided with personalised study abroad advice to guide decision making about this optional opportunity.

In addition, this bursary recognises the importance for students of obtaining quality work experience whilst at University. This bursary offers additional financial support to enable the award winner to undertake a paid professional internship during spring or summer in year three, providing them with the opportunity to use new skills developed through their studies. Award winners will be provided with personalised guidance about this optional opportunity.

There are seven Santander Bursary – Investing in Your Future awards available.

The award winners will each receive:

1. £3000 per academic year (£9000 total, over a 3 year period)
2. Additional funds to support a study abroad opportunity in year two
3. Additional funds to support an internship opportunity in year three

An awarded bursary does not have to be repaid (unless fraudulently obtained) and can be used towards general living expenses incurred in relation to study.

## What is the Santander Starter Bursary?

We recognise that starting University can be an expensive time, as students may need to invest in essential equipment to help support their studies and to enable them to live independently away from home.

The award winners of the Santander Starter Bursary will each receive £600, to help with expenses associated with starting University, such as the purchase of a laptop computer, core text books or cooking equipment.

There are 35 Santander Starter Bursary awards available.

An awarded bursary does not have to be repaid (unless fraudulently obtained).

## Who can apply?

In order to apply for either of the Santander Bursaries you must:

- Have an offer to study an undergraduate course at the University of Reading; and
- Be a permanent resident of the UK; and
- live in an area with high levels of deprivation (Defined as IMD Quintile 1 and 2); and
- live in an area with low participation in Higher Education (Defined as Polar3 Quintile 1 or 2); and
- be assessed by your Student Finance Authority<sup>1</sup> as eligible for financial support and have an assessed household taxable income of £0.

## How and when to apply

Applications for both Santander bursaries are made on a single combined online application form.

**Applications will be welcomed until the deadline of 5pm on Friday 14 June 2019.**

Late applications will *not* be considered.

## What supporting evidence should I submit?

You are not required to submit any additional supportive documentary evidence with your application form. However:

1. We will use the postcode from your home address to check your eligibility. Data will be checked against the Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile 1 and 2, and POLAR3 Quintile 1 and 2 criteria.

(You can use the [IMD](#) and [POLAR](#) postcode lookup tools to see if your postcode makes you eligible)

2. We will assess your household income using data supplied to the University of Reading by your Student Finance Authority.

### **IMPORTANT**

We will only be able to determine your eligibility if you have:

- made an application through the relevant Student Finance Authority for tuition fees, maintenance loans/grants or other grants; and
- given the authority consent to share your assessed household income with the University. Please note that your parent(s) or partner must also provide consent if their financial information has been included in the application.

**You must submit your student loan application (for tuition fees, maintenance loan or grants) to the relevant Student Finance Authority BEFORE you apply for the Santander bursaries.**

## What level of award could I receive and when are funds disbursed?

An award will only apply for students commencing their studies in the academic year 2019/20 and cannot be deferred.

### **Santander Bursary – Investing in your future**

The award winners will each receive:

1. £3000 per academic year (£9000 total)

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<sup>1</sup>Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or the Student Awards Agency for Scotland

Funds will be distributed in two equal portions each academic year. £1500 will be distributed in October of term 1, and £1500 in early February in term 2.

2. Additional funds to support a study abroad opportunity in year two

The Erasmus and Study Abroad Manager will work with the award winners to determine appropriate funding and distribution to suit their chosen option.

3. Additional funds to support an internship opportunity in year three

The internship Manager will work with the award winners to determine appropriate funding and distribution to suit their chosen option.

### **Santander Starter Bursary**

This bursary awards a one-off payment of £600, distributed in October 2019.

Note that applying for or being successfully awarded a Santander Bursary will not affect your eligibility to receive other forms of financial support from the University, such as The Reading Bursary.

### **How will I know if I have been successful?**

Applicants will be considered for both types of Santander bursary, but a maximum of one bursary will be awarded per applicant.

A selection committee will consider applications and award the funding. The committee will base its decisions on the information you provide on the application form and the extent to which you demonstrate your suitability for an award. Note that academic excellence will not be taken into consideration.

Due to the large amount of applications expected, only candidate who have been successful will be notified of their award. Successful candidates will be notified by email by 30 August 2019.

### **Publicity for Award Winners**

In accepting a Santander Bursary, award winners will be asked to participate in relevant University of Reading and Santander Universities marketing activities about the scheme.

Award winners will be invited to an event at Whiteknights campus to meet with representatives from Santander Universities prior to funds being disbursed.

# How to Complete the Application Form

## Your Personal Details

Complete all sections and make sure that your contact details are correct in case we need to contact you about your application.

Your postcode is especially important as it will be used to check your eligibility for the Santander Bursaries.

## Course Details (University of Reading)

Complete all sections as this is used to assess your eligibility for the Santander Bursaries.

## Motivations for Applying

For each question write a maximum of 150 words.

- Please describe your motivations for applying to study at University.
- Please describe what is it about the University of Reading and the course you have chosen that appeal to you. You may wish to consider the course modules, the campus environment, staff members and other students, your future career prospects and the reputation of the organisation.
- Please describe any challenges or barriers you have had to overcome, in order to fulfil your offer to study at Reading.
- Please describe any aspirations you may have for your future, after you graduate
- Please provide details of how the financial support from Santander Universities will help you. You may wish to consider whether the study abroad and internship opportunities would be appealing and beneficial to you.

## Personal Supporting Statement

Please write a maximum of 300 words.

Please use this section to provide details of what you are most proud of achieving at school. Please also provide details of your hobbies and interests, and your involvement in any clubs, societies, organisations, community groups or schemes you actively participate in.

## Can I speak to someone about my application?

If you have questions about the bursaries, your eligibility or your submitted application, please email [studentfunding@reading.ac.uk](mailto:studentfunding@reading.ac.uk) or call 0118 378 7781. You can also speak to us in person by coming to the Helpdesk in the Carrington Building and ask to speak to a member of the Student Financial Support team.