

Motability Operations Scholarship FAQ

April 2021

Am I eligible to apply for this Scholarship?

The Scholarship is specifically designed to support a Black, Asian or minority ethnic student, so you will need to confirm your ethnicity on the application form.

When will the scholarship start?

The scholarship will be starting Autumn 2021.

What will the scholarship pay for?

The scholarship will cover university fees up to £9,250 each year.

Will it cover a four year degree?

Yes it will.

Will it cover a 7 year degree?

No it will only cover up to 4 years of study.

Will this Scholarship cover a three year degree course and a Master's degree for my 4th year?

No this will only cover the undergraduate course

Do I need to study a particular subject to be eligible for the scholarship?

No, you can be studying any subject

How do I apply for the scholarship?

There will be a few steps:

Step 1: Complete Urban Synergy application form

Step 2: Telephone interview with Urban Synergy for all candidates that meet the criteria

Step 3: Selected candidates will need to create a video answering 3 questions

Step 4: Selected candidates will attend an assessment centre online:

- Video interview with small panel
- Presentation to staff on set question (15 minutes maximum)
- Informal coffee chat with staff to hear about Motability Operations

Will there be an interview?

Yes, there will be an interview as part of the assessment day.

When will I find out if I am successful?

After all the application steps are complete, the candidates will be notified of the results. We hope this to be around the first week of August 2021.

How do I confirm my university place?

After results day, your university will send you a letter confirming your place and start date. You will need to send a copy of this letter on to Motability Operations.

How do I get the money?

The money will be transferred to your bank account via a BACS payment. Motability Operations will transfer the fees to you in the 1st week of October each year.

Will I be paid for my summer work experience placement?

Yes, it is a paid internship. You will be paid the equivalent of £19,000 per annum.

Can I choose which location I select for my work placement as I note that Motability Operations has teams in several different locations?

Yes, if there is availability at that location for a placement position. Please note that accommodation costs will not be paid whilst you are working.

Do I have to go back to the same location every year or can I select a different location each year?

You will need to be based wherever the team is based for the placement you are doing. You are encouraged to work in different teams each summer to get a broad range of experience so this might mean your location changes, but there is no guarantee of this. The HR team at Motability Operations will have conversations with you in the spring of each year to determine your placement for the summer.

What support will I get on my work placement?

During your placement you will have regular meetings with your manager, and you will also be assigned a buddy, who will be another team member. Both of these people should be able to provide you all the support you need, but you can also speak to the HR team if there is anything further that you need that you think might help you.

How do I choose the business area I will be working with each summer?

A member of the HR team will contact you in Spring to talk to you about the placement opportunities are available. They will be able to provide you with details of the placement available and answer any questions you have, to help you make your decision.

Can I choose a different business area each summer?

Yes. Motability Operations will let you know what business areas are able to accommodate a placement student each summer so that you can decide which area you are most interested in.

How much do I get paid for my summer work experience placement?

You are paid a salary equivalent to £19,000 per annum.

Are there any catches with this programme?

No!

Why has Motability Operations offered this scholarship opportunity?

Motability Operations want to support young adults from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities through higher education by providing financial support and opportunities such as work-placement, mentoring and networking opportunities that are sometimes hard to obtain.

What sort of preparation can I do for my placement to ensure that I am prepared?

You will be put in touch with your placement manager before you start the placement, so they will be able to provide you with more specific preparation advice or reading that you could do that would be relevant to the role.

What role will Urban Synergy have once I start my scholarship placement?

Urban Synergy will provide a mentor for quarterly check ins and work placement preparation.

At the end of my University course and work experience placement what happens

If you have enjoyed the work you have done with Motability Operations you can speak to them about any permanent jobs they have available.

Do I have to repay the scholarship funds and work experience pay that I have received?

No

Do I have to work for Motability Operations at the end of my Scholarship?

No

When will the work placement start?

We will work closely with the students on this to find a mutually convenient date but we usually start the placement in July.

How many work placements will there be?

There will be one placement each summer for the duration of your studies, up to a maximum of 4 years.

Will the work placements be in the same department each time?

We encourage students to work in a different department each summer but if you have a preference to work in the same department, you should speak to the HR Team at Motability Operations to see what can be organised for you.

How long is each placement?

It depends on the business need but usually between 6 – 8 weeks

How much will I get paid for the work placements?

You are paid a salary equivalent to £19,000 per annum.

What happens if my university place is withdrawn?

If you decide to continue studying but at a different university, Motability Operations will continue with their offer and you will still receive the bursary, and summer work placements.

What happens if I drop out of university?

Your placement opportunity with Motability Operations would end immediately but they would not look to recoup the monies already paid to you.