

Policy Statement: Fee Waiver for Syrian Refugees

Following the announcement that Britain is to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the course of the current parliament, Southampton has agreed to receive 25 families into the city. Southampton City Council is working with local statutory and voluntary partners to ensure that those who arrive are welcomed into the city and supported as they seek to build a new life here. The first family arrived at the end of 2015 and future families will arrive as suitable housing becomes available. Other local authorities also support this scheme.

In support of this programme, Southampton Solent University has offered to provide up to one new full fee waiver per year for any Syrian National with refugee status (per year of entry), who satisfies the following criteria:

- Submits a full application to study at the University
- Meets standard academic and English Language entry requirements for the course in question. The following exceptions may apply:
 - If the appropriate academic standard is not achieved, we will consider the applicant for the appropriate Foundation level entry.
 - If the appropriate English Language is not achieved, we will consider the applicant following completion of the pre-sessional English Language programme.
- Meets any other additional requirements for entry i.e. interview, portfolio, audition etc.
- Must live within reasonable commuting distance of Southampton Solent University.
- Is aged 18 - 25 years old or who will be in the UK under the Governments Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS)
- Provides evidence that their visa awarded as part of SVPRS permits full time study at the University.

Conditions of the fee waiver:

- Up to one new starter per year will be eligible
- Subject to the above criteria to be awarded on a 'first-come, first-served' basis
- Covers course fees only, for the full (standard) length of the course
- The decision of the University in this matter and in judging against the criteria is final.
- This offer includes Undergraduate (up to four years to include foundation year/pre-sessional or integrated masters) or postgraduate (masters or PhD) courses of study, all of which are eligible.

What else is happening in Southampton?

The following organisations and groups in Southampton are working on a response to the crisis both in Europe and in Syria.

Southampton Action

People to People Solidarity: collecting material donations and mobilising support for the refugee crisis. Contact: southamptonaction@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southamptonaction?fref=ts>

Website: <https://southamptonaction.wordpress.com>

Rays of Hope Charity

Syria appeal: <http://www.raysofhope.eu/>

This is supported by the Abu Bakr Mosque <http://www.abubakrmasjid.net/News.html>

The Rays of Hope charity works closely with men and women on the ground in Syria, delivering aid directly to the needy without any money going on advertising, or office expenses, etc.

For more information, please visit Clear City Life at <http://www.clearproject.org.uk/syrian-refugee-crisis/>