

UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY AWARD ACCREDITATION AND RE-ACCREDITATION FEE

NOTE: This document is a brief addendum to the Universities of Sanctuary resource pack (Second Edition – March 2019) with information on the accreditation fee introduced in January 2020.

CONTEXT

City of Sanctuary offers Sanctuary Awards to recognise any organisation which is able demonstrate commitment to our values and vision of welcome.

Higher Educations Institutions are able to apply to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary to reflect the unique role they can play in creating and promoting a culture of welcome in their institutions, local communities and across the UK. Details on the award including minimum requirements, case studies of best practice from accredited Universities, and how to apply can be found in the [Universities of Sanctuary resource pack](#).

THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ACCREDITATION AND RE-ACCREDITATION FEE

From **March 1st 2020**, there will be a mandatory (see note below) accreditation fee of £3000 on successful accreditation. There will be a subsequent renewal charge of £3000 every three years as part of the re-accreditation process.

Universities are encouraged to contribute the full fee on accreditation. It is also possible to pay £1000 each year for three years.

NOTE: We are aware that every HEI is different and this fee has been set following a consultation with very diverse HEIs and we believe is a reasonable amount that all institutions could contribute. However, in situations where difficulties arise, please [contact us](#) to discuss adjustment. Each request of this kind will be assessed on its own merits and a final decision will be made by the University of Sanctuary Steering Group. We also encourage institutions to consider a larger solidarity contribution where possible.

NOTE FOR EXISTING UNIVERSITIES OF SANCTUARY

For the fourteen universities already recognised with a Sanctuary Award, or for those applying prior to March 1st 2020, this fee is voluntary and will only become mandatory on re-accreditation after three years. We encourage all institutions to contribute where possible in support of our ongoing work in this area. Please contact us if you are in this situation and would like to discuss this in more detail.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACCREDITATION FEE

The first University of Sanctuary awards were given to the University of Edinburgh and the University of Warwick in 2017. By the end of 2019 there were 14 recognised Universities of Sanctuary and at least 40 other HEIs working towards recognition.

The inaugural Universities of Sanctuary conference took place at York St John University in September 2019 with representatives from 46 universities attending. In addition, a new award for University Colleges of Sanctuary has been created for individual colleges at collegiate universities.

Following a consultation with universities, experts and partners, the City of Sanctuary trustee board agreed to introduce an accreditation fee. The fee will contribute to the creation of a sustainable source of funding for the stream to allow us to support the increasing number of universities working towards recognition. The University of Sanctuary stream also plays a crucial role in connecting HEIs and bringing them together to form a collective group with the potential to influence positive change in the higher education sector and to help us move closer to our vision of communities which are welcoming to all.

At present, the Universities of Sanctuary stream has been supported by the grant income secured by City of Sanctuary UK. City of Sanctuary UK is a small national charity and cannot independently continue to cover the costs of the growing stream.

Fees raised from the accreditation fee will contribute to:

Universities of Sanctuary Programme Coordinator

The programme coordinator is the overall lead for the Universities of Sanctuary stream. Their role involves supporting Universities through the application and accreditation process; offering advice on good practice and signposting to other charities and experts; acting as a designated point of contact throughout the process; and coordinating appraisal groups and visits.

Additionally, the programme coordinator is responsible for coordinating the Universities of Sanctuary stream which involves developing communication and collaboration between Universities, including the organisation of the annual Universities of Sanctuary conference and regional events. They develop and lead on some of our key partnerships including with STAR, CARA, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and others. This is a vital part of our work to develop coherence and a strong collective voice across the network, share best practice, and work together to influence relevant policy.

Cost of Appraisals

Including transport, accommodation and occasionally payment to members of the appraisal group.

Core costs for City of Sanctuary UK

Any additional money will contribute to City of Sanctuary UK's core costs to support the development of the wider network in working towards its goal to create a network of places that are proud to offer safety to people seeking sanctuary and local communities which are inclusive and welcoming.

BENEFITS OF BEING A UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

To support internal applications for funding for the accreditation fee, the information below sets out some of the benefits of accreditation. More detail is available in the University of Sanctuary resource pack and on the [University of Sanctuary website](#).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO A UNIVERSITY?

- Enrich academic discussions and campus life by bringing new perspectives and cultures together through welcoming sanctuary seeking students
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting equal access to higher education
- Extend the scope of Widening Access and Widening Participation work in a way that explicitly values diversity
- Take clear steps towards creating a university environment that is a welcoming to all, in a way that directly contributes to increasing inclusivity
- Learn how to develop teaching and learning on the themes of migration and sanctuary
- Develop new strands of public-facing outreach and community engagement work that contributes to social responsibility efforts
- Become a part of a dynamic group of universities working to improve the culture of sanctuary in higher education and in society generally

Becoming a University of Sanctuary contributes to the delivery of institutional strategies relating to equality, diversity, inclusivity, social responsibility, and sustainability.

Following accreditation, your University will be [listed as a University of Sanctuary](#) on the University of Sanctuary website and you will be able to promote your recognition. Each year, all Universities of Sanctuary are celebrated at the Universities of Sanctuary conference.

