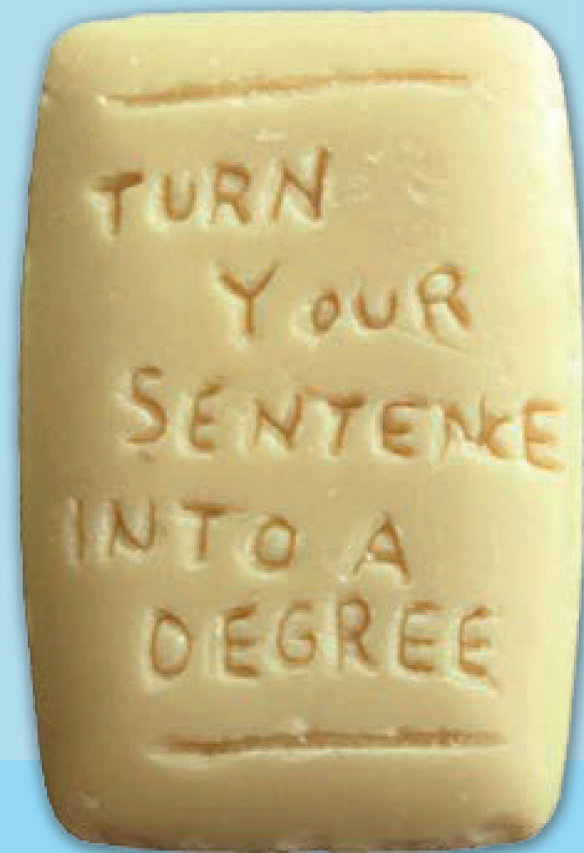


The
Longford
Trust



The Longford Trust offers

Scholarships to serving and ex-prisoners to study at university

Financial support

One-to-one support from our trained mentors

Help with future employability, internships and work placements

Scholarship Application Deadlines

Longford Scholarships: 1st May

For those close to or recently released, eligible for a student loan and want to study for a university degree

Frank Awards: 15th August for an October start date 15th December for a February start date

For those in prison who want to study with the Open University but aren't eligible for a student loan and are still serving a custodial sentence

Everyone Deserves a Second Chance

Turning Sentences Into Degrees

The
Longford
Trust

Scared of starting a degree?

Simon was awarded a scholarship by The Longford Trust last year to support him in studying for a sport and coaching degree at university. As he prepared for release he saw it as the best way to help himself build a better life but first, he had to overcome his fear that degrees were not for people like him.

‘Adjusting to being in prison at the start of my sentence was extremely hard. I needed a release to keep my mind focused. This is when I discovered training in the gym. It was my escape and kept me mentally and physically strong through tough times.’

I was also thinking about how to improve myself so as to leave prison physically and mentally stronger. One day an Open University team came in to give a talk. From the first moment they spoke, I knew university was the path to go down. My biggest problem was what subject to study? I asked family and friends for advice and decided sport, fitness and coaching.

But I was scared. At no point in my life had I ever thought I was capable of studying at degree level. I'd done GCSEs but nothing more. A friend on my wing who I would train with in the gym reassured me. ‘You enjoy training and sport. You can spend many more months thinking about what you want to do and if you are capable. Or you can take a leap of faith, study a subject you enjoy and give 100% to it.’

That was the day I sent in my application. I wanted to prove to my family that I could be a better man and achieve great things. My dedication to studying was a way of showing them and myself that the future could be better.

At the start, I found it extremely hard to find the time to study in the prison environment and keep up with deadlines but, as time went on, it became more natural. I began going to the prison library and borrowed all the books I could find on academic writing to try and learn. I was achieving a mark of between 70-80% for all my modules. Access to computers and study material was really hard, but this was something I was doing for my future so I made sure I did all I could on my own so as to reach my targets.

‘Walking into the lecture hall for the first time felt just as unfamiliar and frightening as walking onto the wing for the first time. Yet I somehow also felt like I was at home. I realised I wasn't really that different from everyone else in the room.’

Longford scholar Abi graduated with a first-class degree and is now working as the Trust's Employability Manager



Over the course of my sentence, I believe I have matured immensely and feel happy with the man I am today. I put it down to maintaining a strict routine with exercise and studying. Without these, I don't know how I would have reached the end.

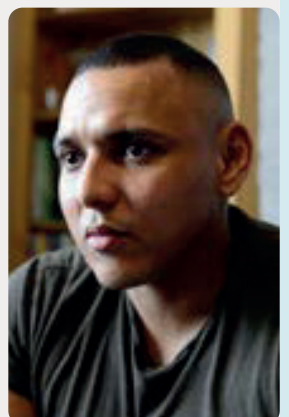
In 2021, I was transferred to an open prison which was great because I had more freedom and better facilities to focus on my studies and plan for my future. I applied to The Longford Trust and was granted a scholarship. This involved a financial grant, a laptop to study with, and a mentor. At the moment, I am continuing with the final year of my degree with the security of the Trust's support.

My mentor Stuart is amazing. He will sit with me and go through my work, help me understand areas where I could improve. He is also there for emotional support should I need it during these challenging times.

If I could give advice to other prison leavers, it would be use all the resources and support to study on offer as best you can because life outside of prison is a huge transition.’

‘The Longford Trust has provided me with the added support I needed in order to unlock my true potential.’

Longford Scholar Justin graduated with a first in his class Business degree and now works as an accountant



Everyone Deserves A Second Chance

Longford Scholarships

The Longford Trust offers scholarships to people with prison experience so that they can continue their rehabilitation by going to university, gain a degree and embark on a graduate career. Around 60% of our Longford Scholarships go to those who are newly released and who want to study full-time at a campus university. Another 20% go to those in open conditions, who are able to travel each day from prison on ROTL to a local university to begin their degree (and continue it at the same university once they are released). And the other 20% go to those in Category C prisons, nearing release, or awaiting a move to open conditions. Some choose Open University courses. Others apply from prison for a place at university to coincide with their release date. To date we have supported over 500 people, of whom 83% have graduated and got good jobs. Just 5% find themselves back in prison.

The Longford Scholarships comprise:

- financial support, typically between £1500 and £3000 per year for the duration of your full-time or part-time degree, given as a grant (you don't have to pay it back);
- provision of a lap-top if you need one;
- one-to-one support from our trained mentors;
- help to turn your degree into a graduate-level career through training days, internships and work placements organised by our employability project.

Most scholars will also need to take out a student loan as our awards are made in addition to rather than instead of a government student loan.

Are You Eligible for a Scholarship?

- Are you nearing the end of your time in prison, or have you been released within the past five years?
- Are you aged 40 or under?
- Do you have a provisional offer of a university place to study your chosen subject?
- Do you have the right to remain in the UK after finishing your course?
- If the answer to all four questions is yes, then you are eligible to apply.

How to Apply for a Longford Scholarship

- If you have internet access, go to The Longford Trust's website www.longfordtrust.org and look under Scholarships where you will find an application form.
- Ask in the prison Education Department or Library, where they should have details of all our awards and be able to print you a copy of the application form from The Longford Trust website www.longfordtrust.org
- Write to the Longford Trust at *Freepost, Longford Trust PO Box 72887, London, N2 2FG* (No need for a stamp, it's free), to request a paper copy of the application form to be sent to you. Remember to include a return address.
- Contact our Scholarship Manager on 07747 365037 or scholars@longfordtrust.org with any further questions. We will be able to advise on filling in a UCAS form to apply for a university place, and how to complete a student loan application form.

Can't get a Student Loan? Apply for a Frank Award

Frank Awards are for serving prisoners who can demonstrate that, because they can't get a student loan, they will miss out on studying towards a degree-level qualification with the Open University (OU). The Longford Trust offers 20 Frank Awards each year which cover the cost of one 60-point OU module (or two 30-point OU modules). The Frank Awards are funded by the Trust, are given as a grant - that means you don't have to pay it back - and are administered by the Prisoners' Education Trust (PET).

How to Qualify for a Frank Award

- You must have reserved a place with the Open University on the module of your choice (our awards do not cover Access modules);
- You must be a serving prisoner with at least six months of your sentence still to serve when the module you are applying for begins;
- You must provide evidence that you have applied for a

student loan for module costs and been refused, or else set out the exceptional circumstances (providing additional evidence where appropriate) why you are unable to apply for Student Loan funding;

- You must have the right to remain in the UK after completing your sentence.

How to Apply for a Frank Award

- Ask your Education Department for an application form. Or, write for an application form to:
PET, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RD

The Small Print

- Priority is given to applications from younger prisoners
- Most (but not all) Frank Awards are made to those who have not studied at degree level before.



Turning Sentences Into Degrees

Scholarship Application Deadlines:

Longford Scholarships:
1st May

Frank Awards:
15th August for an October start date

15th December for a February start date

Get in Touch

Post:
Freepost
The Longford Trust
PO Box 72887
London N2 2FG

Email:
scholars@longfordtrust.org

Call:
07747 365037

Visit:
www.longfordtrust.org

Get in Touch With Us About Going To University

If you've been inspired to think seriously about studying for a degree, we would love to hear from you. Fill in the form and return to us indicating which option you are interested in.

We will reply either by letter or the email-a-prisoner (EMAP) system. The Education Department may also be able to facilitate a conversation with our Scholarship Manager, Clare Lewis, by emailing her at scholars@longfordtrust.org

We also have a number of volunteers with first-hand knowledge of universities and how the application and student loan systems work. We hope to be able via the Education Department to arrange for them to discuss your plans with you by a pre-arranged phone conversation, or via EMAP.

About You

Name...	Release Date...
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Your current postal address...	Prison Number...
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City & Postcode...	*Phone number... <i>*only if you have access</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth...	*Email address... <i>*only if you have access</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What Do You Want To Know About

Tick one or several of these:

- I would like an application form to apply for a Longford Scholarship or a Frank Award as I already know the course I would like to do
- I need more information about courses and university or Open University options
- I would like some help applying for a student loan
- Other – briefly fill in the box below and explain how we can help you.

Please cut out this form, send it to: Freepost, Longford Trust PO Box 72887, London, N2 2FG (No need for a stamp, it's free)

'Since my release, I've grabbed a lifeline, one where I'm pulling myself back into society'

Longford Scholar Kyle graduated in 2022 and has started working for a data and tech company in London's West End

