

ACADEMIC SANCTUARIES FUND

XTX Markets has launched an Academic Sanctuaries Fund of £15m over three years. Overall, the goal is to help deliver more and better academic sanctuary places for students and researchers forced to flee their homes due to the war in Ukraine. Universities and charities can apply for funding to cover costs associated with providing places, plus capacity building and innovation projects.

BACKGROUND

XTX Markets condemns the war in Ukraine. We are continuing to support humanitarian relief agencies, including UNHCR. Given our wider focus on education, we are also supporting at risk students and researchers from Ukraine, as well as those from Russia and Belarus whom disagree with the invasion of Ukraine but have no alternatives.

Since April, we have pledged £1.8m to fund 65 academic sanctuary places, partnering with the Central European University, the Isaac Newton Institute and others. Through this process, we have learned there is demand from students and researchers, but connecting them with supply is hard. There is goodwill from universities, but few scalable options to deploy. There is some funding, but it is often piecemeal. We want this to change.

THE ACADEMIC SANCTUARIES FUND

We are making available £5m per year for the next three years. We will fund universities and charities that can directly provide academic sanctuary places, or that can help to improve the system through capacity building and innovation projects.

At the end of three years, we hope that the fund will have helped to:

- Deliver more and better academic sanctuary places
- Create scalable models that can be easily adopted by universities
- Support home universities and communities, especially in Ukraine
- Support the diaspora to thrive, then return home when they are able
- Build infrastructure and improve co-ordination of academic sanctuaries
- Encourage other donors and policymakers to support academic sanctuaries

FUNDING OVERVIEW

All directly provided places must provide an academic component, e.g. degree, fellowship, research position. They must also include organised sanctuary support, e.g. cost of living, housing, welfare. Places should be additional, i.e. they will not fund students that could otherwise access them, or employment roles that are being advertised. Around 80% of funding will go towards directly provided places, and the remainder towards capacity building and innovation projects.

The fund is open to universities and charities anywhere. See <u>here</u> for application details.