Helpsheets
Student Funding Advice Helpsheet: Funding for new students

This guide provides information on the funding available for full-time undergraduate students who usually live in England and are starting their course from September 2018.

1. What student finance can I apply for?
2. Am I eligible?
3. How do I apply for student finance?
4. How will I receive my student funding?
5. How do I repay the student loans?
6. Are there any other sources of funding?

1. What student finance can I apply for?
When thinking about going to university you will have two key costs to consider. Firstly, the cost of tuition fees for your chosen course of study and secondly, the living costs you will need to budget for. For each of these costs, financial support is available from Student Finance England (SFE) for every eligible student to access.

**Tuition Fee Loan**
Universities can charge up to £9,250 each year for their full-time undergraduate courses. A tuition fee loan is available for all eligible students to cover this cost and is paid to your university by SFE on your behalf. The tuition fee loan is repayable in the future but not until you’ve left university and your income is over £25,000 per year. Please see [www.tees.ac.uk](http://www.tees.ac.uk) for details on how much Teesside University is charging for its full-time undergraduate courses from September 2018.

**Living Costs**
Full-time students can also apply for financial support for help with their living costs such as food, travel and accommodation. This support is in the form of a repayable maintenance loan.

**Maintenance Loan**
The amount of maintenance loan you can get depends on where you live, where you study and your household income. A household income of above £25,000 will start to reduce the amount of maintenance loan a student can receive. For students starting in September 2018, the minimum amount of maintenance loan they can receive is £4,054 if they do not live with their parent(s) whilst studying and the minimum for students who continue to live with their parent(s) whilst studying is £3,224.
This loan is repayable in the future but not until you’ve finished your course and your income is over £25,000 a year.

What you might be able to access

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Maintenance Loan (living in parents’ home)</th>
<th>Maintenance Loan (not living in parents’ home)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£7,324</td>
<td>£8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£6,707</td>
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<td>£7,452</td>
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<tr>
<td>£40,000</td>
<td>£5,473</td>
<td>£6,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£42,875</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>£45,000</td>
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<td>£4,238</td>
<td>£5,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£55,000</td>
<td>£3,621</td>
<td>£4,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£65,000+</td>
<td>£3,224</td>
<td>£4,054</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance Loan for students on certain benefits

A higher rate of maintenance loan is available for students who qualify for benefits and their household income is below £25,000. Students will receive up to £9,916 a year if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The student is a lone parent who is responsible for a child or a young person aged under 20 who is a member of the student's household, and who is in full-time education.
- The student is a lone foster parent of a child or young person aged under 20.
- The student has a partner who is also a full-time student and one or both of them are responsible for a child or young person aged under 20 who is in full-time non-advanced education.
- The student has a disability and qualifies for a Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium.
- The student has been treated as incapable of work for a continuous period of at least 28 weeks (two or more periods of incapacity separated by a break of no more than 8 weeks count as one continuous period).
- The student is deaf and qualifies for Disabled Students' Allowances.
- The student is waiting to go back to a course having taken approved time out because of an illness or caring responsibility that has now come to an end for a period not exceeding one year.
- The student is entitled to Personal Independence Payment, Armed Forces Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance.
To receive an estimate of the amount of maintenance loan you may receive please complete the ‘Student Finance Calculator’ at www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Other Student Finance Funding
You may be entitled to extra financial help if you have children, an adult dependent, or a disability. The amount of Childcare Grant, Parents’ Learning Allowance and Adult Dependents’ Grant you qualify for is determined by a means test that looks at your household income and also takes into account your circumstances. If you receive any of these additional grants you will not need to repay them in the future.

For an estimate of which grants you may receive please visit: www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Adult Dependants’ Grant
If you have an adult, for example, your partner, who depends on you financially you may be eligible to receive a grant of up to £2,925.

Childcare Grant
If you have dependent children you might be able to get extra funding to help towards your childcare costs. This could cover up to 85% of your actual childcare costs during term time and holidays. You could get up to £164.70 per week for one child or up to £282.36 per week if you have two or more children. Your childcare provider must be registered or approved. Even if you haven’t found a childcare provider yet, you can still apply for the childcare grant. If you apply without childcare provider details your payments will be capped at £127.33 a week until you give SFE the details. You will need to provide evidence of your childcare costs so please keep all of your receipts. If you get help towards childcare costs through Working Tax Credit (WTC) or the childcare element of Universal Credit, you cannot also receive the Childcare Grant.

Parents’ Learning Allowance
This allowance helps you with study-related costs such as books, materials and travel. You could get up to £1,669.

Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA)
The disabled students’ allowance (DSA) can help with the extra costs a disabled student may face to access their studies and is not means tested. These allowances can support people who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, wheelchair users or people with mobility difficulties, medical conditions, autistic spectrum disorders, mental health conditions and people with specific learning difficulties (for example dyslexia).

For further information please see www.tees.ac.uk/disability or talk to a member of our Disability services team on 01642 342277.
NHS Courses
Students who are studying the following courses maybe eligible to apply for additional funding:

- Dental Hygiene
- Operating department practitioner
- Dental Therapy
- Orthoptics
- Dietetics
- Orthotics and prosthetics
- Midwifery
- Podiatry/chiropody
- Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech and language therapy

Students studying an NHS course which is over 30 weeks and 3 days may also qualify to receive an additional fixed amount of maintenance loan per extra week studied. The amount you receive depends on household income and where you live and where you study.

The NHS Bursaries Unit have also made some additional non-repayable allowances and grants available:

**NHS Child Dependents Allowance**
A grant of £1000 is available for students who have parental responsibility, receive funding from SFE, are actively in training and ordinarily resident in England.

**NHS Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses**
Daily travel between your home and University is not reimbursed. However, as part of your course will include practice placements in hospitals or community health services rather than in a classroom, the cost of journeys between your term-time home and your placement can be reimbursed providing the cost is in excess of your normal daily travel.

Please see [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary-students/bursary-forms](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary-students/bursary-forms) for further details on eligibility and how to apply.

**Household Income**
To be assessed for the maximum amount of student funding available to you, you will need to declare your household income. SFE decide how much student funding you will receive based on your household income and your family circumstances.

**What is household income?**
Your household income is the total amount your family earns each year before tax and national insurance. Household income is usually based on earnings from the previous tax year (2016/17 if you are applying to study in 2018/19).
Dependent students
If you’re under 25 years old and do not meet any of the ‘independent’ student criteria below, you will be assessed for your student funding based on your parent(s) household income. If relevant, this also includes the income of your natural parent’s spouse or partner with whom they live.

Independent students
You are classed as an independent student if any of the below apply:
- you are 25 or older before the start of the academic year, or
- you have a dependent child, or
- you have no living parents, or
- you are, or have been, married or are in a civil partnership before the start of the academic year, or
- you have supported yourself financially for three years before the start of your course, or
- you are estranged from your parents.

If you are independent of your parents but are married or in a civil partnership (or have a partner, if you are aged 25+) your spouse or partner’s income is taken into account when assessing you for student funding.

Please note, if your parent(s) or partner’s income is likely to decrease by 15% or more than it was in the 2016/17 tax year you can ask SFE for a Current Year Income Assessment to take into account the reduction in income.

Your income
Any income you earn from part-time or temporary work whilst studying is not classed as household income. If you have any ‘unearned’ taxable income, such as rental income or interest from certain kinds of savings, this will be classed as household income.
If you are being released by your employer to study, then the pay/salary you receive for the days you attend your course is taken into account as household income.

2. Am I eligible?
To be eligible for financial support for a full-time undergraduate course you must meet certain criteria:

Personal eligibility

Where you live
To apply, you must:
- be a UK national or have settled status (that is, no restrictions on how long you can stay in the UK);
Normally live in the UK on 1\textsuperscript{st} September for the start of your course in the autumn; and
have been living in the UK for at least three years before the first day of your course.

If you are recognised as a refugee you can apply for funding from SFE and do not need to fulfill the three years residency requirement.

If you’re an EU national or the family member of an EU national you might qualify for help from SFE towards your tuition fees and living costs depending on your circumstances. For more details on eligibility please speak to a Student Finance Adviser in Student and Library Services.

Previous study
Students who have already gained a higher education qualification (e.g. a Bachelor’s degree) anywhere in the world or who have not gained a qualification but have studied in fulltime higher education, may not be eligible for, or may have only a limited entitlement to the loans and grants available from SFE. Please speak to a Student Finance Adviser in Student & Library Services if you have any previous study.
However, students completing an under-graduate or post-graduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health care profession course will be exempt from this rule so long as they are not already registered in the same profession.

Course Eligibility
As well as being personally eligible to apply for student funding, the course you plan to study must be in the UK and one of the following:

- First Degree e.g. BA, BSc or BEd;
- Foundation Degree;
- Certificate of Higher Education;
- Higher National Certificate (HNC);
- Higher National Diploma (HND);
- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE);
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE);
- Integrated Masters; or
- Initial Teacher Training (ITT)
- Masters (MSc) in pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied-health professions.

3. How do I apply for student finance?
You apply to SFE for your funding and the quickest and easiest way to apply is online at 
www.gov.uk/studentfinance. You can apply from up to nine months before the start of the course and you don’t need a confirmed place at university. If you haven’t yet accepted a place, you can apply using your preferred choice of course and if needed, simply change the details online once you’ve accepted an offer. To complete your application, you’ll need:

- your passport;
• details of your university and course;
• your bank details; and
• your National Insurance number.

The application form for the Childcare Grant is a paper form and is available to print at: www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms. You reapply each year for your funding and must apply as early as possible to make sure you receive your funding at the start of each academic year.

4. How will I receive my student funding?
Your student funding is paid directly into your bank account over three instalments at the beginning of each academic term. The first payment is made a few days after your course start date, once you have enrolled and are in attendance.

5. How do I repay the student loans?
Student loans are different to other types of loan, below are the key facts about student loan repayments:
• you will only start repaying your tuition fee and maintenance loans once you’ve left your course and your income is over £25,000 per year
• the amount you repay each month is based on your income and not on how much you owe
• your repayments are 9% of your income over the threshold of £25,000 per year
• if you stop working or do not earn over £25,000, you do not have to make repayments
• any loan or interest still outstanding after 30 years will be written off.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repayment Examples</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your income per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to £25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£26,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>£40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You’ll pay interest on your loan from the day you receive your first instalment until your loan is paid off in full or written off, whichever comes first. The amount of interest charged will vary, depending on your circumstances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>While you are studying</th>
<th>Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From the April after you complete your course (interest will be based on your income)</td>
<td>£25,000 or less RPI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Between £25,000 and £45,000 RPI plus up to 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£45,000 and over RPI plus 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on student loan repayments please see: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk, Income Contingent Repayment Plan 2.

6. Are there any other sources of funding?
Teesside University Scholarships
Teesside University is offering a range of scholarships for new full-time undergraduate students starting in September 2018.
For further information and eligibility criteria please visit: http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/fulltime/scholarships.cfm

Any scholarship or bursary a student is awarded will be in addition to the loans and grant(s) available from SFE and do not have to be repaid.

Care Leavers’ Bursary
If you have been in local authority care you can get a Care Leavers’ Bursary from the University. Please indicate on your UCAS application form if you have been in care and we will contact you or you can contact our Care Leavers’ Adviser in Student and Library Services. For more information please visit: www.tees.ac.uk/sections/studentsupport/care.cfm

Teesside University Student Support Fund
The Teesside University Student Support Fund is available through the University and can provide help for students who may be in financial difficulties with their day-to-day living costs or who may be suffering a sudden financial crisis. Applications can be made once you have enrolled for the academic year but only once you have received your first payment of student finance. The application takes into account your income and expenditure and priority groups include students with children and final year students experiencing financial difficulties.

You can request an application form from:
- The Information Desk in the Student Centre
- Telephone 01642 342277 for a form to be sent out to you.
- E-mail studenthelp@tees.ac.uk
Benefits Entitlement
The government is currently restructuring the entire welfare benefits and tax credits system. Please seek advice from a Finance Adviser about your ongoing entitlement to welfare benefits. You must also notify your local authority and Job Centre if you are starting a course of full-time education.

Bank Accounts
We recommend that you open a student bank account as most will offer you an interest free overdraft facility. This should be seen as a safety net rather than as a source of income. It is essential not to go overdrawn, or over your overdraft limit, without the agreement of your bank as you will incur interest and/or charges.

Managing Your Money
It is essential to keep on top of your money by planning ahead and keeping a track of your spending. Look at your funding award letters and work out a monthly average based on either the year or the three academic terms only. Students with no other source of income are advised to budget their student funding the whole year. If you would like more information you can pick up one our booklet titled ‘Managing your Money’ from the Student Services Information Desk.

If you have any queries about student funding or other money issues then contact our Student Advisers in Student & Library Services:

For more information
W: https://libguides.tees.ac.uk/studentfundingadvice
E: studenthelp@tees.ac.uk
T: 01642 342277