

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

PARENTS / CARERS
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

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STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

AN INTRODUCTION TO SFE

Student Finance England provide financial support on behalf of the UK government to eligible students from England entering higher education in the UK:

- **Two main costs** you will have while studying are **tuition fees and living costs**

SFE make funding available to help students with both

- You may be able to get a range of financial help and support, depending on:
 - Your course and where you live and study
 - Your household income
 - Your personal circumstances



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Go to www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies for more information on student finance eligibility criteria, including residency and previous study

STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Students need to meet certain residency criteria in order to be eligible for financial support from SFE, which generally include:

- Have **settled status** – Can live in the UK without any Home Office restriction
- Be resident in England on the first day of the first academic year of their course and have been living in the UK for the **3 years** immediately prior to this date

Other eligible residency categories:

- EU, EEA and Swiss nationals with EUSS Settled or Pre-Settled status may be entitled to support depending on the status awarded and their residency
- Students may also be eligible for support if they hold a status such as Refugee, Humanitarian Protection, Stateless Person, or Ukraine Scheme Leave
- Go to www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies for more information



STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

TUITION FEES AND LOANS – GENERAL ENTITLEMENT

Generally, full Tuition Fee Loan support is available for **your first** higher education qualification, plus one extra year should you need it:



Example based on standard 3-year full-time degree

- This extra year can be used if you choose a course but realise it is not for you and want to start a different one, or if you need to repeat a year of study
- You might not get full support if you have to repeat more than one year or have any previous HE study, but personal circumstances can be taken into account



Go to www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies for more information

STUDENT FINANCE AY 2025/26

DFE FUNDING POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT

STUDENT FINANCE AY 2025/26

AY 2025/26 DFE ANNOUNCEMENT – TUITION FEES

Higher education providers' financial sustainability will also 'be bolstered' after **seven years** of no increases to domestic tuition fee caps:

- The maximum fee caps for undergraduate courses at Approved (fee cap) Providers in England will **rise by 3.1% to £9,535** (full-time example)

The applied Q1 2026 **RPIX forecast** of 3.1% gives the following uplifts to tuition fees for academic year 2025/26:

Course Type	Tuition Fees AY 2024/25	Tuition Fees 2025/26	Uplift
Full-Time	£9,250	£9,535	£285
Part-Time	£6,935	£7,145	£210
Accelerated	£11,100	£11,440	£340

STUDENT FINANCE AY 2025/26

AY 2025/26 DFE ANNOUNCEMENT – MAINTENANCE LOANS

Students cost of living will be supported with an **inflation-linked (RPIX) increase** to Maintenance Loan support:

- The increase in support of **3.1%** will provide as much as **£414 extra** per year, to help students from the lowest income families

Figures (**rounded to nearest £1**) for full-time students not eligible for benefits and part-time students (at 100% FTE):

Loan Rate	Maintenance Loan AY 2024/25	Maintenance Loan AY 2025/26	Uplift
Parental Home	£8,610	£8,877	£267
London	£13,348	£13,762	£414
Elsewhere	£10,227	£10,544	£317
Overseas	£11,713	£12,076	£363

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

FULL-TIME SFE MAINTENANCE LOAN RATES

Full-time SFE students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60

Full Year Student	Maximum Loan	Non-Income Assessed	Income Assessed
Parental Home	£8,877	£3,907	£4,970
Elsewhere	£10,544	£4,915	£5,629
London	£13,762	£6,853	£6,909
Overseas	£12,076	£5,838	£6,238

- The most support will be paid to students with assessed household incomes of £25,000 or less – Maximum maintenance loan**



Household income is the income of any parents, stepparent, parent's partner, wife, husband, civil partner or partner you usually live with

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

MAINTENANCE (LIVING COST) LOANS

A Maintenance Loan is available to **help students with their living costs**:

- All eligible students are entitled to get some Maintenance Loan support
- **The actual amount you can get depends on your household income and where you live and study**
- Your Maintenance Loan is paid directly into your bank account each term
- Tuition Fee and Maintenance Loans do **have to be repaid** but not until you've left university/college and your income is over the relevant threshold



If your household income is under £25,000 then you can apply for the full rate of Maintenance Loan

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

SOURCES OF EXTRA SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

There may also be **extra financial support** available for students who:

- **Have disabilities, long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or specific learning difficulties**
- Have children or adult dependants
- Study overseas as part of a UK based course or go on a clinical placement
- Study eligible Nursing, Midwifery or Allied Health Profession courses

For more on this range of support go to www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help and www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/student-services

Many universities and colleges provide **bursaries and scholarships** for students:

- Eligibility can depend on things like **academic results, household income or course choice, so it is important to research what is being offered**

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

DSA - DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) provides help towards the additional costs a student may face due to their disability, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty:

- DSA covers a wide selection of disabilities and conditions, with assessments based on the specific needs of each individual student
- DSA support is not income assessed and does not have to be repaid

For AY 2025/26 **up to £27,783 in DSA support** is available to eligible students and can be allocated across the defined allowance categories which are:

Non-Medical Helper	General Allowance
Specialist Equipment	Travel Allowance

For more information on DSA support including how and when to apply go to:
www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa

NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

GENERAL INFORMATION

sfe

NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

OVERVIEW

News story

Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year

All nursing students on courses from September 2020 will receive a payment of at least £5,000 a year which they will not need to pay back.

Published 18 December 2019

From: [Department of Health and Social Care](#)



GOV.UK

Home > Organisations > Department of Health and Social Care

Department of Health & Social Care

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Featured

A photograph of two paramedic students in green uniforms inside the cab of an ambulance. One student is seated in the driver's seat, and the other is seated beside them. They are both smiling. The interior of the ambulance is visible, including the steering wheel and dashboard.

19 January 2020 — News story
Paramedic students will get £5,000 support payment each year

Students studying to become paramedics, radiographers and physiotherapists will be among those receiving the new financial support from September.

www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year

www.gov.uk/government/news/paramedic-students-will-get-5000-support-payment-each-year



NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Students will receive from the NHS at least £5,000 a year, with extra funding available for eligible students, including;

- Specialist disciplines that struggle to recruit, including mental health £1,000
- An additional Parental Support allowance of £1,000
- This is on top of the £1,000 for students with children previously offered through the NHS LSF

This means that some students could be eligible for up to £8,000 per year,

- **With all eligible students getting at least £5,000**



NHS LSF funding isn't means tested and will not have to be repaid, but any overpayment may be recovered from a withdrawal/transfer

NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

FUNDING OVERVIEW – ELIGIBLE COURSE SUBJECTS

Pre-registration healthcare course subjects eligible for the NHS LSF include:

Dietetics	Occupational Therapy
Dental Hygiene or Dental Therapy (Level 5 and Level 6 courses)	Operating Department Practitioner (Level 5 and Level 6 courses)
Orthoptics	Orthotics and Prosthetics
Physiotherapy	Podiatry or Chiropody
Radiography (Diagnostic and Therapeutic)	Speech and Language Therapy
Paramedicine (not DipHE or FD courses)	Midwifery
Nursing: Adult, Child, Mental Health, Learning Disability, Joint Nursing and Social Work	

For the complete list go to: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf

STUDENT FINANCE AY 2025/26

LIVING COST LOAN – LONG COURSES LOAN

The maximum Long Courses (living costs) Loans will be **increased by 3.1%** in AY 2025/26:

- Long Course Loan support is available for eligible means-tested students attending full-time courses **longer than 30 weeks and 3 days** in an AY

Loan Rate	Maximum Long Courses Loan AY 2025/26
Living in the Parental Home	£75 a week
Living away from home Studying in London	£145 a week
Living away from home Studying outside London	£113 a week
Studying Overseas As part of their UK course	£157 a week

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

APPLICATIONS

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

KEY MESSAGES – APPLY

The full-time SFE undergraduate application service is now open. To set up your account and apply, go to: www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance

Tips to help make sure your student finance gets paid on time:

- You **do not need** a confirmed place at university or college to apply
- **Apply with your preferred choice, you can change the details later if necessary**
- Make sure any evidence and information needed to support your application is supplied '**right first time**' both from you **and** your parents (or partner)
- **Read, understand and agree to the loan Terms and Conditions**

 If you cannot apply online, you will be directed to the appropriate paper form to complete and submit: www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

Before starting an application, **students** should have the following to hand, along with their university and course details:

- **Passport, Birth Certificate or other identity and residency evidence** information, which can include valid EUSS Share Codes for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals
- **UK bank account details** and **National Insurance Number**

The easiest way for **parents or other sponsors** to support an application is also online through GOV.UK, providing their information including:

- National Insurance numbers for income verification (from the **prior tax year**)
 - If the household income **decreases by at least 15%** in the current tax year, students can (depending on the circumstances) apply to be reassessed
- Details of other child dependants

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

INCOME ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Income to be included is based on whether the student is assessed as being dependent or independent:

Student Type	Income to include in the household assessment
Dependent Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural or adoptive parent(s); plus, where applicable• The parent's spouse/civil partner/cohabiting partner of either sex;
Independent Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spouse/civil partner; or• Cohabiting partner of either sex (only where a student is aged 25 or over on the relevant date); plus• The student (Unearned taxable)
Independent Student (No partner, or student is under 25 and has a cohabiting partner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student (Unearned taxable)• Where a student is under 25 and is not classed as independent for another reason (e.g., care of a child) the student is a dependent student



More information on taxable/non-taxable income can be found on the HMRC website at: www.gov.uk/income-tax

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

REPAYMENT

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - AN OVERVIEW

Undergraduate loans for new students in England are taken under Plan 5 terms and some essential facts about how the repayment system works include:

- You won't have to make repayments until your income **is over** the set threshold, which will be **£25,000 a year** (£2,083 a month or £480 a week) until **April 2027**
- From April 2027 the threshold will **be adjusted** annually with inflation (RPI)
- If you study a full-time course, you will be due to **start repaying** from the April after completing your course or leaving/withdrawing from higher education*
- You'll repay **9%** of any income earned **over the threshold** and if employed in the UK, the deductions will be made from your pay through the tax system
- If your income drops **below the threshold**, your repayments will stop, and any outstanding balance will be cancelled **40 years** after entering repayment

*The earliest that standard repayments under Plan 5 will be made is **April 2026**

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS – ESTIMATED FIGURES 2027

Approximate repayment amounts based on the **estimated** Plan 5 threshold from **April 2027** using the deduction rate of **9%** of income earned over the threshold:

Income each year before tax	9% will be deducted from	Monthly Repayment (Approx)
£25,710	£0	£0
£35,000	£9,290	£69
£40,000	£14,290	£107
£45,000	£19,290	£144
£50,000	£24,290	£182

Income
£28,000

9% Deducted
from?

Monthly
Repayment?

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department for Education has published a blog and released a set of resources explaining student finance and what Plan 5 loan will mean in terms of repayment:

- The DfE blog post and resources, which include a downloadable guide and short video can be accessed online from the following channels:
- DfE Education Hub: educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/16/get-the-facts-on-student-loans
- The Student Room: thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/understanding-undergraduate-student-loans



Understanding undergraduate student loans

Starting at university is an exciting time and one of the things that you will need to consider is how to finance your studies. Many people take out a student loan and it is important to understand what this means for you both while you study and after.

The Department for Education has produced a set of resources explaining how student loans work. These are for students living in England and starting an undergraduate course from August 2023 onwards. The short explainer video is a good place to start to get the facts on student loans.

View the resources:

- Understanding student loans – a simple overview guide including how to apply and how repayments are worked out
- Frequently asked questions – get the answer to your questions

Understanding your student loan: a guide for...

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENT LOAN:

A guide for English students starting an undergraduate course from August 2023 onwards

Watch on [YouTube](#)

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT LOANS

A guide for those starting an undergraduate course from August 2023 onwards

Finding out about and applying for a student loan is an important step for most people planning to go to university or college.

This guide is designed for those who currently plan to start a degree level or other course from August 2023, which means you will start your Student Loan in September 2023. If you are in another part of the UK and have not graduated, you can apply for [GO2UK/StudentFinance](#).

STUDENT LOANS

Frequently Asked Questions

Get the facts on student loans

Media Officer, 16 February 2023 - Higher Education, Universities

Department for Education

STUDENT FINANCE AY 2025/26

AY 2025/26 DFE ANNOUNCEMENT – INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

An article has been posted on the DfE Education Hub providing essential details on the tuition fee and Maintenance Loan changes in England:

- <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/11/04/student-fees-and-maintenance-loan-increase-what-you-need-to-know>



Why has this decision been made?

We recognise that students have been feeling the pinch of the cost of living. Because of this, we have decided to raise maintenance loans – the loan that helps you with your living expenses as a full-time student.

The 3.1% rise will provide as much as £414 extra per year to help students from the lowest income families.

We have also made the decision to increase maximum tuition fee limits to help universities increase in severe inflation. Maximum £9,535.

What will this mean for repaying my student loan?

After finishing university, those who have taken out a student loan will not see their monthly student loan repayments increase because of these changes.

For a student loan, the amount you repay each month, if you're paid monthly, depends on how much you earn over the repayment threshold. So, the more you earn, the more you repay. If your earnings fall below the threshold, you're not required to pay back anything.

Unlike commercial loans, if you have not repaid your student loan after 40 years, the amount you still owe is automatically cancelled, regardless of how much it is.

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

There is a lot of information available on student finance, from applying to repayment, but it is vital to understand what it will mean to **YOU** and remember three key points...

#1

#2

#3

Parental Feedback Post Session

– Tuesday 7th October



Please complete this short form by scanning the QR code to give feedback on the session

For further information on student finance,
applications and repayment

www.gov.uk/studentfinance

For a range of helpful tools and guidance,
visit the SFE student finance zone

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance