



Higher Education Finance

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Summary

- You can get financial support from government to help with the costs of higher education
- Repayments depend on your income and are only made after you have left your course and are earning above a certain amount
- Any outstanding loan amount is written off after 40 years, even if you haven't paid it all
- Additional support is available for those who might need it



Student loans

Funds loaned to you by the government, to help you cover the costs of going to university

Two types:

Tuition fee loan

Maintenance loan

- Not like a bank loan
- If you change your mind you can cancel your loan application any time before it is paid to your university or college (tuition fee loans) or into your bank account (maintenance loans) at the start of term
- You will only have to start making repayments from the April after you've left your course, and only when you are earning above a certain amount

Tuition fee loan

- The highest amount that can be charged is £9,535 for a standard full time course
- You will be eligible for a loan to cover ALL of your tuition fees.
- This is paid directly to your university.

Maintenance loan

- The government also provides a maintenance – or living costs – loan that is designed to help towards your living costs.
- The amount depends on your circumstances, including your household income and where you live and study
- Once you have applied for the loan, it's paid into your bank account in three instalments at the start of each term
- Then it's up to you to plan your budget and be smart about spending!

How much will I get?

The maximum amounts for 2025/26 are:

- Living at your parent's home: £8, 877
- Living away from home and studying outside London: £10,544
- Living away from home and studying in London: £13,762
- Studying abroad as part of your UK course: £12,076

Cost of living

Expense	Cost per month
Rent	£421
Groceries	£101
Going out	£47
Takeaways and eating out	£41
Household bills	£40
Transport	£34
Clothes and shopping	£34
Other	£18
Course materials	£17
Mobile phone	£15
Health and wellbeing	£15
Holidays and events	£14
Gifts and charity	£13
TOTAL	£810

Repaying your loan

- Your tuition fee loan and maintenance loan are combined for repayment purposes
- You will only need to start making repayments
 - **From the April after you've left your course, AND**
 - **If you're earning above a certain level: £25,000 a year / £2,083 a month / £480 a week**
(this is called the 'repayment threshold')
- You only ever repay a percentage of what you earn above the repayment threshold
- Payments taken direct from salary for most people

Repaying your loan

Income each year before tax	Monthly income before tax	Approximate monthly repayment
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£26,000	£2,167	£7.50
£30,000	£2,500	£37.50
£35,000	£2,917	£75
£40,000	£3,333	£112.50

Repayment

Repayment stops if your earnings drop below £25,000 at any time

All loans are written off after 40 years



Bursaries and Scholarships

- Many universities and colleges offer bursaries and scholarships to students.
- You might be eligible if you:
 - Are a high academic achiever
 - Have a special talent, such as sports
 - Are from a low-income household
- You need to research and ask – they are not always widely advertised
- If you think you're eligible, there is nothing to lose from applying

You should start your application as soon as possible.

Parents cannot start application until student's application has begun.

Student and parents each register separately.

If you have an older brother or sister who previously applied then parents will already be registered.

Financial information required is from **2023/24**.

Have all the info you need in front of you before you start ...

Students – UCAS number, university and course code, NI number, passport, bank account details.

Parents – NI number, P60, info on savings and investments.

Student Finance England

www.gov.uk/studentfinance



0300 100 0607



Other useful links

[Government Student Finance Overview](#)

[UCAS Student Finance Overview](#)

Most university websites will have a section on funding – just search "*university name* student finance". For example "Birmingham University student finance" leads here...

[Birmingham University student finance](#)

[Money Saving Expert](#)