

# Student Finance Guide – Undergraduate Q&A

## What Financial Help is Available?

Student loans are available through Student Finance England to help pay for your tuition fees and assist with living costs whilst studying at University.

**Tuition Fee loans** are paid direct to the University on a termly basis.

**Maintenance Loans** are paid direct to the student's bank account, at the beginning of each term. The amount of these loans can vary, as they are based on your current household income, and where you will be living whilst studying.

## How and When do I Apply?

You can apply online through <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

It can take 6-8 weeks to process an application, so you need to apply as soon as possible once applications have opened (usually late **Feb/March each year**), to ensure that your loan is in place before you commence studies.

An online account has to be set up, and it will assist you greatly if you have a valid passport and national insurance number.

**Please note** – undergraduate students need to apply for a loan each academic year, originally as a new student, and then as a continuing student for future academic years.

## When is Parental Assistance Required?

If a student wishes to apply for a maintenance loan, confirmation of household income will be required. Parents should receive an email within 24 hours of the student applying, with a link to enable you to submit your household income details. You will however need to create your own account at this point. It is really important that your income details are sent quickly, as any delay in submitting the details, will delay the approval of the tuition fee loan application and may affect the amount of maintenance loan approved. Once all information is received, the application is then fully assessed and an entitlement letter is sent to the student, which needs to be brought into University on commencement of studies.

## What Extra Financial Help is Available?

Full time students with either children or dependant adults may be able to get extra financial help through the gov.uk website, as you can apply for:-

**Childcare Grant** – which can assist with course related costs if you have dependant children

**Parents Learning Allowance** – which can assist with childcare costs whilst studying

**Adult Dependents Grant** – which can assist if you are financially responsible for another adult.

A **Disabled Students Allowance** is also available to students with a disability or a long term health condition.

## **When do I start making Repayments?**

Interest is charged on your loan from the day the first payment is made to either the university or yourself, until your loan is repaid. The interest you are charged does not affect how much you will repay.

You will be due to start repaying your loan the April after you complete your studies, or leave your course, but you will only have to start repaying, if your income is above the repayment threshold (currently £25000). If your income drops below the threshold at any point, or you stop working, repayments will cease until you once again earn over the threshold. Your employer will take repayments automatically from your salary, as with tax/national insurance. If you are self-employed, you will need to make repayments at the same time as you pay your tax.

Repayments are calculated at 9% of your income over the threshold. E.g. Salary of £27,000. This is £2000 above threshold, so 9% of £2000 = £180 annual payment = £15 per month

Any loan not repaid after 30 years will be cancelled.

This information was correct at the time of printing. However the terms and conditions of a student loan may be subject to change, in line with any change made by the Student Loan Company. Details can be found on the gov.uk website.