

# STUDENT FINANCE

## University of Southampton – May 2025

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# SESSION CONTENT

This presentation covers key areas:

## SECTION 1

- Who are The Student Loans
- Importance of the UCAS tick box
- Where to find official Student Finance Resources
- Student Finance Time-Line
- Student Finance & the GATSBY standards

## SECTION 2

- **Government Announcement Changes:**  
tuition fees / alternative student finance / Sharia Compliance

## SECTION 3

- A Resources for you to use with student and parents:  
A presentation covering tuition fee loans, Maintenance loans, how student are assessed, DSA, application and campaigns, Repayment of the loans & Budgeting
- SECTION 4  
DATA: Why it is important to apply for student finance on time



Further information and guidance on SFE student support can be found at:  
[www.practitioners.slc.co.uk](http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk)



Student Loans Company

The **Student Loans Company (SLC)** is an executive non-departmental public body, providing student loans.

It is owned by the UK Government's Department for Education, Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The SLC is funded entirely by the UK government and the devolved administrations. It is responsible for both providing loans to students, and collecting loan repayments alongside HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

The SLC's head office is in Glasgow, with other offices in Darlington and Llandudno.



# Apply for Higher Education starts with UCAS



Student Applications for Higher Education, **start at school with research and application to universities in year 13 by applying through UCAS**

Student Finance England have made significant contribution of information and guidance, which is held on the UCAS websites to support students make informed choices

**UCAS send out key messages on behalf of Student Finance England e.g. Student Finance England is now open, apply now!**

The UCAS logo, featuring the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is replaced by a red triangle pointing upwards.

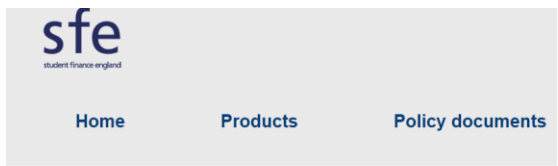
The 'Tick the Box' logo, consisting of the words 'Tick the Box' in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against an orange rectangular background.

[Sharing a disability or mental health condition in the UCAS application | Undergraduate, Conservatoires | UCAS](#)

[Students with care experience: Three reasons to tick the box | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

# PRACTITIONER'S WEBISTE - STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

Please note for Practitioners only



HOME / SUPPORTING MATERIALS

## Supporting materials

### Academic year

- ☒ 2024/25
- ☐ 2023/24
- ☐ 2022/23
- ☐ 2021/22

### Postgraduate Doctorate

Last updated: 16/12/2024

This factsheet provides an overview of the impact in any change in circumstances on withdrawing from study.

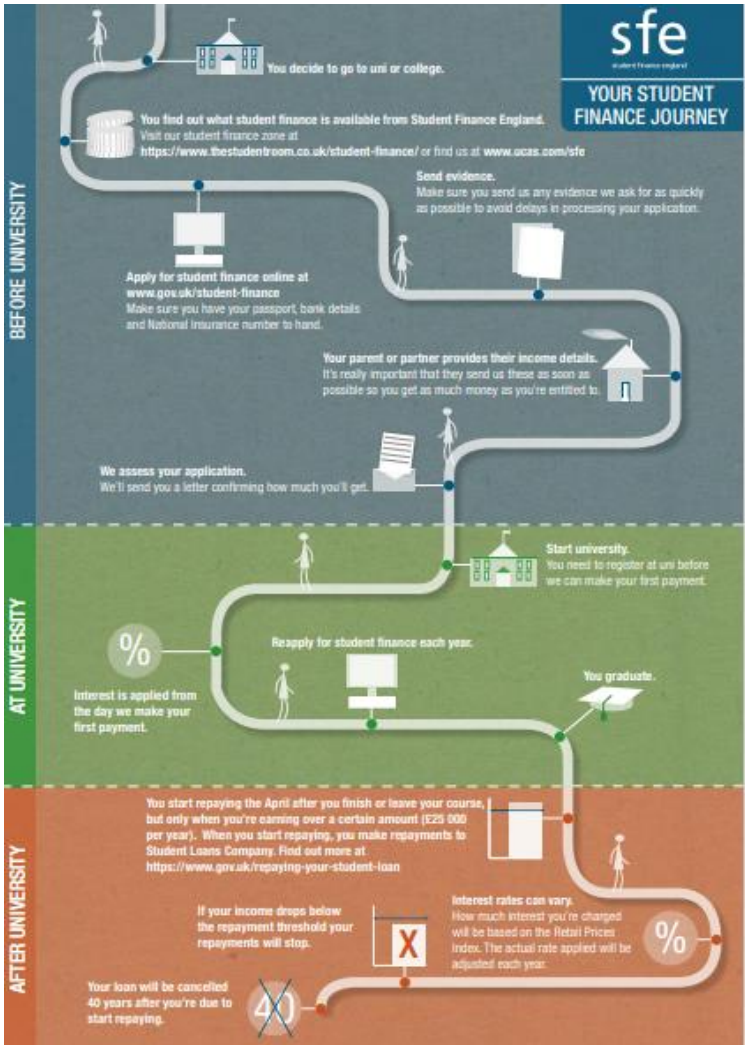
[Download this Factsheet](#)

### SFE Parents Guide to Student Finance

Last updated: 07/08/2024 [Factsheet](#)

This factsheet aims to provide information for parents whose children are applying for student finance. It covers information on the support available, how repayments work and how parents can support their child's application.

[Download this Factsheet \(PDF - 45 KB\)](#)



### Your Student Finance Journey leaflet

Last updated: 14/06/2024 [Factsheet](#)

A factsheet, providing an overview of the SFE student journey, from research through to repayment.

[Download this Factsheet \(PDF - 80 KB\)](#)

# Apply now for student finance -

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

Apply - application  
open – **10<sup>th</sup> March  
2025**



Feb-Mar  
2025

Application  
OPEN

16th May  
2025

Early  
application  
submission  
Applications  
for NEW  
students

Sep 2025

University  
Course  
Starts

Don't need a confirmed place – just entre  
their 1<sup>st</sup> choice and amend later

RETURNING STUDENT:  
20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

# STUDENT FINANCE & GATSBY

Government's Careers Strategy, statutory guidance for **schools** and guidance for colleges.

## Gatsby Benchmark 3

Addressing the needs of each learner

Learners have different careers guidance needs at different stages. Opportunities for advice and support need to be tailored to the needs of each learner

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) should receive tailored support including mentoring and supported work experience to help them develop employment

Extra help -  
Disabled Students' Allowances

[www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

## Gatsby Benchmark 7

Encounters with further and higher education

All learners should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them.

Learners have informed discussions on the pros and cons of different higher education options



Identify strengths and areas for improvement



# GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED CHANGES FOR - AY 2025/26



/SF\_England



/SFEEngland



YouTube /SFEFILM



# ANNOUNCED CHANGES FOR - AY 2025/26

## Tuition fees for UG and Foundation years

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the Secretary of State for Education announced **changes to the undergraduate tuition fees** and other student support arrangements for academic year (AY) 2025/26 in England:

- [www.gov.uk/government/news/higher-education-reform-to-back-opportunity-and-protect-students](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/higher-education-reform-to-back-opportunity-and-protect-students)

These announced changes will apply to:

- Undergraduate tuition fees
- Loans for support with living costs
- Fees and fee loans for foundation years

## ANNOUNCED CHANGES FOR - AY 2025/26

The maximum tuition fees for classroom-based foundation years **will be reduced** from the start of academic year 2025/26:

- This will ensure courses are delivered more efficiently and at lower costs to students

These changes will:

- Reduce maximum tuition fees and loans for foundation years in **classroom-based** subjects (such as business and social sciences) **to £5,760**

The maximum fees and loans for foundation years in **other (higher cost) subjects** will:

- Remain at the fee cap applicable to the relevant academic year at Approved (fee cap) Providers (due to rise **to £9,535** in AY 2025/26)

# ANNOUNCED – ALTERNATIVE STUDENT FINANCE (ADF)

DfE has confirmed their commitment to introduce a Sharia compliant alternative student finance product. This is part of the wider LLE reforms.

The initial [DfE guidance](#) now outlines the steps required to introduce ASF. It also outlines the associated timeline showing ASF will become available as soon as possible after the introduction of the LLE.

## Alternative Student Finance information for students (ASF)

DfE has updated the [blog post](#) on the Education Hub. This provides an overview on Alternative Student Finance and the planned introduction. It also answers potential questions asked by students and their parents.

# STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

## AN INTRODUCTION

**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**

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



Figures in these slides are for academic year (AY) 2025/26 and subject to change in future years based on government policy

# 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 Home Office restriction
- Be **resident in England** on the first day of the first AY 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
- A status such as Refugee, Humanitarian Protection, Stateless Person, or Ukraine Scheme Leave

Go to [www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies) for more information



# STUDENT FINANCE ELIGIBILITY

## SUMMARY OF ELIGIBLE RESIDENCY CATEGORIES

High level SFE support summary based on status and residency:

Residency Category	UK Residence	Ordinary Resident On
Indefinite Leave to Enter/Remain	3 Years UK	First Day of First AY
Refugee Humanitarian Protection ILR/E Domestic Violence ILR Bereaved Partner	N/A (Providing UK residency maintained since status awarded)	Course Start Date (As supplied by HEP)
Stateless Persons Section 67 or Calais Leave ARAP/ACRS/Pitting Leave Ukraine Scheme Leave	N/A (Providing UK residency maintained since status awarded)	Course Start Date (As supplied by HEP)
Long Residency	Under 18: 7 Years UK Over 18: Half-life/20 Years UK (To include 3 Years Ordinary Lawful UK Residency)	First Day of First AY

Schools/College  
presentation -  
RESOURCE

# STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

## WHAT SUPPORT COULD YOU GET?

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26



# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE – TUITION FEE LOAN



**TUITION FEE  
LOAN**

**MAINTENANCE  
LOAN**

**EXTRA  
SUPPORT**

# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## TUITION FEES AND LOANS

For academic year 2025/26, Approved (Fee Cap) Higher Education providers can charge full-time undergraduate students tuition fees of **up to £9,535**:

With tuition fees of up to £9,535, can you afford to study in higher education?

- Eligible students **won't** have to pay any tuition fees up front
- A Tuition Fee Loan is available to cover the fee charged by a provider
- Or up to £6,355 is available for courses at 'Approved' providers
- A Tuition Fee Loan **doesn't depend on household income**
- SFE pay a Tuition Fee Loan directly to your university or college

# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE – MAINTENANCE LOAN



TUITION FEE  
LOAN

**MAINTENANCE  
LOAN**

EXTRA  
SUPPORT

# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## MAINTENANCE (LIVING COST) LOANS

So that's tuition fees covered, but what other support can you apply for?

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 will depend 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

## FULL-TIME SFE MAXIMUM MAINTENANCE LOAN RATES

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



### Parental Home Rate:

Live at home while they study

£8,877



### Elsewhere Rate:

Live and study away from home, outside London

£10,544



### London Rate:

Live and study away from home, in London

£13,762



Different rates of Maintenance Loan are available to full-time students who are entitled to benefits or aged over 60 before the first day of their course

# 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 Overseas rate of loan is available for students on an approved study year abroad as part of their UK based course



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

## FULL-TIME SFE MAINTENANCE LOAN ENTITLEMENT

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

Household Income	Home	Elsewhere	London
£25,000 & under	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£45,000	£5,897	£7,532	£10,700
£55,000	£4,407	£6,026	£9,168
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£75,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853



You can get an estimate of your loan entitlement using the calculator on:  
[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

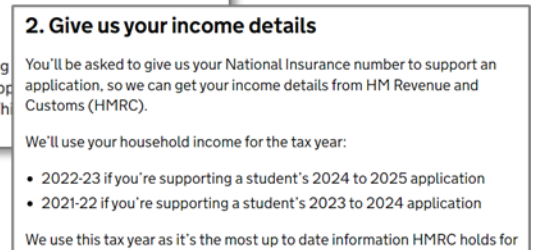
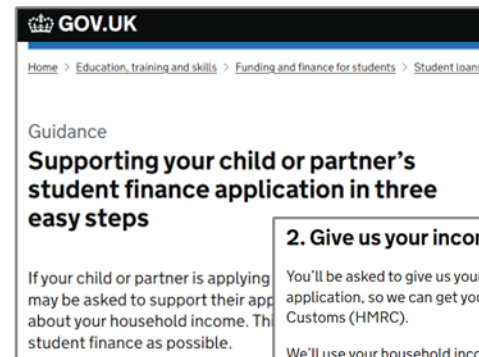
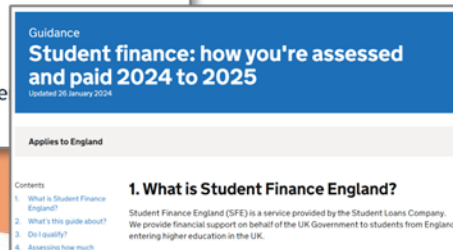
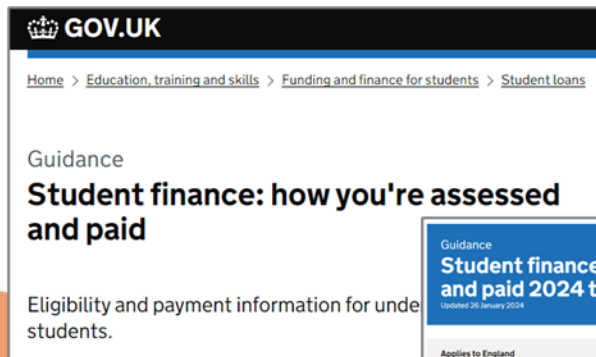


# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## FULL-TIME SFE MAINTENANCE LOAN – ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Detailed information on student finance entitlement, household income assessment and means testing is available on GOV.UK:

- Student finance: How you're assessed and paid guidance
  - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-paid](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-paid)
- Supporting student finance applications guidance
  - [www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-child-or-partners-student-finance-application-in-3-easy-steps](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-child-or-partners-student-finance-application-in-3-easy-steps)



# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## MAINTENANCE LOAN – INDEPENDENT STUDENT STATUS

If **you're not** financially supported by your parents or a partner, then you might be classed as an independent student when SFE work out your funding entitlement:

- [www.ucas.com/finance/student-finance-england/finance-independent-students](https://www.ucas.com/finance/student-finance-england/finance-independent-students)

To be **classed as independent**, students need to be aged 25 or over on the first day of the academic year or meet one of the other criteria, including:

- Are or have been married or in a civil partnership
- Have care of a person under the age of 18
- Supported themselves financially for 3 years before the start of their course
- Have no contact with or are estranged from their parents
- Are a Care Leaver ([becomecharity.org.uk/get-support/propel](https://becomecharity.org.uk/get-support/propel))

# STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

## THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE – EXTRA SUPPORT



TUITION FEE  
LOAN

MAINTENANCE  
LOAN

**EXTRA  
SUPPORT**

# 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

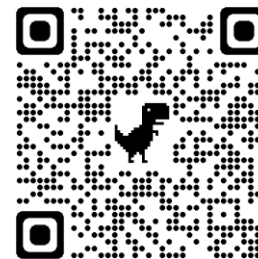
For more on this range of support go to [www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help) and [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/student-services](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/student-services)

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 2024/25

## 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 2024/25 **up to £26,948** 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](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)

# NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

Students can apply for the Learning Support Fund (LSF) if they are undertaking an eligible pre-registration undergraduate or postgraduate healthcare course:

- This includes subjects such as nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, paramedics, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy

Through the NHS LSF, eligible students could get:

A training grant of £5,000 per academic year
Parental support of £2,000, for students with dependent children
Money back for excess travel and temporary accommodation costs
Additional support if experiencing financial hardship

For more details go to: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf)



# STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

## APPLICATIONS



# STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

## THREE STAGE PROCESS



**YOU APPLY  
ONLINE**

**SFE ASSESS  
YOUR  
APPLICATION**

**YOU GET  
PAID!**

# STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

## KEY MESSAGES – APPLY EARLY

Each year, too many students apply late for their finance and could have no way to pay for courses or accommodation at the start of term...**don't let that be you!**

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**



The full-time SFE application service **will open in Spring 2025** with a mid-May deadline TBC: [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)

# 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 details from other official documents which can be used to verify identity and immigration status with the Home Office
- UK bank account details and National Insurance number

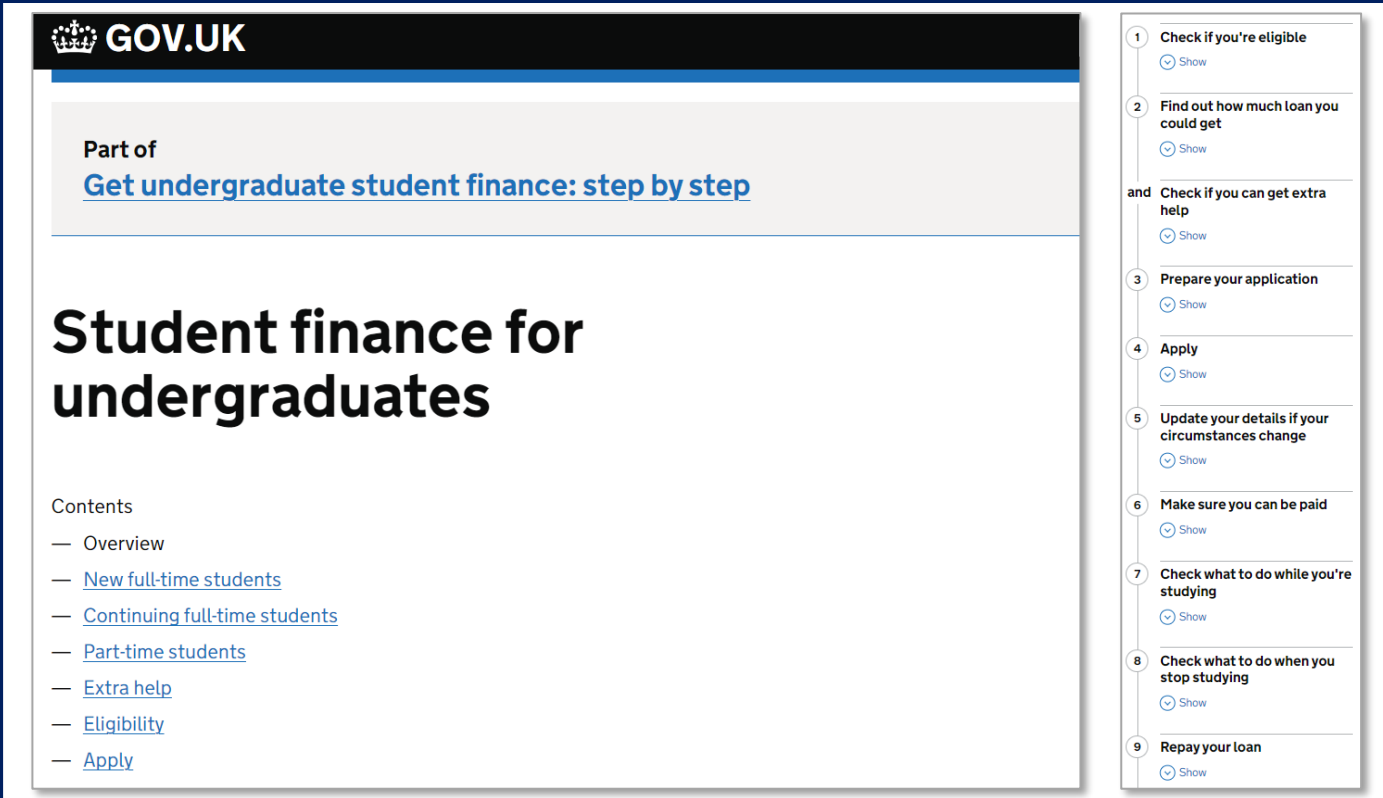
The easiest way for **parents or other sponsors** to support an application is also online through GOV.UK, providing their information including:

- 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

GOV.UK/STUDENTFINANCE AND SFE ONLINE

More information about student finance can be found on GOV.UK and across the SFE social media channels: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)



The screenshot displays the GOV.UK website for student finance applications. The header features the GOV.UK logo. Below it, a grey banner reads 'Part of Get undergraduate student finance: step by step'. The main heading is 'Student finance for undergraduates'. To the left, a 'Contents' section lists links: Overview, New full-time students, Continuing full-time students, Part-time students, Extra help, Eligibility, and Apply. On the right, a vertical list of 9 steps is shown, each with a 'Show' link: 1. Check if you're eligible, 2. Find out how much loan you could get, 3. Check if you can get extra help, 4. Prepare your application, 5. Apply, 6. Update your details if your circumstances change, 7. Make sure you can be paid, 8. Check what to do while you're studying, and 9. Check what to do when you stop studying. The final step, 'Repay your loan', is partially visible at the bottom.

**GOV.UK**

Part of  
[Get undergraduate student finance: step by step](#)

## Student finance for undergraduates

Contents

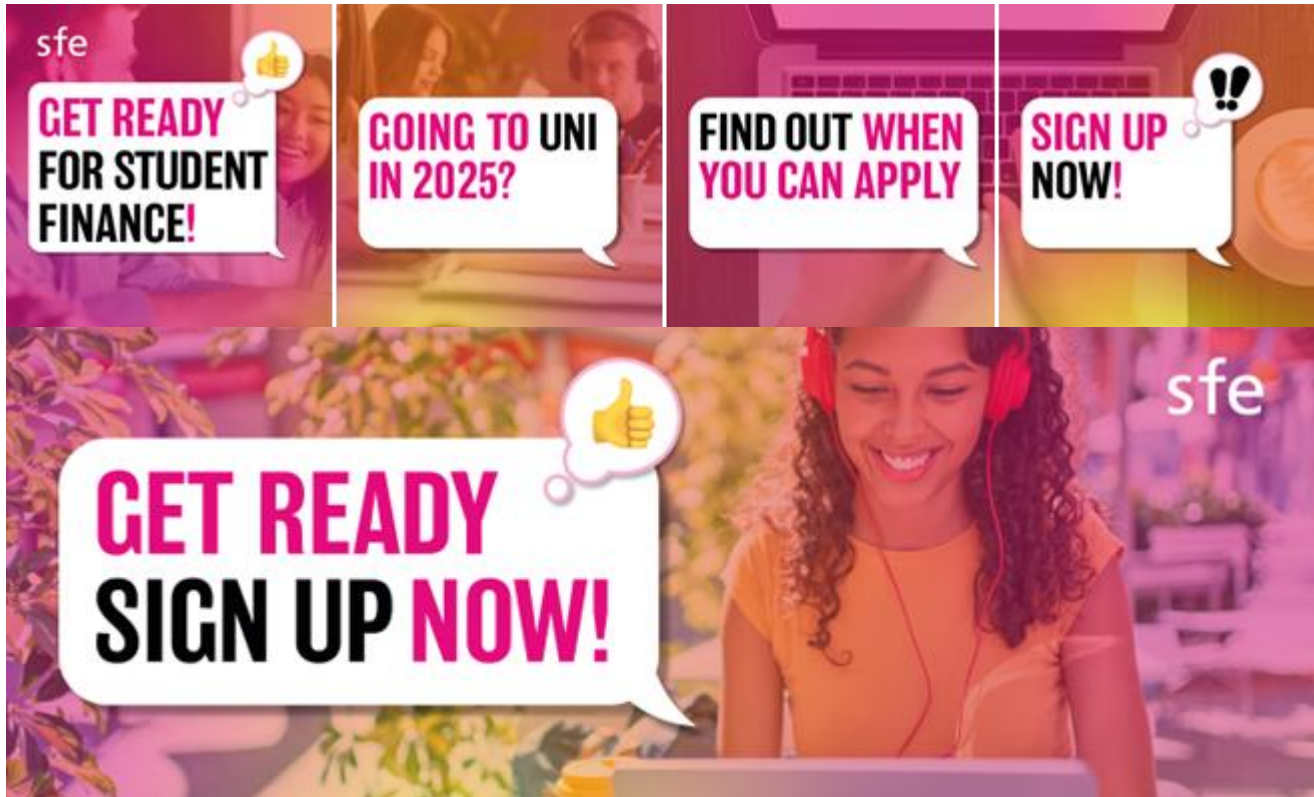
- Overview
- [New full-time students](#)
- [Continuing full-time students](#)
- [Part-time students](#)
- [Extra help](#)
- [Eligibility](#)
- [Apply](#)

- 1 Check if you're eligible  
[Show](#)
- 2 Find out how much loan you could get  
[Show](#)
- and 3 Check if you can get extra help  
[Show](#)
- 4 Prepare your application  
[Show](#)
- 5 Apply  
[Show](#)
- 6 Update your details if your circumstances change  
[Show](#)
- 7 Make sure you can be paid  
[Show](#)
- 8 Check what to do while you're studying  
[Show](#)
- 9 Check what to do when you stop studying  
[Show](#)
- Repay your loan  
[Show](#)

# STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

## SFE CAMPAIGN PAGE – ALL THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Visit the SFE campaign page for all the information you need to understand student finance and to make sure you can apply **accurately and on time**:



The SFE campaign page contains essential messages and resources for both students and parents/sponsors: [studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk](https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk)

# STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

## REPAYMENT

# STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

## THREE THINGS TO KNOW



**THE  
FACTS**

**THE  
FIGURES**

**THE  
INTEREST**



# 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

# STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

## PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - INITIAL FIGURES

Approximate repayment amounts based on the **initial** Plan 5 threshold of **£25,000** using the applied deduction rate of **9%** of income earned over the threshold:

Income each year before tax	9% will be deducted from	Monthly Repayment (Approx)
£25,000	£0	£0
£35,000	£10,000	£75
£40,000	£15,000	£112
£45,000	£20,000	£150
£50,000	£25,000	£187

Income  
£28,000

9% Deducted  
from?

Monthly  
Repayment?

# STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

## PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS – THE INTEREST

Interest on a student loan will start being added as soon as the first payments are released and is applied until the loan balance is repaid in full or is cancelled:

- The interest rate applied to Plan 5 student loans will be set at **RPI only**
- RPI is Retail Prices Index and the rate used for student loans is set **annually**
- The Plan 5 interest rate between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 will be **4.3%** (unless a **Prevailing Market Rate cap** is put in place)
- Interest can affect how long it will take to repay your loan, but it **does not** affect your weekly, monthly or yearly repayments, which are based on what you earn
- You will be able to check on your loan balance and keep SLC updated with any changes to your circumstances using the Online Repayment Service

For more information go to: [www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan](https://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan)

# STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES  
Research

# BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

## CONSIDER THE COSTS

It's important to **think about the costs** you are likely to face while you are studying and how to manage your money:

Remember, you'll get a maintenance support payment each term and you'll need to pay for things like...

- accommodation, books and other essential study or course materials
- phone, internet, streaming services, sports, social activities, food and drink

There can also be costs you might not have thought of yet, such as insurance or a TV Licence, so **planning a budget** can help:

- [www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html](http://www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html)



**Could you balance study and work?** Many students will work part-time alongside their study or during the holidays to supplement their income

# BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

## CONSIDER THE COSTS – STUDENT MONEY RESOURCES

Sources of student money management and budgeting information include:

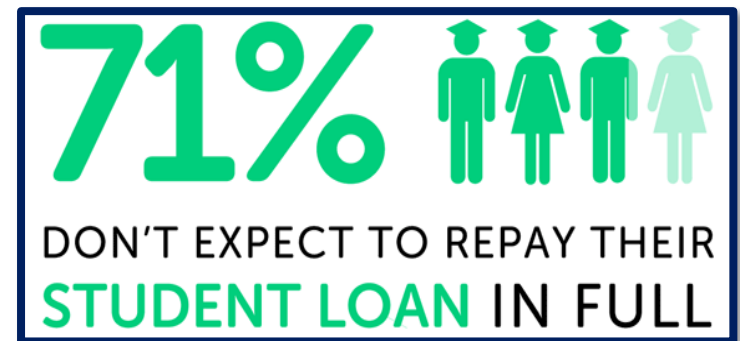
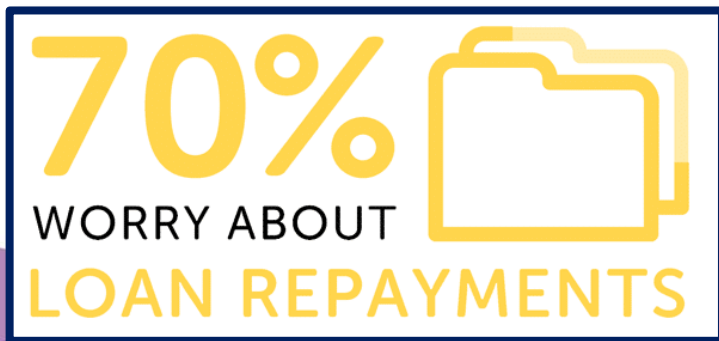
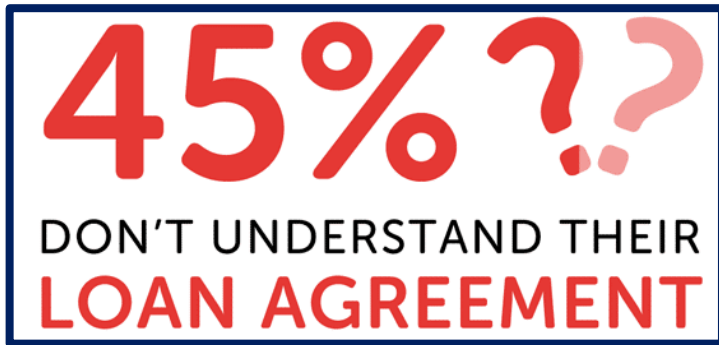


Many university and college websites also feature helpful student finance guidance, budget planners and knowledge of local costs and expenses

# BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

## UNDERSTAND STUDENT FINANCE AND YOUR LOAN

Many students feel they are **not fully aware** of the range of support available or how their loan will work, so doing research and asking questions can help:



# 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



# DATA ON STUDENT APPLICATIONS

## APPLY ON TIME SUBMIT ALL EVIDENCE



/SF\_England



/SFEEngland



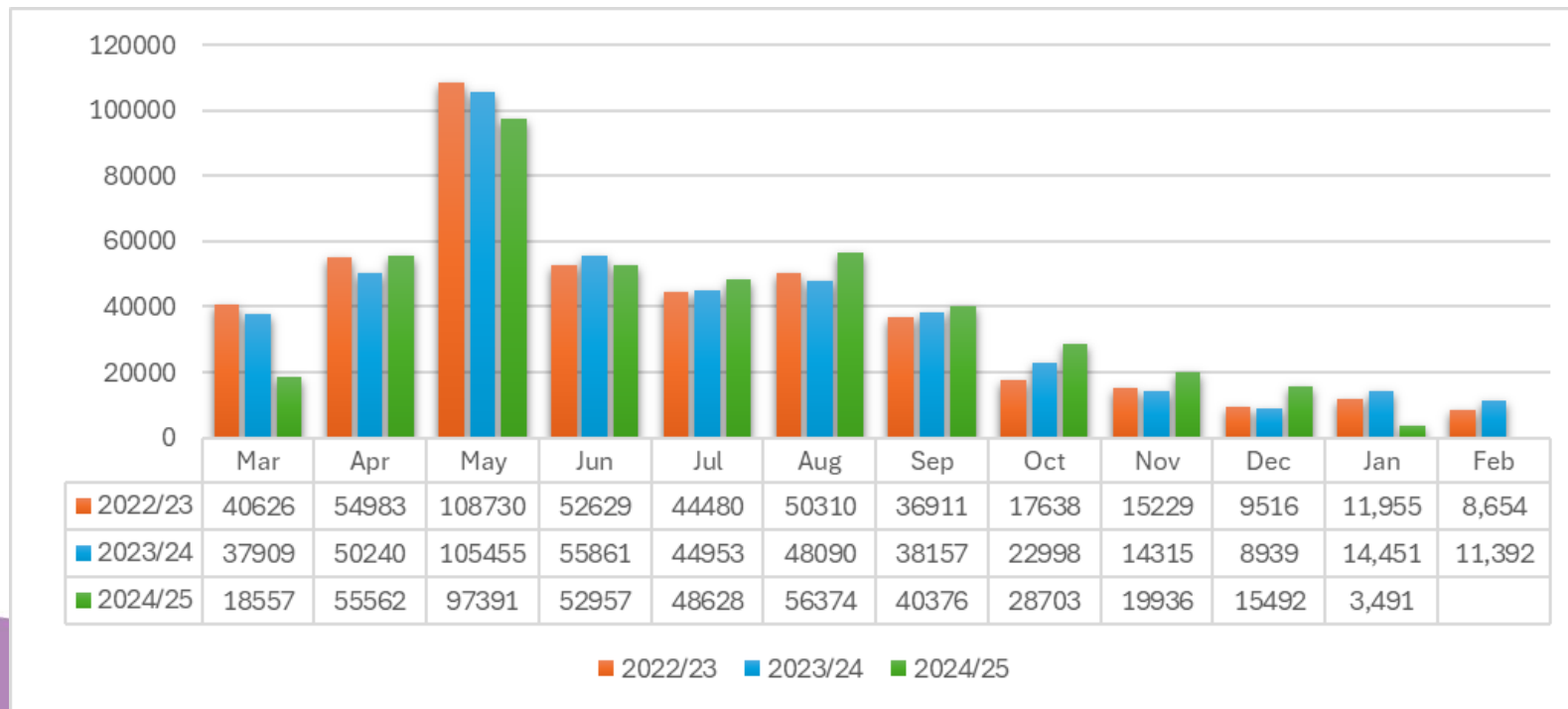
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# DATA ON STUDENT APPLICATIONS

APPLY ON TIME SUBMIT ALL EVIDENCE

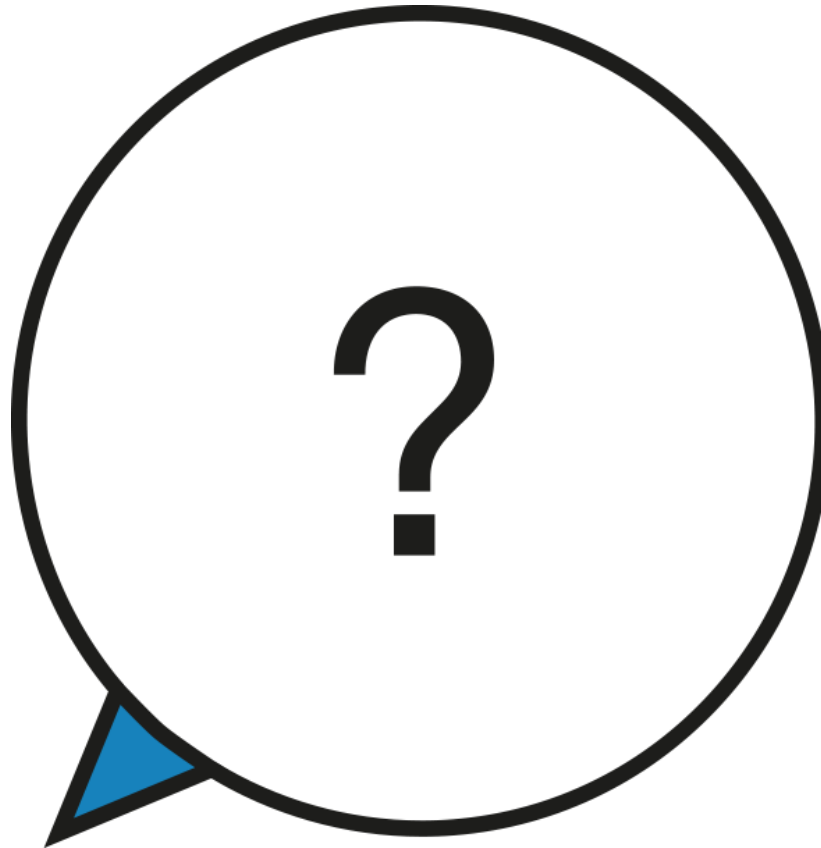
Undergraduate

Total New Students Approved Applications



# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN



For further information on student finance,  
applications and repayment

**[www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)**

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

**[www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance)**



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