

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

PRESENTATION CONTENTS

This presentation will provide potential new full-time undergraduate students from England with the fundamental messages needed to understand student finance:

- Section 1 – What support can you get?
- Section 2 – How do you get it?
- Section 3 – When and how do you repay it?
- Section 4 – Budgeting and Key Messages

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



If you usually live in [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) or [Scotland](#), then the student finance administration you apply to and the funding available can differ

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 eligible 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



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

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



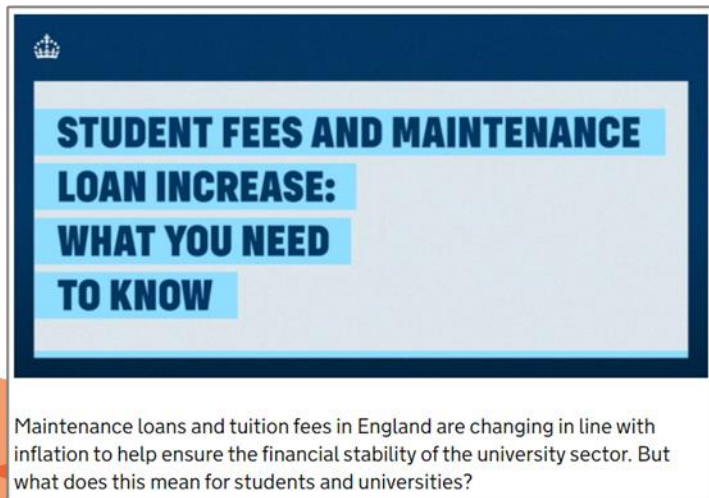
Other course and study options that also attract student financial support include accelerated degrees and part-time undergraduate qualifications

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

TUITION FEE INCREASE – INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

In AY 2025/26, tuition fee levels in England are changing **in line with inflation** to help the financial stability of the university sector:

- An article has been posted on the **DfE Education Hub** providing details on these tuition fee changes and answers to some common questions
- <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/11/04/student-fees-and-maintenance-loan-increase-what-you-need-to-know>



**STUDENT FEES AND MAINTENANCE
LOAN INCREASE:
WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW**

Maintenance loans and tuition fees in England are changing in line with inflation to help ensure the financial stability of the university sector. But what does this mean for students and universities?

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 help universities increased in seven 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.

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 (£58,349)	Elsewhere (£62,377)	London (£70,116)
£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
£60,000	£3,907	£5,273	£8,403
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£70,116 & over	£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

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

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:

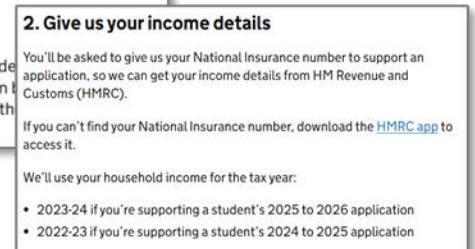
- Are or have been married or in a civil partnership
- Have care of a person under the age of 18
- Supported themselves financially for 3 years before the start of their course
- Have no contact with or are estranged from their parents
- Are a Care Leaver (becomecharity.org.uk/get-support/propel)

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
- Supporting student finance applications guidance
 - www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-child-or-partners-student-finance-application-in-3-easy-steps



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

Go to: www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help and www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/student-services

Many universities and colleges provide **bursaries and scholarships** to 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

SFE DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE - DSA

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 assessments are based on the specific needs of each student
- Support entitlement can be allocated across the defined categories



For more information go to: www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa

- www.gov.uk/guidance/what-to-expect-from-your-disabled-students-allowance-dsa-needs-assessment

STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

SFE DEPENDANTS' GRANTS

Eligible full-time students with children or financially adult dependants can apply for additional income assessed support through the SFE Dependant's Grants:



CCG

Childcare Grant

Based on 85% of actual approved childcare costs, up to a weekly limit



PLA

Parents' Learning Allowance

Help with course related costs for students with dependent children



ADG

Adult Dependants' Grant

For students with an adult who is financially dependent on them

For more information go to: www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help

- www.gov.uk/childcare-grant
- www.gov.uk/parents-learning-allowance
- www.gov.uk/adult-dependants-grant



STUDENT FINANCE 2025/26

NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND - 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 information go to: 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 NOW FOR AY 2025/26

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!**

- The full-time SFE application service for AY 2025/26 **is now open** with an '**on time**' submission deadline of **May 16th** for new students
- Create your account and apply at: 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 **first 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)



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 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 (the **prior tax year**)
- Current tax year [income](#) if there has been at least a **15%** decrease
- Details of other child dependants
- www.gov.uk/support-child-or-partners-student-finance-application



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

SFE Student Finance Zone

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance

Facebook www.facebook.com/SFEngland

UCAS www.ucas.com/sfe

X https://x.com/SF_England

YouTube www.youtube.com/SFEFILM

Undergraduate student EU student finance Postgraduate student Parents and

Student Finance England provides you with student finance while you study. There's a range of financial help available including loans that have to be paid back, and grants that don't. Whether you're thinking about going to university, you're already studying, or you need to enter repayment, you need to know about our student finance zone.

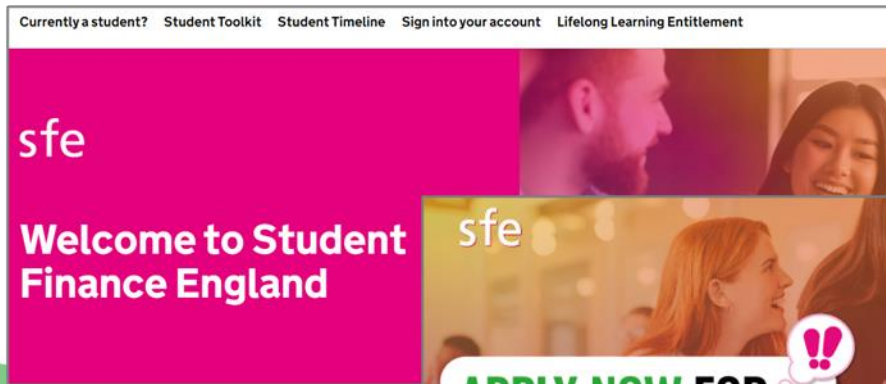
QR codes linking to SFE social media channels.

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

SFE CAMPAIGN PAGE – ALL THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

The full-time SFE undergraduate application service for AY 2025/26 **is now open!**

- The SFE campaign page features all the information and resources you need to understand student finance and apply **accurately and on time**
- Visit and bookmark the campaign page: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk>

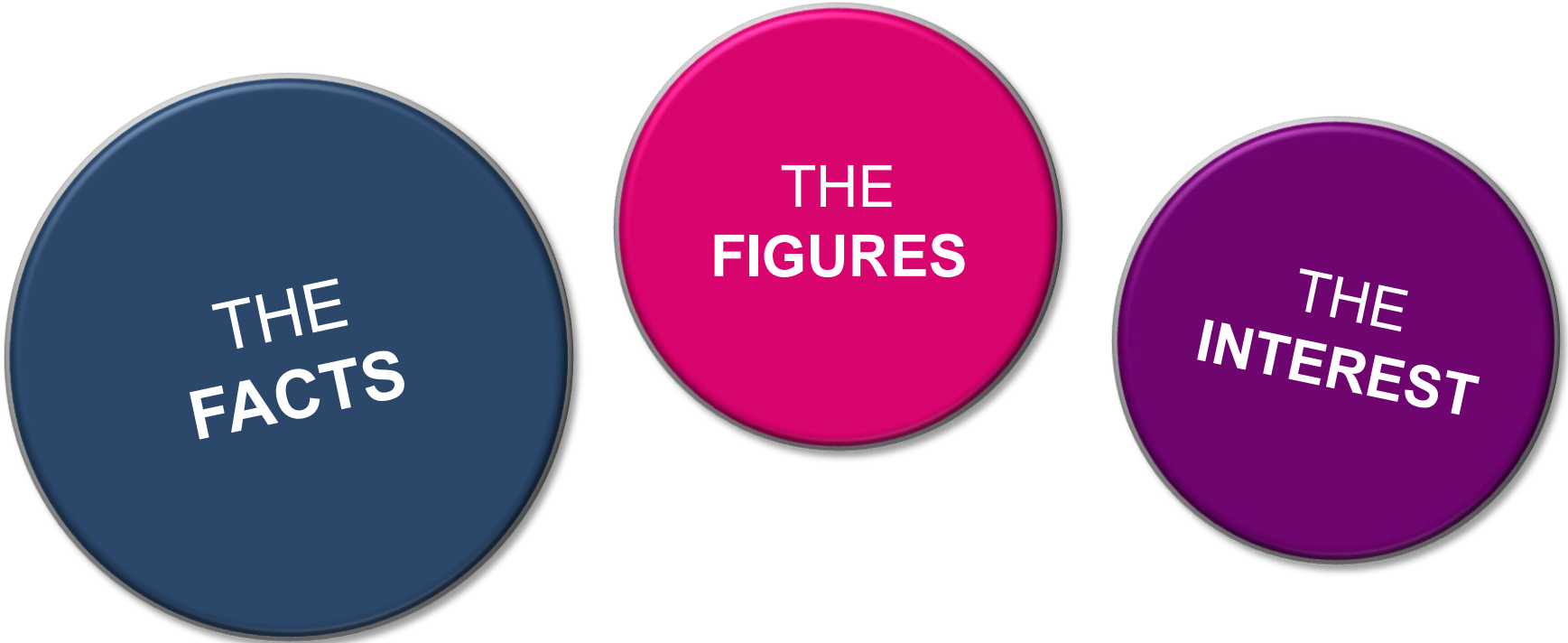


STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

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 thresholds, which are **£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 6th 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
- Any outstanding balance will be cancelled **40 years** after entering repayment

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - MONTHLY REPAYMENTS

Approximate monthly repayment based on **9% of income earned** over the current **£25,000** Plan 5 loan threshold:

Gross Annual Income	9% Repayment Deducted From	Approximate Monthly Repayment
£25,000	£0	£0
£28,000	£3,000	£22
£30,000	£5,000	£37
£35,000	£10,000	£75
£40,000	£15,000	£112
£45,000	£20,000	£150
£50,000	£25,000	£187

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 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025 will be **4.3%** (unless a **Prevailing Market Rate cap** is put in place)
- Interest **can** affect how long it takes to repay your loan, but it **does not** affect your weekly, monthly or yearly repayments, which are based on your income
- You will be able to check on your loan balance and keep SLC updated on any changes to your circumstances using the **Online Repayment Service**

For more information go to: www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan



STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

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, broadband, streaming services, sports, going out, 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



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:



GOV.UK: www.gov.uk/student-finance

Understanding Living Costs guidance [page](#)

Discover Uni: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk>

Dedicated student money [section](#)



Save the Student: www.savethestudent.org

Advice and resources including [money](#) and [accommodation](#) surveys

Money Saving Expert: www.moneysavingexpert.com/students

Information, opinion, blogs and [budgeting](#) advice



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

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

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

#1 RESEARCH

- Research **ALL** the **SUPPORT** available to you
- Make **THE RIGHT** university or college choice

#2 APPLY

- Apply **ONLINE & ON TIME**
- You **DON'T** need to **WAIT** for confirmed offers

#3 REPAY

- Not until you **EARN OVER** the set threshold
- Based on **WHAT YOU EARN** not what you owe

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