



studentfinanceengland
the student finance experts

STUDENT FINANCE
MATTERS
TO ME



A GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT

FOR STUDENTS CONTINUING IN
FULL-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION
IN 2014/15

WHAT IS STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND?

Student Finance England is a service provided by the Student Loans Company. We provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK. We're here to help and can offer you financial support when you need it most – during your studies.

We're experts in student finance and this guide will tell you everything you need to know about student finance. Depending on your circumstances, your course and where you study, you may be able to get a range of financial help and support. And most students won't have to pay any tuition fees up front. You could get grants and bursaries (which you don't have to pay back) and loans (which you do).

There's also extra help for those with special circumstances (for example, if you have children or adult dependants, a disability, a long-term health condition, a mental-health condition or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia).

For more information and to apply, visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

For a range of helpful tools and guidance, visit www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance



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Loans Company

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SECTION 1

HOW AND WHEN DO I RE-APPLY?

HOW AND WHEN TO RE-APPLY

Apply now for your student finance to make sure you have your money when you return to your course. You can do this at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Re-applying for student finance is easy:

- You can go online and re-apply for student finance. Once we've processed your application we'll send your Student Finance Entitlement letter and declaration form.
- If you applied for Disabled Students' Allowances when you filled in your main application for student finance, you will need to re-apply every year.
- **Remember to register at your university or college. We can't pay you until you do!**
- You need to fill in your application for student finance by 28 June 2014 to be sure you have your money when you start your course. If you apply after this date, you might not get all your money in time for the start of your course, but we'll try to make an initial assessment so you'll have some money as close to the start of your course as possible.

TOP TIP

When you get your declaration form you must sign and return it as soon as possible.

1

HOW AND WHEN DO I RE-APPLY?

If you're a continuing student applying for student finance for the first time, you can do this online now at www.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Before you start your online application, make sure you have the following to hand:



YOUR PASSPORT

DETAILS OF YOUR UNIVERSITY AND COURSE

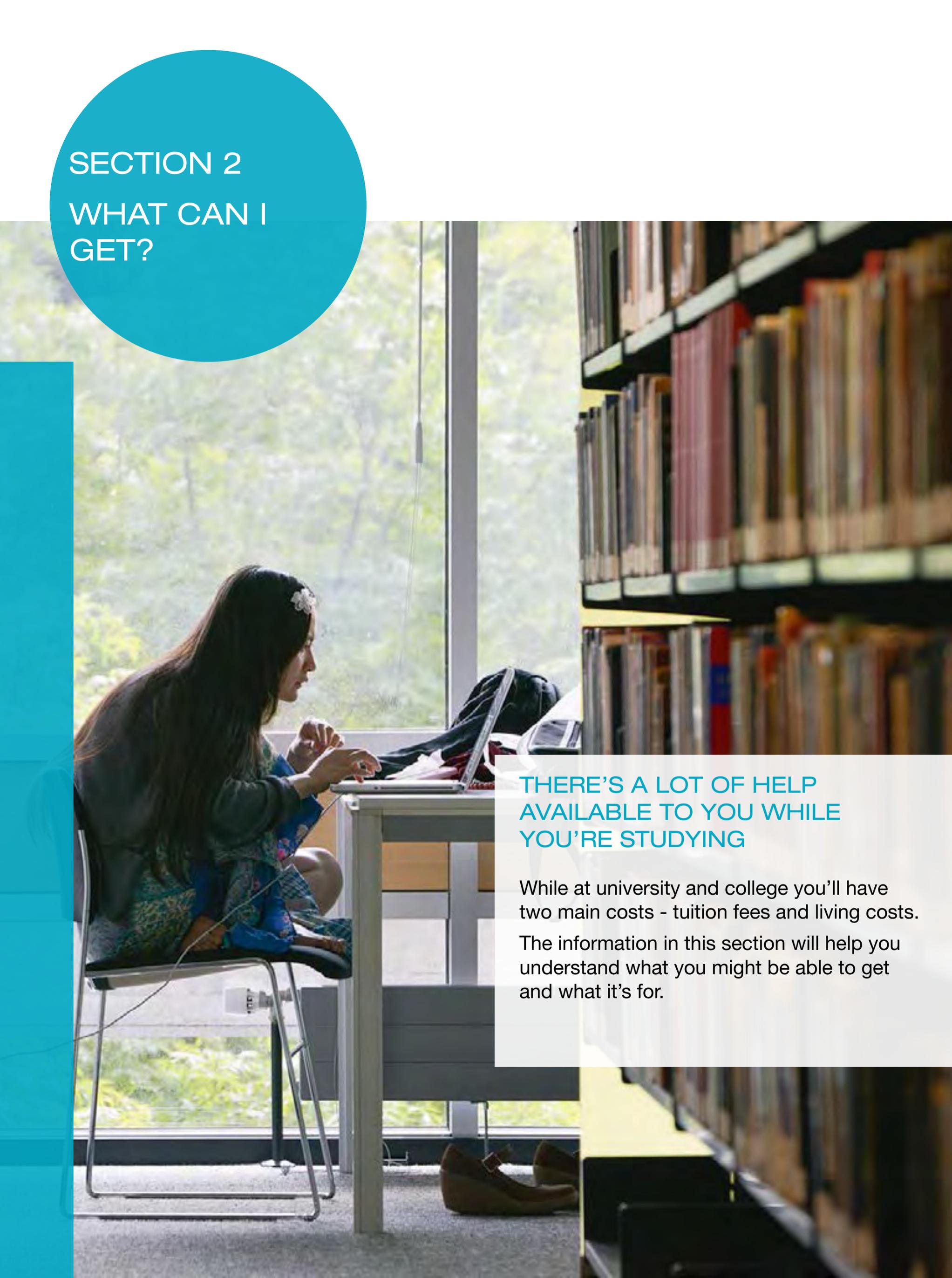


YOUR BANK DETAILS

YOUR NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER



IF YOU'RE APPLYING FOR FINANCE THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME, YOUR PARENTS OR PARTNER WILL HAVE TO SUPPLY THEIR CONTACT DETAILS, NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER AND THEIR DETAILS ABOUT THEIR HOUSEHOLD INCOME.



SECTION 2 WHAT CAN I GET?

THERE'S A LOT OF HELP AVAILABLE TO YOU WHILE YOU'RE STUDYING

While at university and college you'll have two main costs - tuition fees and living costs. The information in this section will help you understand what you might be able to get and what it's for.



WHAT CAN I GET?

TUITION FEE LOAN

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with the **TUITION FEES** charged by your university or college.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

YES

If you started your course **ON OR AFTER** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,750 a month, £404 a week or £21,000 a year.

If you started your course **BEFORE** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,409 a month, £325 a week or £16,910 a year.

You'll have to repay any percentage of your Tuition Fee Loan that we've paid to your university or college from the first day of term, even if you leave or suspend your course.



WHEN TUITION FEE LOAN PAYMENT IS MADE TO YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

At the start of **TERM 1**

At the start of **TERM 2**

At the start of **TERM 3**



HOW MUCH OF YOUR TUITION FEE LOAN IS PAID TO YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE?

25% of the tuition fee

25% of the tuition fee

50% of the tuition fee

HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

If you started your course on or **AFTER** 1 September 2012, your university or college can charge you up to **£9,000** a year for tuition fees.

If you started your course **BEFORE** 1 September 2012, your university or college can charge you up to **£3,465** a year for tuition fees.

You can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay your fee up to the maximum your university or college can charge.

ANYTHING ELSE?

You should check with your university or college to see how much they charge.

If you apply for a Tuition Fee Loan, it will be paid direct to your university or college in three instalments across the academic year.

CHANGING UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

If you transfer to a new university or college before the start of term 1, your full Tuition Fee Loan will be paid to your new university or college.

If you transfer to a new university or college during term 1, your new university will get 75% of your Tuition Fee Loan. The first 25% will be paid to the university or college you transferred from. If the tuition fee at your new university or college is higher, we'll only pay them 75% of the new tuition fee.

Transferring to a new university or college during term 2 will mean your previous university or college can only get 50% of your Tuition Fee Loan. The other 50% will be paid to your new university or college.

If you transfer during term 3, we won't pay any Tuition Fee Loan to your new university or college. Your previous university or college will get the full Tuition Fee Loan.



CHANGES TO YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

At any point during the academic year you can:

- Log into your online Student Finance Account and make changes to your personal details
- Advise us of any other change in your circumstances
- Contact us to adjust the amount of Maintenance Loan or Tuition Fee Loan you wish to receive

If the fee you're being charged changes before you start your course you should tell us about this directly. However, if it changes after your course starts, you need to ask your university or college to tell us about it instead.

Likewise, if you intend to change your course, repeat a year, leave higher education or suspend your studies after your course has started, you need to ask your university or college to tell us.

TOP TIP

You don't need to send any financial evidence up front. If we do ask you for financial evidence you can send us photocopies. You don't need to send originals.

MAINTENANCE LOAN

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with your **LIVING COSTS** (for example, rent, food, books, travel and other expenses) while you're studying.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

YES

If you started your course **ON OR AFTER** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,750 a month, £404 a week or £21,000 a year.

If you started your course **BEFORE** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,409 a month, £325 a week or £16,910 a year.

ANYTHING ELSE?

If you get a Maintenance Grant, we'll **REDUCE** the amount of Maintenance Loan you can get.

We pay your Maintenance Loan straight into your bank account, usually in three instalments, one at the start of each term.

You must be aged under 60 at the start of your course to get a Maintenance Loan.

HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

The amount you can get depends on where you live, where you study and your household income. The table below shows the maximum amounts for this year.

If you started your course on or after 1 September 2012, the maximum loan rates are as follows.

Studying in London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £7,751
Studying outside London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £5,555
Living with parents (London & elsewhere)	▶▶	Up to £4,418

If you started your course between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2012, the maximum loan rates are as follows.

Studying in London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £6,997
Studying outside London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £5,000
Living with parents (London & elsewhere)	▶▶	Up to £3,876

If you started your course before September 2009, the maximum loan rates are as follows.

Studying in London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £6,709
Studying outside London and not living with parents	▶▶	Up to £4,792
Living with parents (London & elsewhere)	▶▶	Up to £3,709

MAINTENANCE GRANT

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with your **LIVING COSTS** (for example, rent, food, books, travel and other expenses) while you're studying.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early.

ANYTHING ELSE?

We usually pay the Maintenance Grant in three instalments, one at the start of each term, along with any Maintenance Loan.

You can find out more about how your household income affects your entitlement in the booklet 'How You are Assessed and Paid' which is available at www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance



HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

If you started your course **ON OR AFTER** 1 September 2012, the full grant available for 2014/15 is £3,387.

If you started your course **BEFORE** 1 September 2012, the full grant available for 2014/15 is £3,110.

The amount of Maintenance Grant you can get depends on your household income and when you started your course.

If you started your course on or after 1 September 2012

HOUSEHOLD INCOME **HOW MUCH?**

£25,000 or less ►► Full grant

Between £25,001 and £42,620 ►► Partial grant

More than £42,620 ►► No grant

If you started your course between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2012

HOUSEHOLD INCOME **HOW MUCH?**

£25,000 or less ►► Full grant

Between £25,001 and £50,706 ►► Partial grant

More than £50,706 ►► No grant

If you started your course between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009

HOUSEHOLD INCOME **HOW MUCH?**

£25,000 or less ►► Full grant

Between £25,001 and £61,047 ►► Partial grant

More than £61,047 ►► No grant

If you started your course before 1 September 2008

HOUSEHOLD INCOME **HOW MUCH?**

£18,360 or less ►► Full grant

Between £25,001 and £39,571 ►► Partial grant

More than £39,571 ►► No grant

SPECIAL SUPPORT GRANT

WHAT'S IT FOR?

The Special Support Grant replaces the Maintenance Grant in certain circumstances.

Helps with **EXTRA COURSE RELATED COSTS** such as books, equipment, travel, or childcare.

You may get a Special Support Grant if any of the following apply while you're on your course:

- You're a lone (single) parent;
- You have a partner who is also a full-time student and one or both of you are responsible for a child or young person under 20 who is in full-time education below higher-education level;
- You have a disability and qualify for the Disability Living Allowance, Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium;
- You qualify for Personal Independence Payments or Armed Forces Independence Payment;
- You qualify for housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit;
- You're deaf and qualify for Disabled Students' Allowances;
- You have been treated as incapable of work for at least 28 weeks;
- You have a disability and qualify for Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- You're waiting to go back to a course having taken agreed time out from that course due to an illness or caring responsibility that has now ended; or
- You're aged 60 or older.

HOW MUCH CAN I GET?

The amount of Special Support Grant you can get **DEPENDS ON YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME** and when you started your course.

If you started your course **ON OR AFTER** 1 September 2012, the maximum grant available for 2014/15 is £3,387.

If you started your course **BEFORE** 1 September 2012, the maximum grant available for 2014/15 is £3,110.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early.

ANYTHING ELSE?

If you can get a Special Support Grant, **YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A MAINTENANCE GRANT AS WELL**. However, it won't affect the amount of Maintenance Loan you may get.

We work out entitlement to the Special Support Grant in the same way as the Maintenance Grant. Jobcentre Plus and your local authority's benefit section won't take account of the Special Support Grant when working out your income if you're claiming an income-related benefit.

If you're not sure whether to apply for Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant, contact us for advice or talk to the student adviser at your university or college.

EXTRA HELP

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES (DSAs)

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with the **EXTRA COSTS YOU MIGHT HAVE AS A RESULT OF A DISABILITY**, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty. Disabled Students' Allowances can help pay for specialist equipment, a non-medical helper, travel or other extra costs. They don't depend on your household income. How much you'll get depends on the outcome of a needs assessment.

If you applied for Disabled Students' Allowances in your main application for student finance, you will have to re-apply every year.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on applying for DSAs, see the guide 'Bridging the gap – a guide to the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) in higher education 2014/15' at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

CHILDCARE GRANT (CCG)

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with **CHILDCARE COSTS** if you have dependent children aged under 15 (or 17 if they have special educational needs) in registered or approved childcare. You can get 85% of childcare costs, up to a maximum of £150.23 a week for one child or £257.55 a week for two or more children.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early or are overpaid.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on applying for a Childcare Grant, see the guide 'Childcare Grant and Other Support for Full-time Student Parents in Higher Education 2014/15' at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

PARENTS' LEARNING ALLOWANCE (PLA)

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with **COURSE-RELATED COSTS** if you have dependent children. You can get up to £1,523 a year, depending on your household income.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early or are overpaid.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on applying for Parents' Learning Allowance, see the guide 'Childcare Grant and Other Support for Full-time Student Parents in Higher Education 2014/15' at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

ADULT DEPENDANTS' GRANT (ADG)

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with costs **IF AN ADULT DEPENDS ON YOU FINANCIALLY**. You can get up to £2,668 a year, depending on your household income.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early or are overpaid.

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on applying for Adult Dependants' Grant, see the guide 'Childcare Grant and Other Support for Full-time Student Parents in Higher Education 2014/15' at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

TRAVEL GRANT

WHAT'S IT FOR?

Helps with **TRAVEL COSTS** if you're attending a Clinical Placement in the UK or studying abroad as part of your course. It covers reasonable costs spent on travel expenses during the academic year. You have to pay the first £303 of travel costs, so you'd get help with your travel costs over this amount.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on Travel Grant see our website www.gov.uk/studentfinance

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

WHAT'S IT FOR?

You may also get help from the **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME** or other bursaries from your university or college.

DO I HAVE TO PAY IT BACK?

NO, unless you leave your course early.

FIND OUT MORE

Check the university or college website for details.

SECTION 3

WHAT ABOUT REPAYMENTS?

REPAYING YOUR LOANS

If you started your course **on or after** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,750 a month, £404 a week or £21,000 a year.

If you started your course **before** 1 September 2012, you don't start repaying your loan until you've left your course and your income is over £1,409 a month, £325 a week or £16,910 a year.

You can start making voluntary repayments at any time. To make voluntary repayments or find out more, visit www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

For more information on repaying, download the quick guide 'What, how and when to repay 2014/15' at www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance





WHAT ABOUT REPAYMENTS?

REPAYING YOUR LOANS

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT REPAYMENT:

- Your repayments are based on your income once you finish studying, not what you borrowed.
- It doesn't matter if you choose a course that costs £6,000 or £9,000 a year, you'll still repay the same amount each month.
- Your income includes your salary and any other sources of income you have for example pension or rental income.
- The threshold will be updated each year in line with average earnings.
- Your employer will automatically take 9% of your income above the threshold through the UK tax system (Pay As You Earn — PAYE). If you're self employed you'll pay through self assessment.
- If your income stops or falls below the threshold, your repayments will automatically stop.
- You can make voluntary repayments at any time.

TOP TIP

You can also use our repayment calculator at www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk to work out what your repayments might be.



STUDENTS ON MEDICAL AND DENTAL COURSES

Undergraduate students in the fifth (or higher) year of their medical or dental courses should contact the NHS authority for the country in which they normally live for financial help.

NHS-funded medical and dental students living in England and getting NHS bursaries can also apply for a reduced rate loan from Student Finance England.

USEFUL INFORMATION & CONTACTS

NEED HELP?

We have other useful resources to help you apply including:

- quick guides on ‘Disabled Students’ Allowances’, ‘Dependants’ Grants’ and ‘What, how and when to repay’;

And

- downloadable guides including ‘How you’re assessed and paid’ and ‘A guide to terms and conditions’.

These resources are available to download from www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance

CONTACTS

STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

For more information and to apply, visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

For a range of helpful tools and guidance, visit www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance

You can also phone us on **0300 100 0607** (textphone: **0300 100 0622**) between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday, and between 9am and 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS ADVISORY SERVICE (EGAS)

EGAS is an independent advice agency for people who want to get funding for further or higher education. It’s mainly concerned with helping students who aren’t eligible for funding from the UK Government.

You can phone the information line on **0207 254 6251** or visit their website at www.family-action.org.uk

The EGAS office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm. Telephone calls are only accepted **Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.**

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (NUS)

You can get more information from the NUS website at www.nus.org.uk

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH UK

This provides information about other sources of funding for undergraduates.

The website is www.scholarship-search.org.uk

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT MONEY ADVISERS (NASMA)

NASMA is a charity working to help students by providing advice, information and training.

You can get more information by visiting www.nasma.org.uk

MY CHECKLIST

Check off each step to be sure you have your money when you start your course.

I've read through this guide and checked out the additional information and guidance online at www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance



I know how to re-apply for student finance and that the deadline is 28 June 2014.



I've logged in to my student finance account and re-applied online before the deadline.



I've told Student Finance England/university or college if my circumstances have changed since I last applied for student finance and sent evidence or further information if needed.



I've logged in to my online account to check the progress of my application.



I've taken my Student Finance Entitlement letter to my university or college and registered.



My money has been paid.



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