






University - Guide to Student Finance

2011 Entry

-  You won't have to pay tuition fees while you are studying;
-  Government means-tested maintenance grants are available, and do not have to be paid back;
-  Students loans are available to support living costs;
-  There is extra government financial help available for some students;
-  You could be eligible for a Bursary for each year of your course - and you don't have to pay this money back.

Tuition Fees

The tuition fee for 2010-2011 is £3,290 for all full-time courses. The tuition fee for 2011-2012 is likely to be slightly more than this, in line with inflation, although the new coalition government have not yet released any figures (July 2010).

No Payment Up-Front!

It is important to note that you do not have to pay any tuition fees up front while you are studying - although you can if you want to. You can choose to defer payment until after you graduate, by taking out a 'fee loan' alongside your student loan for living costs. This means that the Student Loans Company pays your tuition fee to the University for you while you are studying, and you repay this money as part of your student loan after you graduate*.

**Please note that you can only defer your fees (and be considered for grants and bursaries) if you complete an application to Student Finance England (or equivalent body for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland).*

Courses With Different Tuition Fees

Medicine and Dentistry Degrees

If you are studying on the five-year Medicine or Dentistry degree programmes, you will not have to pay tuition fees in the fifth year of the course, because it is funded by the NHS.

If you are studying on the four-year accelerated Medicine course for graduates, you will not have to pay tuition fees for years two, three and four, because they are funded by the NHS.

Speech and Language Sciences BSc Honours

You will not have to pay any tuition fees for this four-year course, because it is funded by the NHS.

Placement Years/Year Abroad

If you are studying on a course that includes a year out (whether paid or unpaid) as a compulsory part of your degree, you will be charged 25% of the tuition fee for that year. Based on a tuition fee of £3,290, this would mean that the fee would be £806.25 for the placement year*.

**Please note that some exceptions may apply and you should check the fee information on the relevant university website, that is listed alongside course information.*

Deferred Entry Students

If you are a deferred entry student, you will be liable for the tuition fee applicable for the year in which you start university.

Student Loans

In addition to a 'fee loan' which enables you to defer payment of your tuition fees until after you graduate, UK students are entitled to a student loan to help pay for maintenance i.e. living costs such as accommodation, food and travel. This money comes from the government via the Student Loans Company. All eligible students can receive 72% of the maximum loan regardless of any other income. The remaining 28% of the maintenance loan is subject to means testing, based on household income. Examples of loan amounts are provided below:

	Maximum student loan available per year*
Students living with parents	£3,838
Students living away from home	£4,950

*Figures used relate to 2009 entry.

Source: Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

For students in receipt of the maintenance grant, the amount of maintenance loan available is reduced by 50p for every £1 of maintenance grant to which students are entitled.

Loans are payable in three instalments, one at the start of each term. Students are entitled to a reduced loan amount in the final year of study. Further information is available at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Loan Repayments

Loans have to be repaid after you graduate, but the interest charged is linked to inflation so that the money you repay is the same, in real terms, as the amount you borrowed. You will only have to start repaying loans from the April of the year after you graduate, and only when you are earning over £15,000 per year. You will make repayments at a rate of nine per cent of any amount that you earn above £15,000 so, for example, if you are earning £18,000, you will only make repayments on £3,000. Some example of loan repayments linked to salaries are provided below. Your student loan and fee loan will be treated as one amount for the purposes of repayment.

Graduate salary per year	Approximate graduate salary per week	Loan repayment per week
£15,000	£229	Nil
£20,000	£293	£8.65
£25,000	£358	£17.30

No matter how much you owe, you only pay back according to how much you earn above £15,000.

UK students may be eligible for a maintenance grant from the government which does not have to be paid back. The grant is means-tested, which means that the amount you receive depends on your financial circumstances in the form of household income.

A broad indication of the amount of grant relative to household income is shown below. Grants are usually paid in three instalments, one at the start of each term. For students in receipt of a grant, the amount of maintenance loan available is reduced by 50p for every £1 maintenance grant to which students are entitled.

Annual household income	Government financial support - grant amount
£25,000 or less	Full maintenance grant of £2,906
Between £25,001 and £50,021	Partial maintenance grant between £50 and £2,906











Undergraduate Bursaries

You may be eligible for an undergraduate bursary for each year of your course. The bursaries are for students from any part of the UK and are intended to help with the additional cost of studying at university. Most importantly, they do not have to be paid back.

Living Costs

Whilst you're at university (and particularly if you're living away from home), your spending patterns may be very different to what they have been up to now. It can be difficult to work out how much you're likely to spend as a student. We've provided a brief guide to some of the main expenses to give you an idea of how much you might expect to spend each month in your first year. You will, however, need to look at your own personal spending style in order to make more accurate budget estimates.

The cost examples provided here are worked out on the basis of a 38-week period, which covers a normal academic year.

-  Accommodation (£230-£350 per month);
-  Food (£100-£140 per month);
-  Study costs (£40-£45 per month);
-  Clothes/toiletries (£50-£55+ per month);
-  Miscellaneous (£25 per month) - you should budget for occasional expenses such as haircuts, gifts and medical or dental costs;
-  Social life (£100-£130 per month);
-  Travel costs (£35 per month);
-  Insurance £25 per month);
-  Mobile phone (£30 per month);
-  Television (£16 per month).

If you have any further questions, please look up www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance or ask Mrs Jones.