



Student Finance

What you need to know...

Main Organisations



STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND
ARE THE COMPANY THAT PAY YOU



STUDENT LOANS COMPANY
ADMINISTERS FOR THE UK

Who can apply?

- UK National or 'settled' status
- Normally live in England
- Lived in UK for 3 years before starting the course
- Studying an eligible higher education course in 2024
- Degree apprenticeships do not qualify, but placement years do
- Gap years do not qualify
- You do not need a **confirmed place** to apply



Key Dates

- March – begin to apply for student finance loans. It can take 6 weeks to process the application
- April – SFE will determine whether the application is eligible and inform students what they are entitled to
- May – deadlines for scholarship close
- August – if you change where you're going through **Clearing**, you must let SFE know where you're going
- September – you need to take your confirmation letter to the university when you start. You will get your first instalment a few days after registering

Costs to consider

Essential spends

Food shopping
Prescriptions
Transport
Rent
Textbooks
The degree!

What
you will
need...

Extra spends

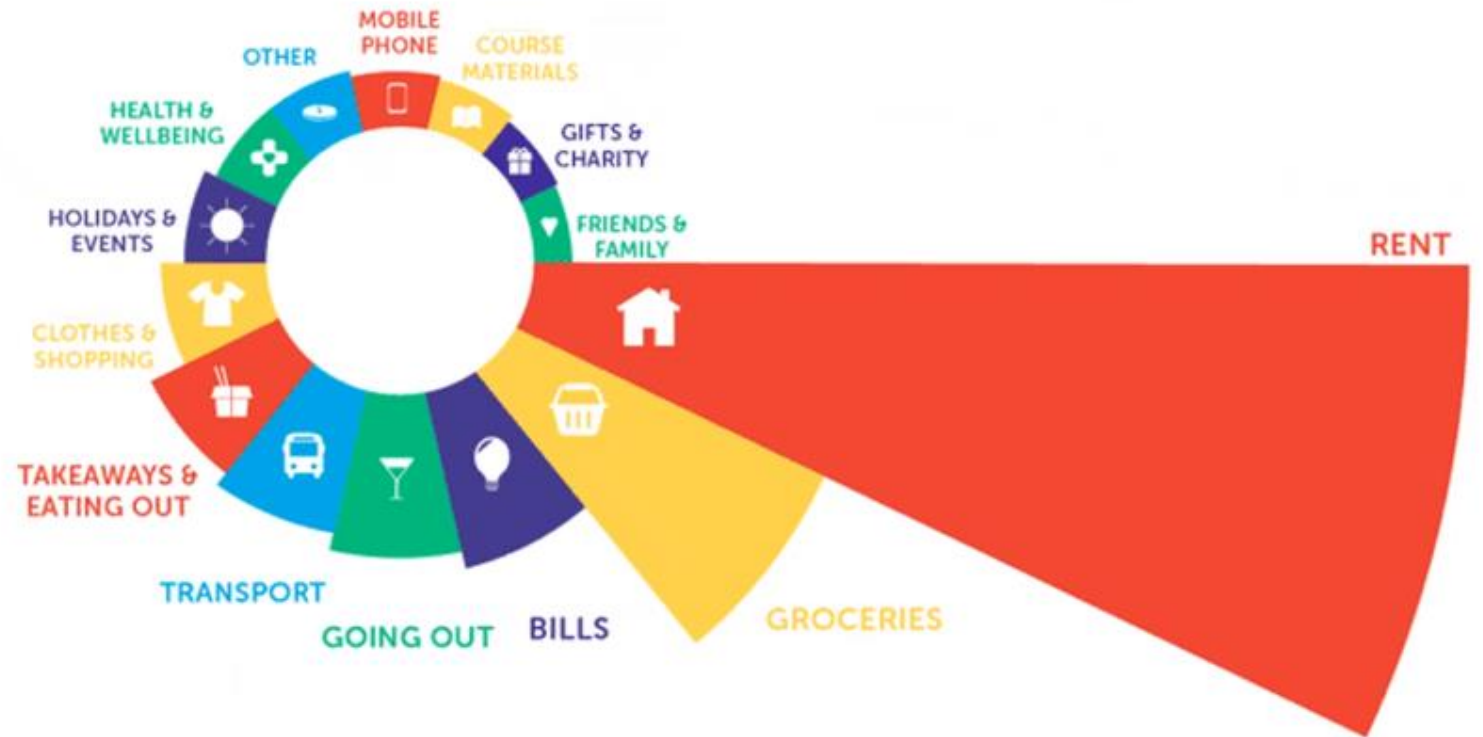
Eating out
Extra clothes
Gym
Cinema
Nightclub



There are also 'hidden' costs that students might not think about until much later.

For example:

- Joining clubs and societies
- Course related trips and visits
- Deposits for housing
- Renting your graduation gown and mortarboard
- Professional photography



Example from Brunel University

Living on Campus: Costs per week

- Standard rooms - £133.63
- En-suite rooms - £176.47 – £241.22
- Shared Apartments - £194.53 - £265.51
- Studio flat - £333.90
- One bedroom flats - £339.22 - £346.29

- Rent on campus includes free network connection as well as Wi-Fi, heating, lighting, water and bedding



Accommodation
is **guaranteed**
for all 1st year
students



How do students afford to go to university?



This covers the cost of the education itself

Tuition Fee Loan

This covers life and living expenses while you study

Maintenance Loan

Tuition Fee Loan

1. Students **won't have to pay** any tuition fees up front.
2. The amount they get **doesn't depend on their household income.**
3. SFE will pay the Tuition Fee Loan **directly to their university** or college.
4. Students have to start paying their Tuition Fee Loan back when they've **finished or left** their course, but only if their **income is over the repayment threshold of £25,000.**
5. Brunel currently charge **£9,250** for all undergraduate full-time courses



Maintenance Loan

1. Available to eligible **home students**
2. To cover their **day to day** living costs
3. The amount they get is **means tested** on their parents'/household income
4. Paid in **three instalments** in September, January and April into your bank account
5. Students have to start paying their Maintenance Loan back when they've **finished or left** your course, but only if their **income is over the repayment threshold of £25,000.**



Maintenance Loan 2024/25

All eligible students can apply for a loan The amount you receive is means tested on your parents'/household income		<u>Household income</u>	<u>Living at home</u>	<u>Away from home (Excl. London)</u>	<u>Away from home (London)</u>
<u>Full Time Student</u>	<u>Maximum Loan 23/24</u>	£0 to £25,000	£8,610	£10,227	£13,348
Living at home	£8,610	£30,000	£7,887	£9,497	£12,606
Living away from home (outside of London)	£10,227	£35,000	£7,163	£8,766	£11,863
Living away from home (Inside London eg. Brunel)	£13,348	£40,000	£6,440	£8,035	£11,120
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	£11,713	£45,000	£6,024	£7,614	£10,692
		£50,000	£5,716	£7,304	£10,377

Budgeting tips to pass onto students

- Whether they live away or at home, university is a great opportunity to pick up independence skills by managing their finances through the loans they will receive.
- As you can see, attending university itself is not cheap.
- Though they will receive your finance in instalments, which controls the amount of money available to them in each term, it is still up to them to be able to make sure there is adequate money left in their bank account to access throughout the term.
- When they find out the maintenance loan they are entitled to, make sure to have a look at their weekly expenditure, i.e., how much do they need to set aside for weekly rent, supermarket shop and personal expenses.
- They can use Excel Spreadsheet to track expenses.
- Get them to set their priorities out (i.e., amenities and subsistence and savings) and then factor in some money towards social activities, like nights out!

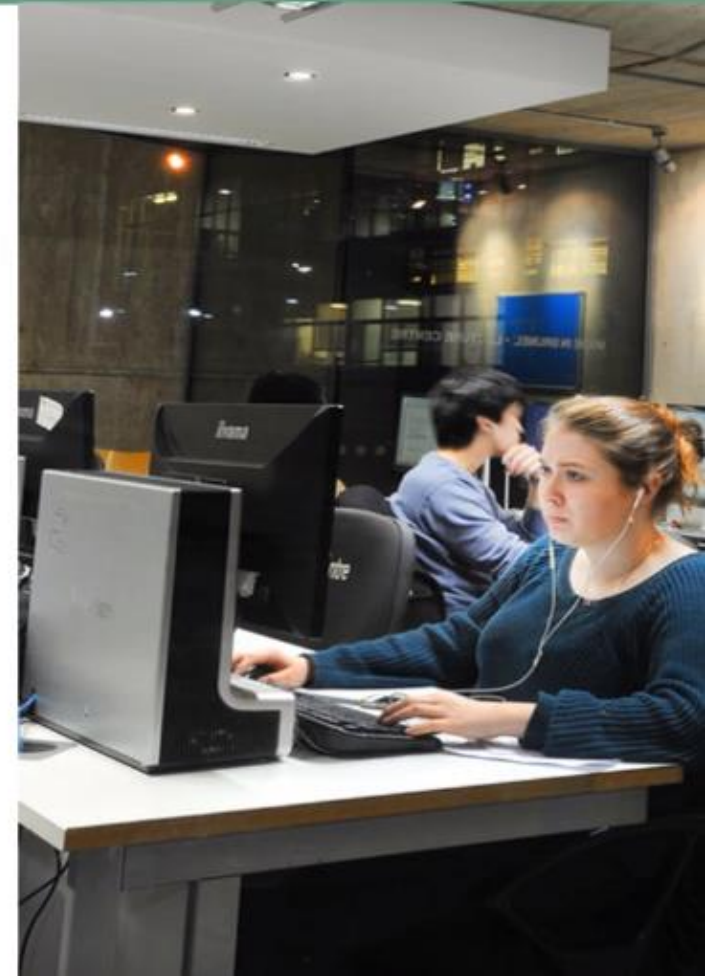
Applying for Student Finance

Apply online:

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

- ❖ Valid UK passport or other identity and residency information
- ❖ Email address, Bank account details and National Insurance Number
- ❖ School, university and course details
- ❖ Household income information
- ❖ Information about any support you receive already
- ❖ Applications take up to 6 weeks to process

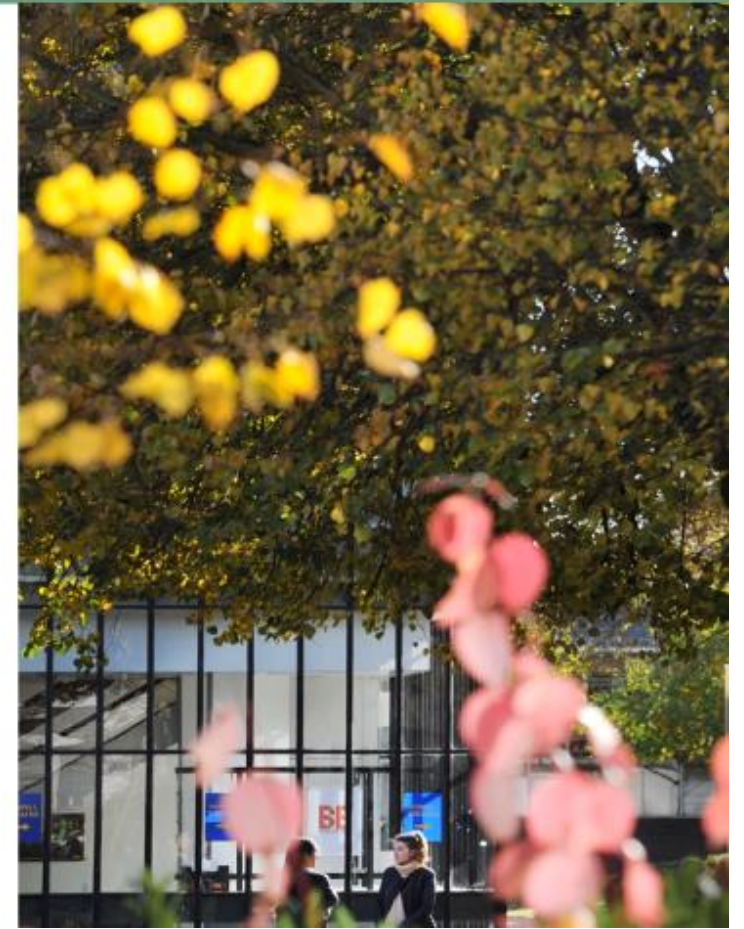
Students don't need a confirmed place – apply with their preferred choice!



Extra financial support: Additional funding

There may be some additional support available for students:

- If they have a disability, health condition or learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- If they have children under the age of 17
- If an adult depends on them financially
- If they are on low income, for example find it hard to pay for basics like food and accommodation
- If going overseas is part of their course/ clinical placement
- If they are studying for courses for:
 - Teaching training
 - Dental, Medical or Healthcare roles
 - Social Work



Disabled Students Allowance

- DSA pays for any extra study-related costs that are a direct result of the student's disability. It is not means-tested and does not need to be paid back.
- If the student has any disability, including mental health difficulties and other unseen disabilities such as dyslexia and medical conditions, they may be eligible for a DSA. They'll need to send up-to-date evidence with their DSA application, such as a doctor's letter or educational psychologist's report.
- Support available (but not limited to):

Special equipment

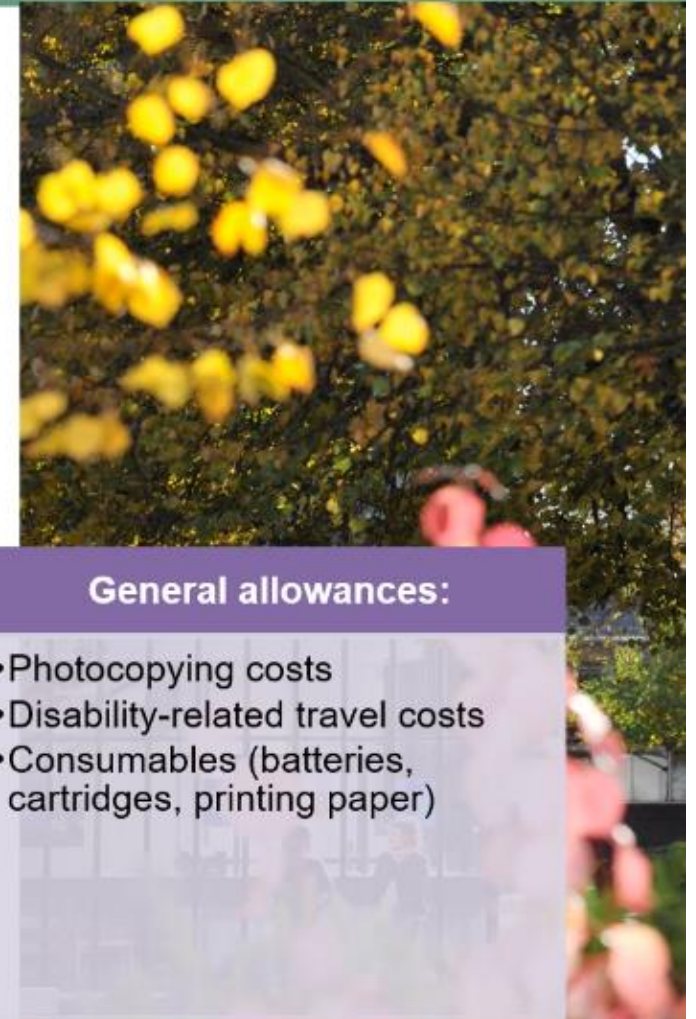
- Computers /laptops*
- Disability software
- Computer furniture for students' residence
- Furniture used for study purposes
- Recording devices

Non-medical helpers:

- Training in the use of disability software
- 1:1 study skills tuition
- 1:1 mentoring
- Note takers for visually impaired and hearing impaired students
- Interpreters for lectures and seminars

General allowances:

- Photocopying costs
- Disability-related travel costs
- Consumables (batteries, cartridges, printing paper)



External bursaries

- **NHS Learning Support Fund:** Pre-reg courses such as Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy etc. can mean you are entitled to up to £5,000/Academic Year + more
- **Stormzy Scholarship:** Aimed to aid the progression of 32 Black students across the UK. Partnership with HSBC for University of Cambridge UG students.
- **UK Armed Forces Scholarship:** All UK Armed Forces offer sponsorship schemes to students who've already passed a selection course before starting university. In return, the student will need to sign up for a period of service. They may also get further training in your specific profession within the armed forces, from engineering to linguistics.



Scholarships and Bursaries at Brunel University London: 2024-25

Each year, **over 600** scholarships, bursaries and discounts are available to students

Most scholarship awards require an application, but most bursaries do not as they are means-tested

Brunel University
London Bursary
(BULB)

Care Leaver
Bursary

Urban
Scholarship

Brunel Family
Discount

Brunel
Sanctuary
(Refugee)
Scholarship

CEDPS
Academic
Excellence
Scholarship

Music Awards

Sports
Scholarship
Programme

Life Long
Learning Bursary

Hardship Funds

Extra year of tuition fee support

If the student is unable to continue to the next year of their course or had to leave their course due to personal reasons, they could get an extra year of tuition fee support for reasons including...

- mental health
- illness
- bereavement
- pregnancy
- a caring responsibility

This list does not include all acceptable reasons. SFE will review each application on an individual basis. However, applications cannot be based on:

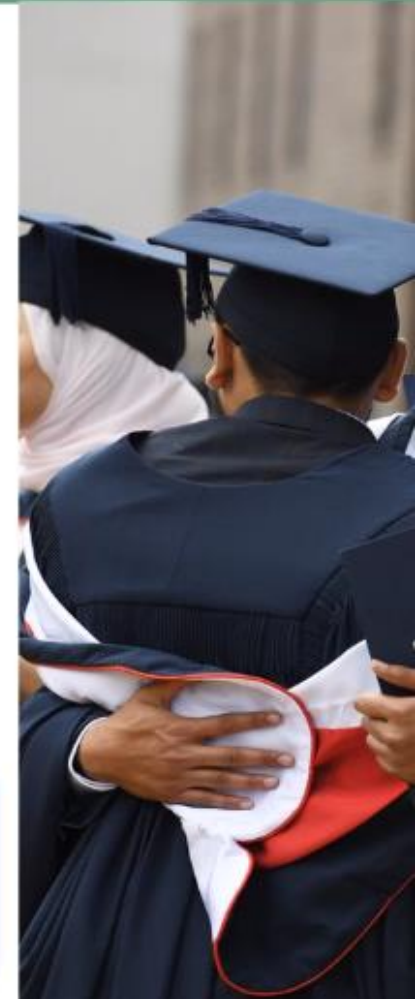
- financial hardship
- not liking the course
- reasons within the student's control

How are student loans repaid? (Plan 5)

- Through the tax system from April following Graduation
- Only start repaying once the student earns over £25,000 (take 9% of earnings above this)
 - £30,000 salary repay £37.50 per month
 - £40,000 salary repay £112.50 per month
- Loan interest rates:
 - Whilst studying: **RPI**

The earliest the standard Plan 5 loan repayments can be made is **April 2026**

The government will write off any Student Loans that remain unpaid after **40 years**



Student Finance Key Messages

1. Fees are **not** paid upfront
2. Repayment is only made when the student is **earning above the threshold of £25,000**
3. Student loans will **never** involve debt collectors or be passed onto another family member
4. Any remaining loan will be **written off** after 40 years
5. Student loans **do not** go on credit files



What now?

- Use this link to check your eligibility for student finance: [Student finance calculator - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Student finance for undergraduates: New full-time students - GOV.UK](#)
- You can start applying to student finance from the **end of March**, but it's helpful to do it with anyone you live with as it will ask you questions about income in your household.
- You will also find this website helpful: [Student Finance Maintenance Loans 2025 - Save the Student](#)

Looking at your finances
(youtube.com)