

# STUDENT FINANCE HE GUIDE 2021 ENTRY



# What is Student Finance?

You may be able to borrow money to help pay for university or college tuition fees and to help with living costs. You might get extra money on top of this, for example if you're on a low income, are disabled or have children. Student Finance (funded by the government) allows students from any financial background to go to university. The Student Finance package includes a loan for course fees, plus a means-tested Maintenance Loan or Grant to cover living costs.

Student Finance includes a mix of grants (which don't have to be repaid) and loans (which you do pay back). Your Student Loan is all the repayable funding you apply for – that is, the Tuition Fee Loan and/or Maintenance Loan.

## Advance Learner Loan

Advanced learner loans are available for individuals aged 19 or above to undertake approved qualifications at levels 3 to level 6. Advanced learner loans give individuals access to financial support for tuition costs similar to that available in higher education and are administered by Student Finance England. The availability of loans at level 3 for 19 to 23 year old does not replace an individual's legal entitlement for full funding for a first full level 3 qualification.

Advanced learner loans are paid directly to the college or training organisation on behalf of an individual. They are not means tested or subject to credit checks and any individual who meets the criteria will be able to apply for a loan regardless of their current employment status.

## Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan

If you're studying an undergraduate course, you could get a Tuition Fee Loan. A Tuition Fee Loan covers the cost of the fees charged by your university or college.

Your university or college sets your tuition fee. You should check with them how much you'll be charged for your course, so you can apply for the right amount of Tuition Fee Loan. The Tuition Fee Loan needs to be paid back, but not until you've finished or left your course, and your income is over the repayment threshold.

## Undergraduate Maintenance Loan

You can get student finance to help towards your living costs while you're at university or college. It can help pay for things such as rent, food, books, travel, and other expenses. Any loan you borrow needs to be paid back, but not until you've finished or left your course, and your income is over the repayment threshold. How much you can get depends on when you started your course, where you live, and your household income.

## Disabled Students Allowances

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are grants to help with any extra essential costs you may have as a direct result of your disability.

Eligible disabilities could include a:

- long-term health condition
- mental health condition
- specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia

DSAs don't depend on household income – what you can get depends on your own needs. You don't have to pay these back.

You can get help with the cost of:

- specialist equipment, such as a computer
- non-medical helpers
- personal support
- travel costs
- other disability-related costs of studying

## Support for Care Leavers

If you're a care leaver or looked after child applying to higher education, there's support available to help you with finance, settling in, and accommodation. Remember to tick the box on your UCAS application to let the university or college you're applying to know you have been in care.

## Support for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

If you're a refugee or asylum seeker applying to higher education, there may be support available to help you with finance and your studies. It's a good idea to contact course providers before you apply, to discuss if they can offer your support, and what this might be. This will depend on your circumstances, and you will need to let them know your refugee status.

## Support for Students Not Supported By Their Family (Estranged)

A key factor when making the decision to move into higher education is finance – for estranged students, this can be a particular challenge. Students aged under 25 at the start of the academic year are usually considered 'dependent' and are expected to declare their parents' income to means test their finance application. If these details are not provided (e.g. for students who are estranged from their parents), only the minimum level of financial support will be awarded. However, estranged students can apply as 'independent students' so their finance is calculated solely on their own income rather than their parents' income – this allows them access to full financial support.



## Scholarships Grants & Bursaries

If your student loan won't nearly be enough to cover your university costs, check out these extra pots of money knocking around to help with living expenses and tuition fees. Once you've applied for student finance and you know how much you're entitled to in maintenance support, you'll probably discover a cash shortfall, which you'll need to make up to cover all your living costs (e.g. accommodation, food, books). Fortunately there are extra sources of financial support available in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and grants. Unlike student loans, you don't have to pay these back – they're essentially free money. While you're researching your UCAS choices, look at what extra funding they offer for students in your position. 80% of students who received a scholarship or bursary found out about it from their university or college.

- **Scholarship** - Some living costs (one-off, annual or termly payment), tuition fees (automatic reduction or cover).
- **Bursary** - Some living costs (one-off payment).
- **Grant** - Some living costs, specific purposes, e.g. studying abroad (one-off payment).

## Charitable & Educational Grants & Bursaries

There are many charities and educational organisations in the UK which can provide students with additional funding and support, but many students either do not know about them or assume they are not eligible. Do your research to see what you can apply for in addition to your student finance loans/grants – various awards are available based on criteria such as personal circumstances, specific industries/subject areas, or your educational attainment. Disability Rights UK publish a factsheet which gives lots of detailed, useful advice about applying for bursaries, grants, and scholarships.

## NHS Careers

Students on eligible healthcare courses may qualify for an NHS Students' Bursary. For more information, and to find out which courses are eligible, check the NHS website.

## Teaching Careers

If you're undertaking teacher training, there may be funding available to support you. It depends on a few different things – such as the type of training route/programme, your degree/teaching subject, where you live, where you'll study, and your personal circumstances. Apply from wherever you normally live – through The National College for Teaching and Leadership in England.

## Social Work Careers

If you're training for social work, you may get a bursary to help with living costs and tuition fees. The amount won't depend on household income – instead it's based on where you live and where you'll be studying. Find out more from NHSBSA Social Work Bursaries in England

## Resources & Useful Links

There are a number of resources online to help you with financial information support and information before and during your studies.



[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)



[www.ucas.com/money](http://www.ucas.com/money)



[www.savesthestudent.org](http://www.savesthestudent.org)



[www.moneysavingexpert.com/  
student](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/student)

# Notes

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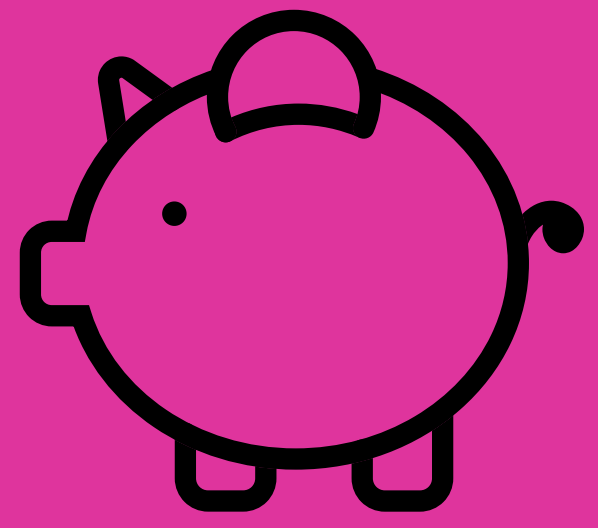
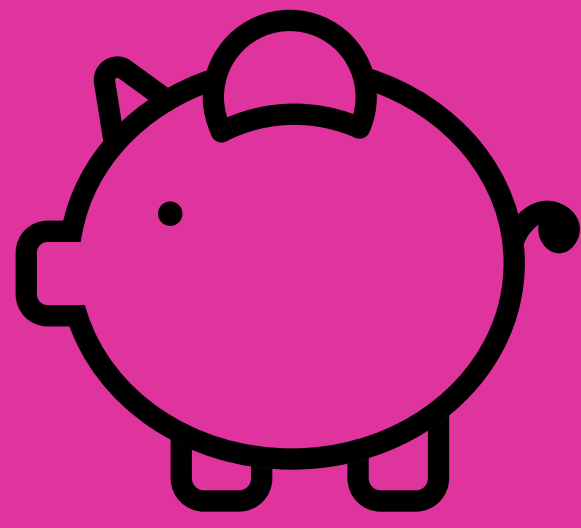
# Notes



## Get extra support:

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**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**