

Funding for continuing full time Undergraduates in 2017/2018

This leaflet is for undergraduates returning to Reading University after being here for one year. Information relates to UK/EU students receiving funding from Student Finance England.

When should I reapply for Student Support?

You should reapply as soon as possible. You can go online to Student Finance England (SFE) and re-apply by logging into your account. If you are applying for a means tested loan please ensure that your parents/partner complete the form(s) regarding their income.

SFE will send you a declaration form. It is important to sign and return the declaration form as soon as you receive it. You need to fill in your application for Student Finance by 23rd June 2017 to be sure you have money when you start your course. If you have missed this date just ensure you apply as soon as possible.

What funding is available from the Student Loan Company?

1. Repayable loans for tuition fees and living costs
2. Non-repayable grants to help with living costs (only for students who started their course prior to 2016)

Further information can be found at www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk, but we have included the following overview:

The funding you receive depends on your personal circumstances

18-24 year old	Assessed on the income of your parent(s) or officially adoptive parents you normally live with. If your parents have separated then the income of their new partner will be considered if they live in your home.
Estranged or Independent Students under 25	Assessed on your own income
25 and over and single	Assessed on your own income
Single parent	Assessed on your own income
Couple 25 and over, with or without children	Assessed on your income and your partners income
Married/Civic partnership under 25	Assessed on your income and your partners income

The following table show how much you could receive according to household income

Household Income	Living away from home	Living at home
£25,000 or less	£8,430	£7,097
£30,000	£7,825	£6,499
£40,000	£6,615	£5,303

£50,000	£5,404	£4,107
£55,000	£4,799	£3,509
Over 62,187	£3,928	£3,124

If you started your course before September 2012 you can find information on loan and grant amounts here: www.gov.uk/student-finance-for-existing-students

If you have made a new application for the 2017/18 and are not a continuing student then you should consult our information leaflet for new students for the 2017/18 year.

Tuition Fee Loan

The Tuition Fee Loan is paid directly to the University in termly instalments and covers up to the cost of your tuition fees. You can apply for as little or as much loan as you need, up to a maximum of £9,250 if you started your course on or after 1st September 2012 and £3465 if you started your course before 1st September 2012.

As it is a loan, the amount you borrow for tuition fees is repayable once you start work.

Maintenance Loan

The Maintenance Loan is paid to help with your daily living costs - such as rent, food, bills, and other essentials.

It is paid in three termly instalments, which generally coincide with the start of each academic term. Details of these instalments are provided to you by Student Finance by way of an 'Entitlement Letter' once they confirm that they have awarded you the Maintenance Loan.

A percentage of the Maintenance Loan is assessed according to household income. Students studying in their final year of study receive slightly less Maintenance Loan than in their previous years of study.

As with the Tuition Fee Loan, you are expected to repay your Maintenance Loan when you have reached the prescribed level of earnings.

Maintenance Grant (Available to Pre-2016/17 Students only)

Similar to the Maintenance Loan, the Maintenance Grant is paid to support daily living costs. It is also paid in three termly instalments. The Maintenance Grant is paid to students with a low household income. The Maintenance Grant is non-repayable.

Special Support Grant (Available to Pre-2016/17 Students only)

This may be paid instead of the Maintenance Grant to the following students:

- Lone parents;
- Couples who are both students with children;
- Students in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment or Armed Forces Independence Payment;
- Students who are deaf and qualify for Disabled Students Allowance;

- Students who have been treated as incapable for work for a continuous period of 28 weeks;
- Students awaiting to return to their course after a period of time taken out due to illness or caring responsibilities;
- Students aged 60 or over.

The main differences between the Special Support Grant and the Maintenance Grant are:

- There is no reduction to the Maintenance Loan for students who receive the Special Support Grant;
- The Special Support Grant is not treated as income for DWP benefit purposes.

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

DSA is paid to students with a disability / health conditions to meet additional costs arising as a result of this. DSA is not subject to the household income. Please contact the Disability Advisory Service - www.reading.ac.uk/disability/ - for more information.

Also please view our information leaflet - Disabled Students - for more information at www.rusu.co.uk/advice/money_advice

Childcare Grant

The Childcare Grant is paid to students who have children and use childcare for at least one child under 15 or under 17 if that child has special educational needs. It does not meet the whole of the childcare costs but, can pay up to 85% of costs (maximum £159.59 a week for one child or £273.60 for two or more children). This is non-repayable.

The Childcare Grant is subject to household income assessment and will include income from a partner, even if the student applying is under the age of 25.

You cannot receive the Childcare Grant and the childcare element of Tax Credits

Adult Dependents Grant

This helps with costs if an adult depends on you financially. You can receive up to £2,834 a year depending on your household income. This is non-repayable.

Parents' Learning Allowance

This is additional support for course related costs if you have dependent children. You can get up to £1,617 a year, depending on your household income. This is non-repayable.

Repayments

Cohort	Interest Rate	How much you earn before repayment	% over salary paid back	Example
Course started 1 st September 2012 onwards	Rate of Inflation + 3%	£21,000 per annum £1705 per month £404 per week	9%	Receive a monthly salary of £1750 (before tax). £1705 is your threshold, pay 9% of £45 = £4 per month
Course started before 1 st	Retail Price Index/Bank Base	£17,335 per annum	9%	Receive a monthly salary of £1750

September 2012	Rate + 1.5%	£1481 per month £341 per week	(before tax). £1481 is your threshold, pay 9% of £269 = £24 per month
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Bursaries

Reading Bursary: Available to Students receiving support from Student Finance and have an assessed household income of £25,000 or less. You will receive £1000, either as a fee waiver or as two £500 cash instalments in October and February

Care Leavers Bursary: Available to Students who have been in care for at least 3 months since the age of 14 and is aged under 25. You will receive £1000 on each year of study. Students who started in the 14/15 year will receive £1000 in their first year and £500 for each year after.

Placement Bursary: Available to Students from the UK/EU who have had their income assessed by Student Finance and will be undertaking a placement or study abroad/ERASMUS programme. Your household income must be below £42,000. The amount you receive will depend on cost of your placement/programme

Financial Support whilst at University

If you find yourself struggling financially whilst at University please speak to an Adviser at RUSU or go to Carrington Building and speak to the help desk during their drop-in times. The University has a 'Student Support Fund' (formerly known as the Hardship Fund) which can help students in who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulty.

There might also be funding within your school or department so please speak to you supervisor or personal tutor.

Welfare Benefits

Most full-time students are not able to claim welfare benefits. However students with dependent children and students with disabilities may be eligible for some benefits. Part-time students may also be eligible. Please see our separate 'Funding for disabled students' leaflets for more information on our website (www.rusu.co.uk/advice)

If you would like further advice or to speak with somebody in person then a Students' Union Adviser may be able to help. The specialist advisers offer a confidential service, independent from the University so they can discuss your case with you in private.

Contact us by email at advice@rusu.co.uk, or visit us in the RUSU building.

You can book an appointment or attend a drop-in session. Drop in runs on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (11.00am-1.30pm) and Wednesday (2pm-4.30pm)