

Undergraduate funding for new students 2018/19

This leaflet is for new undergraduate students living in England starting in the 2018/19 academic year

Student Finance - Loan

Eligibility

- Must be a UK national or settled status, normally live in the UK and have been living in the UK for at least three years before the first day of the academic year
- It be your first undergraduate course. As a rule Student Finance will only fund you for *Length of your current course + one additional year - any previous study years*
- Study a qualifying course, e.g. A BSc, BA, Foundation Degree
- You might also be eligible for some help from Student Finance if you are a refugee, the child of a Swiss national or Turkish worker, have lived in the UK for at least half of your life, be a stateless person or a EEA Migrant Worker

What you'll get

As a UK student you can apply for help with your tuition fees and living costs. This information is for students applying in England: different processes are in place for students applying in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

As an EU student you are eligible for help with your tuition fees only. Some EU students might be eligible for more help depending on their situation - see our EU leaflet for more information (www.rusu.co.uk/advice/money_advice)

Tuition Fee Loan

To help with course fees. Student Finance will pay up to £9,250 per year.

The fees are paid directly to the University from Student Finance.

The University will charge 25% of your fees in Term 1, 25% in Term 2 and 50% in Term 3.

Currently, you have to pay this loan back when you start earning more than £25,000 annually.

Maintenance Loan

To help with living costs including: rent; bills; travel and food.

The loan is paid directly to you over three installments (usually one each term).

The amount you receive depends on your household income, where you live and where you study (London or elsewhere)

You might be counted as an 'Independent Student' which means that Student Finance will only look at **your** income, not your household income. An independent student is someone who is estranged from their parents; has been supporting themselves financially for 3 years; has a child or is aged over 25.

You have to pay this loan back when you start earning more than £25,000 annually.

How much you'll get

The amount you'll receive depends on household income. Below is some guidance but further information can be found on www.gov.uk/student-finance:

Household Income	Living away from home	Living at home
£25,000 or less	£8,700	£7,324
£30,000	£8,076	£6,707
£35,000	£7,452	£6,090
£40,000	£6,828	£5,473
£45,000	£6,204	£4,855

How to get it

- Apply online (www.gov.uk/student-finance): apply by the 25th May 2018 to ensure that your application is processed by the beginning of your course. You can still apply after this date and up to 9 months after the start of the course but this will delay you receiving your funding.
- You can also call Student Finance England on 0300 100 0607.
- Your parents/partner will be asked to fill in a form with their earnings for the 2016/17 tax year if you applying for a means-tested Maintenance Loan.
- Complete the declaration form online

Student Finance - Grants and support provision

Grant available	Eligibility	How much you'll receive
Parents Learning Allowance	You have a dependent child.	Up to £1669, depending on household income.
Childcare Grant	Helps with Childcare costs if you have a child under 15 or under 17 if they have Special Educational Needs.	Up to £164.70 per week for one child. £282.36 for two or more children, depending on household income.
Adult Dependent Grant	If an adult is financially dependent on you.	Up to £2925 depending on household income.
Disabled Students Allowance	If you need additional support to study due to a disability or illness.	Depends on the individual needs of the student. See our 'Funding for Disabled Students' leaflet for more information.

Bursaries and Grants

- **Reading Bursary:** Additional £1,100 Bursary for students with an assessed household income of less than £27,000. They must be getting support from Student Finance. Applied when financially assessed by Student Finance - no application form necessary. The £1,100 can either be a cash payment or a partial tuition fee reduction
- **Pre-application Bursary:** For disabled students visiting Reading University to discuss their disability/access needs. Speak to the Disability Advisory Team for more information (0118 378 8921).
- **Pre-entry travel Bursary:** Available to students travelling to the University for Interviews and Visit Days (not Open Days). See the Pre Entry Bursary page for more information (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/life/life-pre-event.aspx>).
- **RREF Bursary Fund:** An award of up to £15,000 available for students within the Reading Real Estates Foundation School. This will be closed on the 29th April 2019
- **Henley Business School Scholarships:** For Henley Business School offer holders who have achieved academic excellence in their A-Levels or equivalent. See their website for more information (www.henley.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate-scholarships)

Welfare Benefits

Some students might be eligible for financial support from the Government depending on their situation. Please see our guides for Disabled Students and Mature Students online (www.rusu.co.uk/advice/money_advice) or in the RUSU Advice and Representation Centre (ARC) for more information.

Benefit	Eligibility
Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	Students with a disability which has a significant impact on their everyday life. Apply through the Department of Works and Pension.
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)	Students claiming PIP who cannot work can also claim ESA. Apply by calling the JobCentre Plus - see online for more details.
Housing Benefit (HB)	If you cannot afford your rent and are claiming ESA you might be eligible for HB.
Tax Credits (WTC/CTC)	If you have a child or are in a low income household then you or your partner might be able to claim either Working or Child Tax Credits.
Universal Credit (UC)	Universal Credit will be replacing 6 benefits (Job Seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Income Support and Tax Credits) in the UK. Use https://www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk/postcode-checker to check to see if you should claim Universal Credit

Key University Dates: 2018/19

Date	What to do
April 2018	Student Finance applications open. Get your application in by 25 th May 2018 to ensure funding by September 2018.
August 2018	Thursday 16 th August - A-Level Results Day. Decide on your University and Course - remember to update your UCAS application if you have changed your course or institution.
September 2018	Autumn Term starts! Fresher's week starts on the 24 th September, term starts on the 1 st October Your first Student Finance payment will be made*
December 2018	Autumn Term finishes on 14 th December.
January 2019	Spring Term starts on 14 th January. Your second Student Finance payment will be made*
March 2019	Spring Term finishes on 29 th March.
April 2019	Summer Term starts on 23 rd April. Your third and final Student Finance payment will be made*
June 2019	Summer Term finishes on 14 th June.

* This is the usual Student Finance schedule - however please check your Student Finance account for your exact payment schedule.

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)