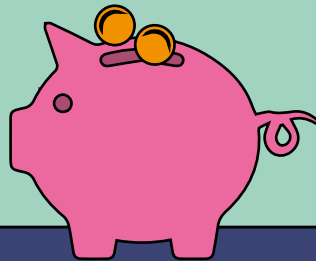


THE PIGGY BANK

GUIDE TO STUDENT FINANCE

If you are heading to university, you will need to consider how you will pay for this. The good news is there is a lot of help out there to support you. However, this can be confusing! Here we will give you some key information about student finance, including how to apply and repay at the end of your studies.*



*This guide refers to information which is up to date as of 2020, and should be used as a guide for future entrants. Please refer to www.gov.uk/student-finance for future updates.



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STUDENT FINANCE EXPLAINED

A student loan is comprised of two parts, a maintenance loan & tuition fee loan. Both are repayable but only when you start to earn over £26,575.

TUITION FEE LOAN

Everyone is entitled to a loan for their first full-time undergraduate degree. It will meet the full cost of tuition fees for your course and be paid directly to the university.

MAINTENANCE LOAN

This loan is to help with your basic living costs whilst at University e.g. rent, food, transport and books. The amount you receive depends on where you are studying, entry year and household income.

FAQ: How much maintenance loan would I be entitled to? Everyone will be different, check the online calculator to find out: www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

GRANTS, BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

There could be extra incentives from the university or charitable organisations depending on your course to help with costs. These are usually cash awards that do not have to be repaid.

EXTRA SUPPORT

For students with children/dependants

- Childcare Grant
- Parents Learning Allowance
- Adult Dependants' Grant

Disabled Students

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) - Depends on individual needs to help with extra costs as a direct result of disability.

Eligibility

There are some circumstance where eligibility criteria may apply. For more information: www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

REPAYING YOUR STUDENT LOAN

Key facts on student loan repayment:

You only pay back after you earn over £26,575 (repayments are 9% of any income earned over £26,575).

- If income dips below £26,575 your repayments will stop.
- Payments will automatically be deducted from your salary and paid directly to the student loans company, just like National Insurance and Tax.
- Repayments are based upon how much you earn; not how much you owe.
- The more you earn the bigger your monthly repayment will be.
- There is no one time when you are required to repay your student loan in full. Any outstanding amount is written off after 30 years.

Annual Income Before Tax Monthly Repayment (Approx.)

£26,575	£0
£27,000	£3
£29,000	£21
£31,000	£39
£33,000	£54

FAQ: I am thinking of going self-employed after my studies, what happens to my repayments?

If you are self-employed, your income is the total income amount on your self-assessment form.

RECEIVING YOUR MAINTENANCE LOAN



The money that will be paid to you directly is your maintenance loan. It will be paid directly into your bank account in three instalments; September, January and April.

Budgeting is a skill that you will have to master to ensure you are not left short. Have a go at budgeting your first instalment:



Maintenance Loan

Rent	£
Bills	£
Food	£
Travel	£
Books	£
Fresher's	£
Social	£
Shopping	£
Savings	£
Total Spend	

OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCE

TOP TIP: www.thepiggybank.org.uk

Download the Guide and head to pages 14 & 15 – it includes loads of student saving tips e.g. how to apply for the NUS Discount Card, how to get free stuff & how to get help with healthcare costs.

STUDENT BANK ACCOUNTS

Student bank accounts can offer amazing benefits and discounts such as:

Cashback at selected retailers, discounts on travel, rail cards, 0% overdrafts.

PART-TIME WORK

To supplement your income as a student you could look to work part-time. There will be advice on paid internal jobs and who is hiring locally at your university.

STUDENT CREDIT CARDS

They can be very tempting but it is best to avoid these as you will have to pay more money back than you borrow at very high interest rates.

EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

If you find yourself in financial difficulty whilst at university you can contact student support services for advice. You may even be eligible to apply for a hardship loan/grant depending on your circumstances.

TOP TIP: www.moneysavingexpert.com/students

This website has some great information on how to manage your money as a student.



HOW TO APPLY

Both the maintenance and tuition fee loan can be applied for together via Student Finance England www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance.

You do not need to wait until you have accepted a place at university; the deadline for Student Finance is May to ensure the money is ready for a September start.

Further Information

There are lots of sources of information you can access for further details. Your chosen University or College will also provide you with lots of further information, support and advice.

www.gov.uk/student-finance

www.studentfinancewales.co.uk (Wales)

www.saas.gov.uk (Scotland)

www.studentfinancenir.co.uk
(Northern Ireland)

www.thepiggybank.org.uk

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance

www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students

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