

Student finance information for parents or partners of full-time students

Student Finance Fact Sheet (FS09)



If your child or partner is going on to higher education, this fact sheet explains what student finance they might be able to get and how they go about getting it. The good news is that they won't have to pay for it up front; financial help is available in the form of non-repayable grants and bursaries. There are also loans for tuition fees and living costs which are repayable but not until your child or partner has left university and is earning over a set amount.

What's available?

What is it?	What is it for?	Does it have to be paid back?
Tuition Fee Loan	Up to £3,375 to help with the cost of tuition fees	Yes
Maintenance Grant (or Special Support Grant)	Up to £2,906 depending on your household income to help with living costs.	No
Maintenance Loan	Up to £6,928, depending on your household income and where your child is studying, to help with living costs.	Yes
Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs)	Available for students who have extra costs as a direct result of a disability, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty like dyslexia.	No
Childcare Grant	Helps with childcare costs if the student has dependent children aged under 15 in registered or approved childcare.	No
Parents' Learning Allowance	Helps with course related costs if the student has dependent children.	No
Adult Dependants' Grant	Help if the student has an adult who depends on them financially.	No
Bursaries & Scholarships	Extra help from your child's university or college.	No

How do they apply?

The first thing to be aware of is, if they are applying for any of the student finance that depends on household income, such as the Maintenance Grant or the Maintenance Loan, you will have to provide financial information to support your child or partner's application and you should have this information to hand when you go online to complete the form, along with your National Insurance Number. We may ask you to send evidence later as part of our normal checking process, but you won't have to supply this up front. To find out what evidence you might be asked to send go to www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinanceevidence

You can support a student's application online quickly and securely. It's the simplest way to ensure everything is in place for the start of term.

What about repayment?

Once they are finished studying they will have to repay any Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans – but not until they are earning more than £1,250 a month (£15,000 a year or £ 288 a week). They can also make voluntary repayments at any time. Student loans are subsidised by the Government and although interest is charged on a student loan, it is not like commercial loans and the interest rates are much lower. Someone earning the average starting salary for a graduate level job of £18,000 would repay £5.19 a week. If their income stops, or falls below the repayment threshold, their repayments will automatically stop. For more information on repayment go to www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

The deadline for new students is 31 May 2011.

The deadline for returning students is 30 June 2011.