



# Your guide to student finance

Undergraduate



**If you're thinking about applying to university and are wondering how you'll afford it, use this guide to help you understand the financial support available.**

### **A lifetime of benefits**

With tuition fees and the cost of living climbing across the country, getting a degree is a major investment. But it's important to us that you're not put off by the costs of university.

The student loan system is there to make sure everyone who would benefit from university is able to do so. This guide will help you understand what financial support is available and understand the student finance application process.

### **What do I have to pay for?**

As a student there are two main costs you will have while studying:

1. Tuition fees
2. Living costs, such as housing, food etc.

### **Tuition fees**

The tuition fee for UK students starting a new full-time degree will be £9,250 in 2021/22.

If you're embarking on a year abroad, the reduced fee is currently £1,385\* and for a year in industry, it's £1,850\*.

The Accelerated degree tuition fee is £11,100 for 2021/22 (for example, the two year BA Acting for Stage and Screen degree). Student Finance England students may apply for a Tuition Fee Loan for this amount if on an accelerated course but please note the maximum loan for Student Finance Wales is £9,250.

### **Living costs**

See the living costs section later in the document.

\*Please note, this may be subject to changes in government policy.

# Student funding calendar

## January onwards

Applications to Student Finance in England opens, where you can apply for Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans.

Apply early to ensure your loans are in place for when your course commences – you don't need a confirmed place to apply.

🌐 [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)

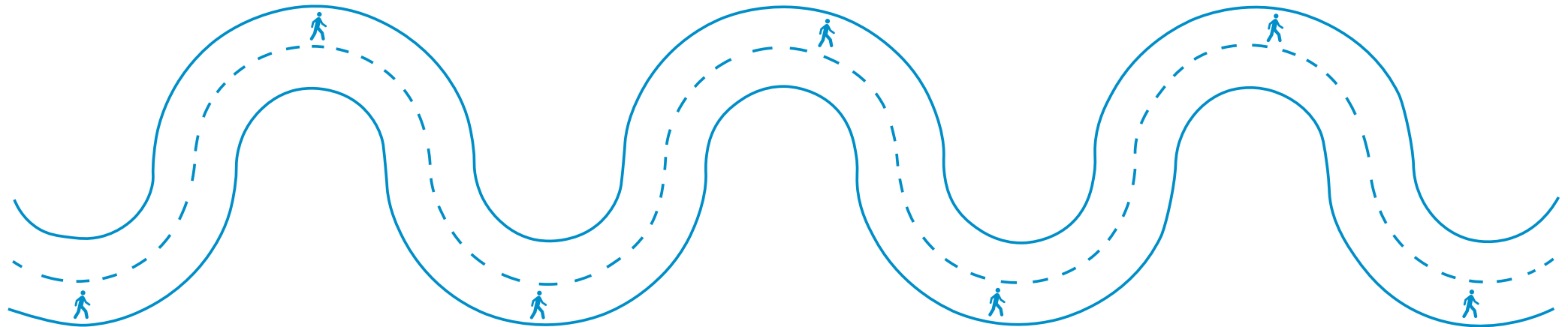
## April/May/June

The deadline for applying for funding through Student Finance for courses that start in September range from April to June, depending on where you live (more details available on the Student Finance website).

You can still apply for funding (up to nine months from when your course starts) but you won't get it in time for the start of your course!

## September

The first instalment of the maintenance loan received (provided you have your Financial Notification and Payment Schedule from Student Finance).



## October - January

### UCAS Undergraduate application

All applications to UK Universities for full time undergraduate courses are made online through UCAS (Universities Clearing Admissions Service).

The UCAS website has details of the dates you should submit your applications, receive your offers and make your choices.

🌐 [wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)

## March/April

Applications for student finance in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland usually open around this time of year.

## August

Results! Remember to update Student Finance online if there are any changes to your University and/or course.

## November

The first instalment of a bursary or scholarship (dates may vary).

## The following year...

January: Second instalment of the maintenance loan (start of the second term).

February: Second instalment of a bursary or scholarship.

April: Third instalment of the maintenance loan (start of the third term).

May: Third instalment of a bursary or scholarship.

## Government loans

### Tuition fee loan

You can apply to Student Finance via:

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

If you're studying an undergraduate diploma and are aged 19 or over then you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan. Please see:

[www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan](http://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan)

UK students (starting in 2021/22) can apply for a loan to cover all tuition fees for a degree:

- You won't have to pay for any of your tuition in advance
- The tuition fee loan is paid direct to Bath Spa University
- The tuition fee loan is not means tested on household income.

### Maintenance loan

You can apply for a loan to help with your living costs and other expenses.

The amount of the loan will depend on your household income and other circumstances; use the Student Finance calculator to find out more:

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

The maintenance loan will be paid direct into your bank account each term.

If your course lasts longer than 30 weeks and three days in an academic year (for example, the Accelerated degree) you might be able to get a Long Courses Loan to help towards living costs. The Long Courses Loan is part of the

Maintenance Loan and to be eligible, you must be able to get the part of the Maintenance Loan that depends on your household income. Student Finance will assess whether you can get the Long Courses Loan when you apply for your main student finance.

This table shows the 2021/22 loan amounts for Student Finance England if you're studying outside of London, not living in your parental home and not in the final year. Living in the parental home and final year loan amounts are less and students from Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have different loan amounts.

Household income	Loan for living costs
£25,000 and below	£9,488
£30,000	£8,809
£35,000	£8,130
£40,000	£7,450
£42,875	£7,060
£45,000	£6,771
£50,000	£6,092
£55,000	£5,412
£60,000	£4,733
£62,286 and above	£4,422 (minimum loan)

Note: All 2021/22 figures quoted are subject to Parliamentary approval.

The maximum loan for living costs for 2021/22 will be £9,488 for students who are eligible for benefits and living away from home.

The maximum loans for living costs in 2021/22 for new full-time students and continuing full-time students starting their courses on or after 1 August 2016 who are aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of their course will be £4,014.

If you don't receive the maximum loan then unfortunately you'll need to be prepared to meet the financial shortfall.

Use the link below to apply to Student Finance from January/February but ideally no later than May.

### Students with dependents

If you have dependents, you may be eligible for extra non-repayable support. To find out if you are, please contact Student Finance.

The maximum adult dependants' grant will be increased to £3,190 in 2021/22.

The maximum childcare grant payable in 2021/22, which covers 85% of actual childcare costs up to a specified limit, will be increased to £179.62 per week for one child only and £307.95 per week for two or more children.

The maximum parents' learning allowance payable in 2021/22 will be increased to £1,821.

### Students with disabilities

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are extra help from Student Finance for eligible students who have a disability, a mental health or medical condition, Asperger Syndrome or a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia or dyspraxia. They are non-means tested allowances for eligible UK students, which pay for extra costs incurred as a result of a disability.



Use this link to apply for Student Finance

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

## Part-time

If you're a part-time student studying at least 25% of a full-time course, you'll be eligible for a tuition fee loan, payable on a pro-rata basis. For part-time students there's also a maintenance loan (pro-rata based on a maximum loan for living costs for 2021/22 of £9,488).

Please note your funding arrangements may be different if you've previously studied (but not completed) a degree. A UK student who already has a higher education qualification may not be entitled to funding for a second degree; please contact us for more information about your funding entitlement if this is the case.

## Repaying your loans

- You'll only start repaying the loan once you've graduated and are earning over £27,295 (2021/22).
- The interest rate is variable and based on the RPI (retail price index) and only charged on the amount of loan that has been released.
- Loans are written off after 30 years and it is expected most students will not repay all of the amount they've borrowed.
- Only 9% of your income above £27,295 (2021/22) is taken for repayments.

This table shows some examples of repayments:

Your annual income (before tax)	How much you repay (per month)
£27,295 and below	£0
£28,000	£5
£35,000	£58
£40,000	£95

Your student loan will not go on credit files, which is the list of money you've borrowed.

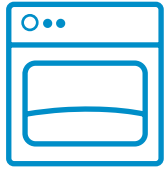
For more information on repayments and interest rates, please visit:

[www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk](http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk)

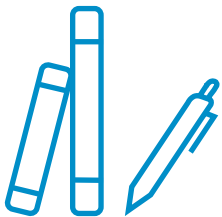
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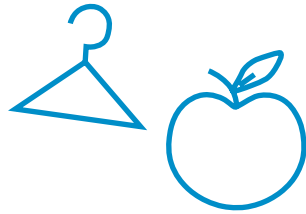
## Living costs



If you're living away from home, the biggest expense will be accommodation costs. Our standard room with shared bathroom is £122 per week and a standard room with ensuite is £166 per week (2021/22 figures and both include bills). This is usually paid at the start of each of the three terms (which corresponds to your student maintenance loan payments) by bank standing order.



You'll also need to consider course-specific costs like books, stationery and printing. For some courses, you may need to pay for field trips, art materials and specialist equipment. Some courses have to pay a Study Visit contribution fee subsidised by the University. More details of additional fees are on the website.



After accommodation, the next largest cost is your day-to-day living expenses such as groceries and going out. Though the amount varies based on the individual, a single student living away from home during term time will usually need £96 a week (source National Student Money Advisors, 2019/20 South West figure). Of course, if you live at home while studying, your costs will be lower. You'll also need to consider mobile phone bills, TV Licence fees and (if not included in private rented accommodation) gas, electricity and water bills.



You won't be able to plan for all expenses, so try to allow for unexpected costs, such as an extra journey home, or a broken laptop/mobile phone. Consider budgeting for occasional expenses such as birthday cards/presents, Christmas and holidays.

### Other expenses

Students are not automatically entitled to claim for full healthcare costs (prescriptions, dental treatments, eye tests and glasses) but you can complete a HC1 form to see if you are entitled to help based on low income. A prescription in England currently costs £9.15 per item but if you need regular prescriptions, it may be cheaper to buy a pre-payment certificate (available online for three or 12 months). Eye tests cost between £25-£40 and a basic NHS dental checkup costs £23.80.

Students bringing their own television will need to purchase a TV Licence. The current cost of a TV Licence is £157.50 per year. All above figures correct for 2021/22.

You may find that your parents' household insurance already covers some items but you should consider arranging cover before leaving home, to start from the date you move in. You can use a price comparison website to find the cheapest cover.

Full time students don't have to pay Council Tax and you can opt to share your details with Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) when completing your online registration. If you opted not to share but need to confirm your student registration to B&NES or live outside B&NES and need a Council Tax letter then you can contact the Student Information Desk via [Apollo](#).

### Other ways of saving money

Students are often entitled to discounts, for example on local bus travel. If you'll be using the train to visit home, the Young Persons Railcard will give you savings on some fares. Student discount sites like Student Beans, My Uni Days, Save the Student and Student Money Saver promote deals and discounts. Finally, TOTUM (formerly the NUS extra card) will give you over 200 discounts in the UK. More information is available online.

#### Need a part time job?

If you need a part-time job to support yourself financially, contact our JobShop.

[jobs@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@bathspa.ac.uk)

#### TOP TIP

Use a budgeting tool:  
[www.studentcalculator.org](http://www.studentcalculator.org)  
[university.which.co.uk/student-budget-calculator](http://university.which.co.uk/student-budget-calculator)

## Funding

### Bath Spa University Funding

Bath Spa University offers a range of possible scholarships, bursaries and other opportunities to help you fund your studies. For more information, please visit:

[www.bathspa.ac.uk/scholarships-and-funding](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/scholarships-and-funding)

### Bath Spa University Bursaries

Bath Spa University is providing awards in 2021/22 worth up to £4,000 split over three years to eligible new first year students. These are targeted awards for first time, first degree students from areas of low participation in higher education based on POLAR4 (Quintile 1 & 2) and assessed by Student Finance with income below £42,875.

There is additional support up to £750 split over 3 three years (making a total award of £4,750) for priority groups:

- Declared care leavers
- Foyer students (current or moved out within the last 12 months)
- In receipt of the increased loan for living costs

You'll need to be UK domiciled and apply to Student Finance (England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Student Award Agency for Scotland) to give consent for your household income figure to be shared with Bath Spa University.

### Care Leavers, estranged students, young adult carers and Foyer students

If you identify with any of these groups, your point of contact is the Student Engagement Advisor in Student Wellbeing Services. They can speak to you about your eligibility for additional bursaries, accommodation and Student Finance.

### Unite Foundation Scholarships

The Unite Foundation provides scholarships of free student accommodation to young people in the UK from care or estranged backgrounds. You might be able to receive three years of free accommodation in Unite halls of residence.

### Art and Design with Integrated Foundation Year Scholarship

After you progress to undergraduate level, you'll be awarded a progression scholarship at each level of study, for years one, two and three of your BA course. The scholarship is received as a tuition fee waiver. The scholarships you'll be awarded are detailed below, and apply to home and international students:

Year 1	£1,250
Year 2	£1,000
Year 3	£1,000

### Postgraduate Scholarship for Bath Spa University Alumni

The scholarship is available to any Bath Spa graduate (undergraduate or PGCE) progressing onto a Taught Master's Degree (e.g. MA, MSc, MRes).

The scholarship is received as a tuition fee waiver and the amount is £2,000 for full time students starting in 2021/22 (or pro rata if based on number of credits).

### Short-term loans

The short-term loan scheme has been established to help students with a temporary cash flow problem caused by circumstances beyond their control (e.g. delayed student loan or wages). Generally the standard Short Term Loan is £60 in any given week for a single person with no dependents.

You can apply for a short-term loan by completing the online application form:

[www.bathspa.ac.uk/stl](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/stl)

### University Access Fund (UAF)

Bath Spa University provides a range of Access Funds for undergraduate, postgraduate, UK, EU and International students. Access Funds are to assist students who may be experiencing unexpected financial hardship or in an emergency situation.

More information about the application process is available online the Student Funding webpages:

[www.bathspa.ac.uk/uaf](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/uaf)

## Scholarships

We have a variety of awards that are available to current undergraduate students. To find out more, please visit:

📄 [www.bathspa.ac.uk/scholarships-and-funding](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/scholarships-and-funding)

This funding is available to eligible students to apply for after registration. Some examples of funding we offer are below. The 2021/22 funding opportunities have yet to be finalised.

The **High Performance Sports Scholarship** has been created to support students who are studying at the University whilst competing on a national and international stage. The University actively encourages extra-curricular activities and is proud to support excellence in sport.

**Four awards up to £1,000**

The **Extra-curricular Activity Fund** provides financial support for individual or groups of students who are undertaking an extra-curricular activity which is not related to their academic programme. Any student who is an ambassador for the University representing at county, national or international level through a sporting or extra-curricular activity is eligible to apply.

**Multiple awards up to £300**

The **International Travel Fund** assists students wishing to embark on international travel placements and study trips.

**Multiple awards up to £1,000 per person**

The **Outward Mobility Award** has been established to assist students wishing to embark on international placements, research or study trips that are related to their undergraduate degree course. This is a targeted award and Bath Spa University is particularly keen to encourage students who might be put off by the costs.

**Multiple awards up to £3,500 per person**

The **Gane Trust** provides an annual travel award for a student studying at Bath Spa University on an Art or Design subject. The purpose is to encourage and support a student to travel abroad to study an aspect of design or craftsmanship.

**One award of £1,000**

The **Bath Spa Placements Award** is a targeted award to support students who wish to improve their employability. The funds available from the award could be used towards accommodation, travel, workwear or sustenance in association with an arranged, unpaid/ low paid placement. Alternatively, this could also be used by students to attend networking events, insight days and conferences.

**Multiple awards up to £300**

## Student Wellbeing

Bath Spa University's Student Wellbeing Services can provide professional advice and guidance to applicants and students on:

- Money
- The University's Medical Service
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Accessibility and disability
- Young adult carers
- Estranged students
- Care leavers

📄 [www.bathspa.ac.uk/wellbeing](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/wellbeing)

### Trusts and Charities

Some trusts and charities offer select students limited financial support.

To see if you're eligible contact Student Wellbeing.

## Managing your finances

Budgeting can be tough, especially if it's your first time away from home. For expert guidance and information, please get in touch with:

**Student Wellbeing**  
[studentwellbeing@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:studentwellbeing@bathspa.ac.uk)  
01225 876543

**Student Funding**  
[funding@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:funding@bathspa.ac.uk)  
01225 875319

**Student Fees**  
[myfinance@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:myfinance@bathspa.ac.uk)  
01225 875870

Please be aware: this information is correct at the time of print. For the most up-to-date facts and figures, please check our website: [www.bathspa.ac.uk](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk)

