



Student Finance and Budgeting

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(London and the Southwest)

Recruitment & Admissions

Where is Lancaster?



Approximate train journey times

Triple Top 15 *in the UK*

10TH

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Complete University

Guide 2026

14TH

The number 14 is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. A small white cloud icon is positioned above the '1'. A small blue circle containing the letters 'TH' is placed above the '4'.

The Guardian

University Guide 2026

15TH

The number 15 is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. A small blue circle containing the letters 'TH' is placed above the '5'. A stylized duck icon is integrated into the right side of the '5'.

The Times and Sunday Times

Good University Guide 2026



North
Campus

Our campus

The campus occupies 578
acres of beautiful parkland

South
Campus



Health Innovation Campus



Sports Centre



South-West Campus

Today's session

- Student Loans
- The Application Process
- Repayments
- Cost of Living
- Budgeting



Student Loans Explained



Student Finance Loans

Tuition Fees

Pays your
course fees

Maintenance

To support
living costs

Tuition Fee Loan

Capped at £9,790 per year currently.

Money is paid straight to the university.

All home students can apply for the full tuition fee loan.

No upfront fees on arrival at university!



Maintenance Loan

This is a *contribution* towards living costs, implying other sources of income may be needed.

All home students receive a base amount, with further amounts being means-tested.

Money is paid directly to your student bank account at the start of each term.



Maintenance Loan

The amount of maintenance loan you can receive is dependent on:

- Year of study
- Household income
- Location of your study and living



Maintenance Loan: Location

The maximum amount you can get depends on where you live while you're studying.

Location	Minimum Amount (non-means tested)	Additional Amount (means tested)	Combined Potential Total
Living with your parents/guardians	£4,013	£5,105	£9,118
Living away from home, in London	£7,039	£7,096	£14,135
Living away from home, outside London	£5,048	£5,782	£10,830

Maintenance Loan: Household Income

Household Income	Minimum Amount (non-means tested)	Additional Amount (means tested)	Combined Total
< £25,001	£4,915	£5,629	£10,544
£30,000	£4,915	£4,876	£9,791
£35,000	£4,915	£4,123	£9,038
£40,000	£4,915	£3,370	£8,285
£45,000	£4,915	£2,617	£7,532
£50,000	£4,915	£1,864	£6,779
£55,000	£4,915	£1,111	£6,026
£60,000	£4,915	£358	£5,273
> £62,377	£4,915	£0	£4,915

Student Finance Grants

Extra financial help is available through Student Finance England, including:

- Disabled Students' Allowance
- NHS Bursaries (for certain courses)
- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Adult Dependants' Grant
- Childcare Grant



Scholarships and Bursaries

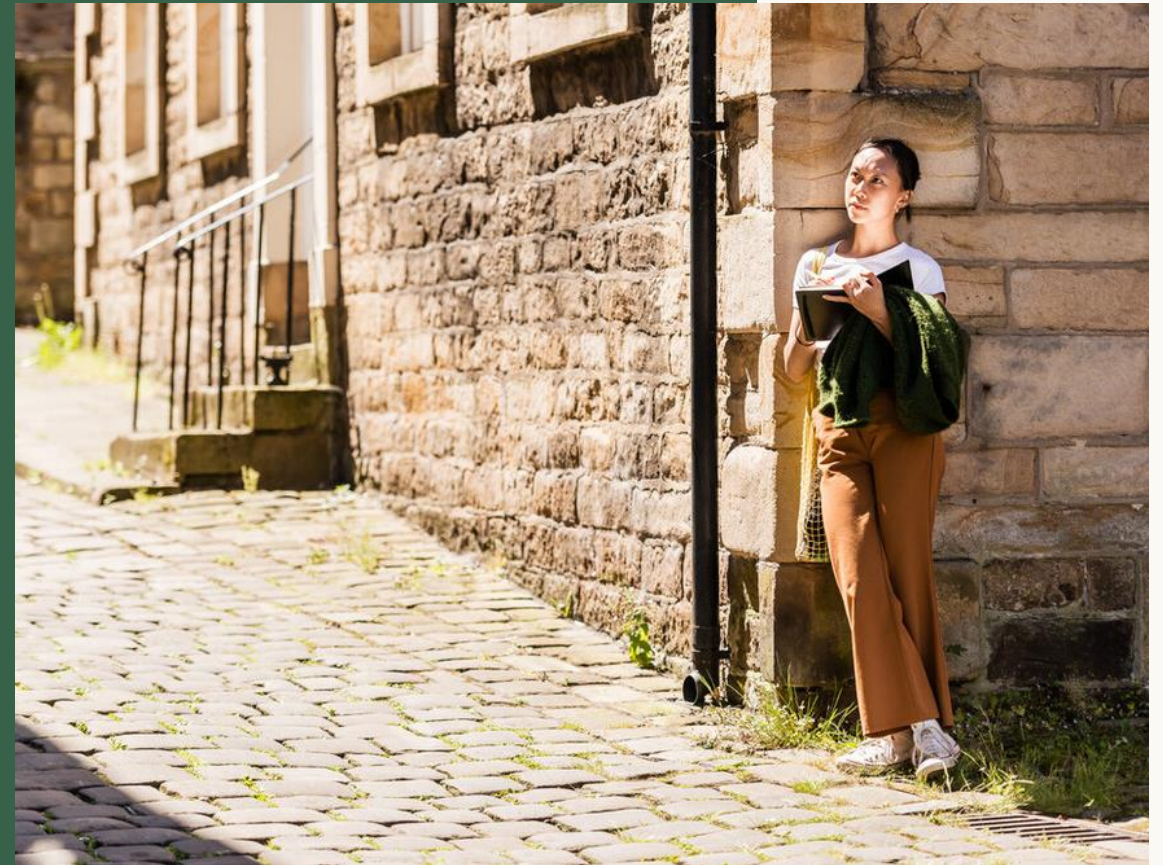
Awarded directly by individual universities and are managed directly by them.

Can be awarded for a range of reasons, including:

- Academic performance
- Sporting Ability
- Contextual Information

These do not need to be paid back.

Browse opportunities on UCAS, **The Scholarships Hub** or university websites.



Lancaster Scholarships 2026

Lancaster Bursary

*£1,000 per year of
study*

For Home students
from a household
income of <£35,000

Lancaster UG Excellence Scholarship

£3,000 in first year

For Home students who
achieve A*AA or
equivalent and received
five GCSEs at 7/A or
above

Applying for Student Finance



Application Process

Apply online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

Usually, Student Finance England applications open in early spring (March) and close after a couple of months (May/June).

Apply within the deadline to ensure timely payments when starting University!



Stages of the application process

Create an account

To begin, you need to create a login with SFE.

Eligibility

Details about you, your course, nationality, etc.

The Loans

Select which loans you require (tuition or maintenance)

Stages of the application process

Dependency Status

Are you
assessed on
parental
income or not?

Additional Support

Access to the
additional SFE
support
strands

Household Income

Parents' and
Partners'
Income for the
last tax year

Repayments



Repayments: Interest

Interest accumulates from the time of your first payment at university.

Interest is applied at the level of RPI (Retail Price Index; a measure of inflation on a 'basket of goods').

The Student Loan interest rate is usually fixed annually and is currently 3.1%.



Repayments: How it works

Both loans are combined into one balance.

Repayments begin in the April after graduation and the loan is written off after 40 years.

Everyone pays **9% of any income above £25,000**, and this is always based on income, not loan balance.



Repayments: How it works

Payments are taken automatically from graduate's salary.

Repayments are always calculated on that salary. If your salary decreases or stops, your repayments change to reflect this.

Student Loans have no impact on credit ratings or any other credit products (mortgages etc).

Salary (before tax)	Monthly Repayment Taken
£25,000	£0
£28,000	£22.50
£31,000	£45
£35,000	£75
£40,000	£112.50
£50,000	£187.50

Indicative monthly repayments on a Student Finance England Plan 5 loan

Frequently Asked Questions

Parents are divorced. Who completes the application?

- Students should ask who they live with or have the most contact with to fill out the form. If they spend an equal amount of time with both parents, they can pick.

Parent has remarried / has a new partner. Do they need to fill in the application?

- If the parent supporting the application has remarried or is living with a new partner, Student Finance England will need their information as well.


Does the student meet the residency eligibility criteria to apply for Student Finance?

- Visit the Student Finance website www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies for a breakdown of the eligibility criteria. Any questions, can contact SFE directly or a university's admissions team.



Useful Resources

- **Student Finance Website** - www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance.uk
- **Student Finance Calculator** - www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator
- **The Scholarship Hub** - www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/
- **The Student Room: SFE Student Finance Zone** – www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/
- **Martin Lewis MoneySavingExpert** – www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/



Funding Uni

Student loans mythbusting
Should you take the 'Plan 5' loan?
Parental contribution calculator
Student loan repayment
Postgraduate loans

Student Money

Student bank accounts
Young drivers' Insurance
Graduate accounts
Student budgeting planner
How to start saving

Broadband & Mobile

How to get cheap broadband
Best sim only deals
Broadband Deals
Negotiate with service providers
Mobile broadband

Uni Travel

Cheap train tickets
Cheap flights
Cheap hotel deals
Backpacker insurance
Cheap travel insurance

Thank you

Any Questions?