



# Loans for part-time study

Tuition Fee Loan 

Disabled Students' Allowances 

How to apply 



# Loans for part-time study

One of the main costs part-time students will have while studying is tuition fees.

New and continuing part-time students, and students studying with the Open University (OU) on other distance learning courses, who started their course on or after 1 September 2012, can get a Tuition Fee Loan to help them pay for their course.

## Tuition Fee Loan



Tuition Fee Loan							
What's it for?	The Tuition Fee Loan covers the tuition fees charged by the university or college.						
How much can they get?	<p>Up to £6,935 depending on whether the university or college is publicly or privately funded and how much the student is being charged. It doesn't depend on the student's household income.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="450 1126 1316 1375"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Maximum Tuition Fee Loan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public university or college</td> <td>£6,935</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private university or college</td> <td>£4,625</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>To qualify students must be studying at a course intensity of at least 25% of the equivalent full-time course for each year of study, taking no longer than four times the time it would take to complete the course if studied full-time (up to a maximum of 16 years)</p>	Maximum Tuition Fee Loan		Public university or college	£6,935	Private university or college	£4,625
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How's it paid?	We pay the Tuition Fee Loan directly to the university or college.						
Does it have to be paid back?	<p>Yes, but they don't have to repay any loans until the April after they finish or leave their course or the April four years after the start of their course, whichever comes first.</p> <p>The amount they repay each month is based on their income, not what they borrowed.</p> <p>They're charged interest from the day their first payment is made until their loan is repaid in full or cancelled. The interest rate is based on the UK Retail Price Index (RPI)* and will vary depending on their circumstances.</p> <p>For more information, go to <a href="http://www.slc.co.uk/repayment">www.slc.co.uk/repayment</a></p>						

\*RPI is a measure of UK inflation. It measures changes to the cost of living in the UK.

# Loans for part-time study

## How course intensity is worked out



Course intensity is how long it takes the student to complete their part-time course compared to the equivalent full-time course.

Course intensity is worked out by taking the number of part-time units (such as credits, credit points or modules) they'll be studying in the academic year and dividing it by the number of units that they'd complete in one academic year if they were studying the course full-time. The result is then multiplied by 100 to give the course intensity as a percentage.

### For example:

$60 \text{ part-time units} \div 120 \text{ full-time units} \times 100 = 50\% \text{ intensity}$



## Previous study



Students can usually only get student finance for their first higher-education course. If the student has already studied a higher-education course in the UK, they might not get help for a second course.

Students can only have a maximum of 16 years of part-time funding. Anything over this amount will have to be self-funded by the student.



## Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)



DSAs are available to students who have extra costs because of a disability, including a long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. DSAs don't depend on household income. How much a student gets depends entirely on their circumstances.



# Loans for part-time study

## Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)

What's it for?	DSAs can help pay the extra costs a student may have in relation to their course as a direct result of a disability, including a long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty.									
How much can they get?	<p>How much students can get doesn't depend on household income - what they can get depends on their individual needs. The table below shows the help they may be able to get.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 808 1469 1675"> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 808 831 987">Specialist Equipment Allowance – helps pay for any essential equipment needed.</td> <td data-bbox="831 808 1469 987">Up to £5,358 for <b>the whole course</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 987 831 1290">Non-medical Helper Allowance – helps pay for support workers and other non-medical assistants the student needs to use to benefit fully from their course.</td> <td data-bbox="831 987 1469 1290">Up to £15,978 <b>a year</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 1290 831 1514">General Allowance – helps pay other course-related costs the student may have as a direct result of their disability.</td> <td data-bbox="831 1290 1469 1514">Up to £1,342 <b>a year</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 1514 831 1675">Travel Allowance – helps with any extra travel costs the student may have to pay.</td> <td data-bbox="831 1514 1469 1675">Reasonable spending on extra travel costs students may have to pay to attend their course because of their disability.</td> </tr> </table>		Specialist Equipment Allowance – helps pay for any essential equipment needed.	Up to £5,358 for <b>the whole course</b>	Non-medical Helper Allowance – helps pay for support workers and other non-medical assistants the student needs to use to benefit fully from their course.	Up to £15,978 <b>a year</b>	General Allowance – helps pay other course-related costs the student may have as a direct result of their disability.	Up to £1,342 <b>a year</b>	Travel Allowance – helps with any extra travel costs the student may have to pay.	Reasonable spending on extra travel costs students may have to pay to attend their course because of their disability.
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How's it paid?	We'll pay the money directly to the supplier of the service (or services) - for example, the university, college or equipment supplier - or into the student's bank account.									
Does it have to be paid back?	No, unless they leave their course early, in which case they may be asked to pay some back.									

# Loans for part-time study

## Apply online



Students can apply online as soon as the application service opens at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

If they're a continuing student we'll send them an email to let them know it's time to re-apply.

We'll process the application and send the student a Student Finance Entitlement letter telling them how much they can get.

We'll pay their Tuition Fee Loan directly to the university or college.



[www.practitioners.slc.co.uk](http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk)

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