



Student finance eligibility

Personal circumstances 

Course eligibility 

University or college eligibility 



Student finance eligibility

Whether a student can get student finance depends on:

- their personal circumstances;
- their course; and
- their university or college.

Personal circumstances



Students must meet certain criteria on nationality and residency, age and previous study.

Nationality and residency

To apply for student finance, the student must:

- be a UK national or have settled status (this means they have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK);
- normally live in England; and
- have been living in the UK for at least three years before the first day of their course.



They may also be eligible if they are:

- an EU national, or a relative of one;
- a refugee, or a relative of one;
- under Humanitarian Protection, or a relative of someone under Humanitarian Protection, and living in England on the first day of the first academic year of their course;
- under 18 and have lived in the UK for at least seven years;
- 18 or over and have lived in the UK for at least 20 years or at least half their life;
- an EEA/Swiss migrant worker, or a relative of one;
- the child of a Swiss national; or
- the child of a Turkish worker.



Age

There is no upper age limit for students applying for student finance but if the student is over 60 the amount of Maintenance Loan they can get depends only on their household income.

Student finance eligibility

Previous study

Students can usually only get student finance for their first higher-education qualification.

As a general rule, Tuition Fee Loans are available for the full length of the course, plus one extra year if needed, for example if:

- they change course; or
- leave their course but decide to start again.

The number of years for which a student is eligible for funding is calculated as:

Length of current course + one additional year – years of previous study

An additional year of support may be available if a student needs to repeat a year due to compelling personal reasons, such as illness, and can prove this.

Full financial support is available if the student already has a degree but they're starting a Nursing, Midwifery or Allied Health Professional course (excluding dental hygiene and dental therapy) in England on or after 1 August 2017.



Course eligibility



The course must be in the UK and one of the following:

- first degree, eg BA, BSc or BEd
- Foundation Degree
- Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
- Integrated Masters
- Initial Teacher Training (ITT)



If in any doubt, students should check if their course qualifies with their university or college.

Student finance eligibility

University or college eligibility



The university or college must be in the UK and either:

- publicly funded (paid for by the government); or
- privately funded but running individual courses that receive public funding.

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Student Finance England is a service provided by the Student Loans Company.
We provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.