
Student Finance 2019/2020

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Am I eligible?

There are three main criteria:

- Be personally eligible – have lived in the UK and Islands for at least 3 years before the start of your course and living in Northern Ireland on the first day of the academic year in which your course begins
- Must attend an approved college – a publicly funded University or College in the UK or ROI or certain private colleges
- Must attend an approved full-time course – degree, HNC, HND, Foundation degree

What support is available?

Tuition fee loan / Student Contribution loan

- Tuition fee loan up to £4275 per year for NI and £9250 per year for the remainder of the UK
- Up to £4275 Tuition fee loan for private institutions. Any balance charged above this is payable by you
- ROI – no tuition fees. Student Contribution Loan of €3000
- Not means-tested
- Fees paid direct to your institution by SLC
- Repay after course is finished

What support is available?

Maintenance Loan

- Max £6,780 if living in London (NMT £5085)
- Max £4,840 if living away from home and studying outside London (NMT £3630)
- Max £3,750 if living at home (NMT £2812)
- Maintenance loan is means-tested
- Repay after course is finished

The loan is reduced if you receive a Maintenance Grant

What support is available?

Maintenance Grant/Special Support Grant

- Non-repayable grant where household income < £41,065
- Maximum grant £3,475 where household income < £19,203
- SSG if you are eligible for income support or housing benefit (benefits not reduced)

What support is available?

Dependants' Grants – means-tested

- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Childcare Grant

Disabled Students Allowance – non means-tested

- Equipment Allowance – max £5266 for course
- Non-medical helpers' allowance – max £20,938
- General Allowance – max £1759
- Travel costs

See application form or contact Student Finance for further details

What support is available?

Institutional Bursaries

- Non-repayable grant if you receive Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant
- No separate application involved – eligibility determined through your Student Finance application
- Each institution offers different amounts of support -contact institution for details.

Institutional Hardship Fund

- Non-repayable grant for students in financial hardship
- Applicable to students from low income families, students in Care, students with dependants
- Contact your institution for advice

Different types of funding

Health



- Health Professional degrees in NI - income assessed bursary of £2355 (2018/19 rate), reduced loan of £2370 and Tuition fees paid in full
- Health Professional degrees in Wales - NHS bursary, reduced loan and Tuition fees paid in full if student commits to 2 years' work in Wales, otherwise standard student finance
- Nursing degrees in NI - not eligible for any funding from SFNI
- Nursing degrees in Wales - NHS bursary, reduced loan and Tuition fees paid in full if student commits to 2 years' work in Wales, otherwise standard student finance
- Social Work degrees in NI - additional funding from DoH of non-means tested grant and contribution towards work based learning expenses

Different types of funding Further Education



- For lower level courses (Level 1, 2 and 3)
- A means-tested maintenance grant for full-time students; small means-tested grants towards books and fees for part-time students
- Closing Dates: Full time - 30 September 2019
 Part time - 30 September 2019
- Guaranteed funding for eligible students where fully completed applications are received by 28 June 2019.

Apply to: Student Finance NI
 Further Education Grants Section
 1 Hospital Road
 Omagh, bt79 0AW

Telephone: 028 8225 4546

Different types of funding

Part-time Higher Education



HE part-time courses must be at least one year's duration

You can apply for:

- A means-tested Tuition fee grant of up to £1,230
- A Tuition fee loan of up to £3206.25
- A means-tested grant of up to £265
- Disabled Students' Allowance

Apply to: Student Finance NI,
Ballee Centre,
Ballee Road West,
Ballymena, BT42 2HS

Telephone: 028 25661398

How do I apply?

- Application forms **available** from school / local Student Finance NI office / download an application form at www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk or **apply online**
- Complete all details in full and return to your local Student Finance NI office
- Pay correct postage (1st class not sufficient)
- Apply as soon as possible and track your application online
- EU Students should apply to the EU Team in England
- You must reapply each year to continue your funding

How do I apply?

Information required

You **must** provide the following information with your application form –

- Original UK or ROI Birth certificate or valid Passport. A Birth certificate **must** be accompanied by an identity confirmation form
- National Insurance Number
- Your bank/building society account details
- Accurate details of your income and of your household

If you apply on-line you must send your identity verification and income details to Student Finance as soon as possible

What happens next?

- Application acknowledged and you receive a Customer Reference Number (EMA students contact SLC for password to on-line services).
- If eligible, Student Finance NI assesses on household income which is:
 - Your gross taxable income (excluding any earnings during term-time and holidays);
 - **PLUS** Gross taxable income of parent(s) / partners / step-parents;
 - **LESS** Deductions for payments into pension funds and £1,153 for each other dependent child in the household

This does not apply to Independent students

What happens next?

Income	Maintenance Grant	Lodging Rate of Loan	Maint Grant Plus Loan
£19,203	£3,475	£2,953	£6,428
£25,000	£2,201	£3,289	£5,490
£35,000	£689	£4,151	£4,840
£41,065	£50	£4,790	£4,840
£53,035	£0	£3,630	£3,630

What happens next?

- SLC sends notification of how much support you will receive and when
- ↓
- Inform us of any changes to your college or course
- ↓
- Take your notification to University at enrolment stage
- ↓
- University confirms enrolment
- ↓
- SLC pays your support each term into your account

What happens next?

- In first year Student Finance will contact your parents to request any outstanding verification of their income to support your application
- After first year, your parents may be asked to provide income verification as part of a sample check
- In both cases, if income verification is different to what was previously declared, you may be due less support
- If overpaid you will be required to make a repayment to the Student Loans Company
- Any repayments still outstanding at the start of the next academic year will be deducted from that year's support, leaving you with less to live on
- You should ensure that your parents provide accurate income details with your application and reply to all letters sent to them

Change of circumstances

Tell us of any change in your circumstances as this may affect what you get e.g.

- Name / marital status
- Address (home / lodging)
- Change of course/college after results / transfer / suspension / withdrawal from course / college
- Absence / sickness
- Reduction in parents' income – support can be reassessed on lower income for year ended 5/04/20 instead of 5/04/18
- Parents/parent and partner start to live together or separate during the year

(Some changes can be made on-line)

Tell your institution of absences / sickness / proposed change of course

Change of circumstances

- If you leave your course during the year you must still pay fees. The amount depends on when you leave
- If you are on a placement / abroad as part of your course you may only be entitled to reduced loan and fees and may not be eligible for travel (ask SFni)
- If you finish an HND/Foundation degree course and move to year 1 of a degree course you will not receive a tuition fee loan or a grant for year 1 of the degree
- If you change course/repeat a year you may be eligible for +1 support
- If you need to repeat a year due to illness you may be eligible for an extra year's support
- If you change course/repeat a year more than once you may get no fee loan or grant for some years

What about repayments?

Repay

- You only repay Student Loans (Fees and maintenance) once you have finished your course and are earning over £18,935 a year
- Repayments are based on earnings e.g. earn £30,000 - pay back £88 a month
- Loans incur interest charges (current interest rate is 1.75%)
- Loan overpayments during a course are deducted from next year's support
- Balance is cancelled after 25 years

Keep

- You do not repay any grants received unless you withdraw from your course or a re-assessment is required
- If you receive a grant and your entitlement is reassessed to a smaller grant/no grant at all – you must repay this immediately

Additional information



- By telephone on: 0300 100 0077



- By post or personal visit:
Student Finance NI
3 Charlemont Place
The Mall, Armagh, BT61 9AX



- Visit our web site at:
www.studentfinancenl.co.uk



- 'A Guide to financial support' booklet

Additional information

Student Finance NI has endeavoured to detail every aspect of the application process and possible funding available to students entering Further/ Higher Education.

If you have any questions that are not covered in this presentation please ask!