

# Money Matters for

# HIGHER EDUCATION

2018 - 2019

FINANCIAL HELP WITH YOUR STUDIES

# We are determined that financial barriers will not prevent you from attending College

## **Disclaimer**

Tyne Metropolitan College makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that published information is up-to-date and accurate. However the College reserves the right to make changes to services without notice.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HE STUDENT FINANCE?**

Student finance is available to students who are pursuing a higher education course designated for funding by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. Eligible courses include:

- Degrees, e.g. - BA, BSc, BEd, BEng
- Foundation Degrees
- Diploma in Higher Education
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Certificate in Education
- Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

## **STUDENTS LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL HELP MUST APPLY TO STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND (SEE USEFUL CONTACTS SECTION ON THE BACK PAGE)**

An application must be submitted before the application deadline, which is no later than nine months after the start of the academic year in which your course commences. For the purposes of student finance an academic year is regarded as starting on:

- 1st September for courses starting in the Autumn term
- 1st January for courses starting in the Spring term
- 1st April for courses starting in the Summer term

If you miss this deadline you may apply for support for the following academic year. If you don't apply on time – supplying all the evidence you're asked for – you may not receive your money at the start of term.

## NEW STUDENTS STARTING IN 2018 - 2019

To be sure of having your first payment ready at the start of the 2018 / 2019 academic year, you must apply by:

**26th May 2018** if you are a new student entering HE for the first time.

Apply for finance as soon as possible: don't wait until you've been accepted on a course. Put your first-choice course on your student finance application, and let Student Finance England know if it changes later.

Please note that whilst some courses are classified as full-time for teaching purposes Student loan regulations state that they are part-time in relation to the loan that they qualify for. If you are unsure if your course is full or part-time before filling in a Student loan application please check with Gateway at Tyne Metropolitan College by calling 0191 229 5000 or emailing [enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk)

## NATIONALITY AND RESIDENCY

A student is likely to be personally eligible if they are a UK national who is 'ordinarily resident' in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of their course and have either:

- Been living in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for the three years immediately before this date, and not wholly or mainly to get full-time education.
- Have 'settled status' – which means the student can live permanently in the UK without the Home Office placing any restrictions on how long they can stay 'Ordinarily resident' means where you usually live, apart from temporary or occasional absences.

If the student is an asylum seeker in the UK, they won't normally be eligible for support, unless they have been granted settled status by the Home Office and meet the three-year ordinary residence requirements.

Students may also be eligible for funding if they hold one of the following residency statuses:

- Refugee
- Humanitarian Protection (HP) (must be as the result of a failed application for asylum)
- Migrant worker
- Child of a Swiss national (parents must provide information and evidence they'll be living in the UK at the start of their child's course)
- EU national
- Child of a Turkish worker in the UK

If you are unsure as to whether or not you meet the required residency standards it is advisable to contact Student Finance Direct before filling in your application form.

## PREVIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

If you have previously studied a course of higher education, support will be available for the length of your course less any years of previous study. Previous study will affect the amount of support that you are entitled to, therefore it is advisable to contact Student Finance England for advice before applying.

## PREVIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

Students from Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales can apply for HE funding. They must apply to either the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS), Student Finance Northern Ireland or Student Finance Wales. Details of how to apply online and further advice and guidance including levels of entitlement can be found on their websites (see useful contacts section).

### FAQs

- **Part-time students**

Part-time students starting on a course on or after 1st August 2018 can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan and a Maintenance Loan.

Students at a publicly funded university or college will be able to apply for up to £6,935 depending on the actual cost of their fees.

Students must be studying 25% of a full time course. This means if the equivalent full-time course lasts two years, the student would have to be able to complete the part-time course in eight years.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

There are specific basic criteria that students must meet in order to be eligible to apply for student support:

- You must have settled status in the UK
- Have been ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years before the start of the course
- Be ordinarily resident in the UK at the start of the course
- The part-time course should last no longer than twice the length of time it would take to complete the full-time equivalent course (6 years for a three year degree, 8 years for a four year degree)
- Students who already have a degree are not eligible for part-time student support

Students with refugee/asylum seeker status should contact Student Finance England regarding their residency status.

## WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS?

- Tuition Fees - A loan is available from Student Finance England to help specifically towards the cost of tuition fees. This loan is non-means tested and not subject to any age restriction, and is paid directly to the College.
- Universities and colleges will be able to charge up to £9,250 a year for their full-time courses – but they will need to meet strict criteria to make sure that all eligible students, regardless of background, can access those courses. No student will have to pay for tuition fees up front.
- Maintenance Loans - are available to students to help towards their ongoing living and study costs. The amount of loan students are eligible for is dependent upon their household income.

The maximum loan rate for students living outside of London (and not in the parental home) is £8,700.

**Maintenance Loans** – You might be able to get extra maintenance loan to help towards your living costs if any of the following apply while you're on your course:

- You're a single parent or single foster parent of a child or young person under 20 who is in full-time education below higher – education level or on an approved training course;
- You have a partner who is also a full-time student and one or both of you is responsible for a child or young person under 20 who is in full-time education below higher education level or on an approved training course;
- You have a disability and qualify for the Disability Living Allowance, Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium;
- You qualify for Personal Independence Payment or Armed Forces Independence Payment;
- You're deaf and qualify for Disabled Students' Allowances;
- You have been treated as incapable of work for a continuous period of at least 28 weeks;
- You have a disability and qualify for income related Employment and Support Allowance; or
- You're waiting to go back to a course having taken agreed time out from that course due to illness or caring responsibility that has now ended.

**Adult Dependants Grant** – may be available for those students that have a spouse or co-habiting partner that is financially dependent upon them. The maximum amount of Adult Dependents Grant available is £2,925. Under the student finance regulations, "partner" is defined as a student's husband, wife or civil partner.

A person living with the student as if they were the student's husband, wife or civil partner is also covered by the definition.

**Childcare Grant** - Lone parents, student couples or those students with a partner on a low income may be eligible to receive the Childcare Grant. This grant will meet up to 85% of the childcare costs up to a maximum of £159.59 per week for one child or £273.60 per week for two or more children. The childcare provider being used must be Ofsted registered in order to qualify for help. Students cannot receive the Childcare Grant if they receive the Childcare element of Working Tax Credit. The Childcare Grant is not paid for the vacation following the final year of a course, but is for intervening vacations.

**Parents Learning Allowance** - is a grant for students with dependent children who are on a low income for help towards study costs. The maximum amount of Parents Learning Allowance available is £1,617.

**Disabled Student Allowance** - Disabled Students' Allowance (DSAs) help pay for extra costs a student might have as a direct result of their disability, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. DSAs are additional support available to students who may otherwise be prevented from attending a higher-education course because of a disability.

How much students can get doesn't depend on their household income, but does depend on a needs assessment.

Students should apply as soon as they can as the process can take around 14 weeks. Forms and guides can be downloaded from the Student Finance England website.

## WHEN DO I HAVE TO REPAY THE LOANS THAT I RECEIVE?

- If you take out a tuition fee loan or a maintenance loan these must be repaid. However, they do not need to be repaid until the April after you have completed the course and only if you are earning over £25,000 per annum.
- The repayment will be deducted from your salary along with your tax and national insurance contributions. A graduate earning £27,000 per annum would be required to pay back around £15 per month. You can opt to pay more than the statutory amount if you want to.

Please note: any grants that you may be eligible for do not have to be repaid.

## ENTITLEMENT CALCULATOR

Student Finance England provide an online calculator facility that enables students to input information and receive a quote giving a basic calculation of the main government funding they could receive. They will also be able to get information on other bursaries and grants available from Universities. Applicants will be able to request several alternative quotes of the student finance available for each scenario they enter and will allow them to compare the level of support for each case. A budget and repayment calculator will also be included in this section, very handy tools for anyone considering going into Higher Education.

## WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY LOAN?

Once your application has been processed by Student Finance England you will receive a breakdown of your entitlement and a payment schedule. The College/University has to verify that you have enrolled onto your course and that you are attending before any payments will be released. Once you receive this information you need to take it to the MIS Department located near to the main entrance of the Westoe campus.

## BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Some of our Higher Education courses are fully franchised through other institutions, for example University of Sunderland. In order to establish whether or not you are eligible for a bursary you would need to contact the awarding institution. University of Sunderland students can visit the University Liaison Officer on the College premises. Please ring Student Services to find out the days and times available for appointments.

## CONTACT US...

For further information about fees and help with study costs, please call Gateway on 0191 229 5000 email [info@stc.ac.uk](mailto:info@stc.ac.uk) or visit [www.tynemet.ac.uk](http://www.tynemet.ac.uk).

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Student Finance England	<a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a> / Tel: 0300 100 0607
EU Team	<a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a> / Tel: 0141 243 3570
Student Finance Wales	<a href="http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk">www.studentfinancewales.co.uk</a> / Tel: 0845 602 8845
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk">www.studentfinanceni.co.uk</a> / Tel: 028 9025 7715
SAAS	<a href="http://www.saas.gov.uk">www.saas.gov.uk</a> / Tel: 0845 111 1711
University of Sunderland	<a href="http://www.sunderland.ac.uk">www.sunderland.ac.uk</a> / Tel: 0191 515 2000
Tyne Metropolitan College	<a href="http://www.tynemet.ac.uk">www.tynemet.ac.uk</a> / Tel: 0191 229 5000



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