

YEAR 12 FUTURES EVENT 2022 – SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICES

- Introduction – outline
- The UCAS process
- Making informed decisions
- What is a personal statement?
- The reference process
- Student Finance (Mr Lloyd)
- Entrance exams
- Post-18 options (Mrs Poppleton)
- Degree Apprenticeships and Workpays (External)

THE UCAS PROCESS

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-to-university>

Deadlines

Wed 25 January 2023 - 18:00

Applications for all 2023 entry UCAS Undergraduate courses, except those with a 15 October deadline, should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on 25 January 2023.

INFORMED DECISIONS — ASTON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

- Statistics: Teaching Quality, National Student Survey (NSS), Unistats, REF (Research), TEF
- Contact time/teaching methods
- Professional accreditation
- Likelihood of offer: offer levels, entry requirements, pre requisite subjects
- “Reputation” -applicants per place/competition, league tables, reputation of specific courses or departments -useful but treat with caution...

INFORMED DECISIONS

- Graduate employment/placement year
- University location –campus/city, proximity to home, campus facilities (e.g. sport)
- Top factors for Aston applicants: quality of teaching, graduate employment and course/department reputation
- *What advice do you give to students on how to identify the “best” five choices for them to apply to?*
- Identify which factors are important to them (e.g. reputation, location)
- Encourage applicants to visit as many of their five choices as possible (open days, taster days, residential, etc)

INFORMED DECISIONS

- Encourage tariff points/grades spread on UCAS choices e.g.
1 aspirational 3 on or close to realistic predictions 1 good fall-back choice with lower grades
- Ensure that applicants are clear on their predicted grades
- Applications per place often quoted –don't forget students are making 4 other applications
- Contact the University direct if you are unsure of suitability
- Key reasons for rejecting applicants are predicted/ achieved grades and subject mix. For some subjects Personal Statements also play a key role (e.g. Pharmacy/Optomtry.)

INFORMED DECISIONS

- Firm choice needs to be the “best” fit for the individual NOT just the highest grade offer/most prestigious
- Check carefully offer conditions -some may be tied to choosing an institution as firm choice e.g. unconditional offers, contextual offer schemes
- Consider in more depth the course structure, modules and assessment methods

INFORMED DECISIONS

- Scholarships and other incentives
- Visit Firm and Insurance choices again before accepting
- No rush to make decisions –most applicants have until May - June this year
- Ensure that the firm choice offer is achievable and/or discuss with the University whether there is likely flexibility at confirmation of results

WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement>

REFERENCES

Who writes them?

- Mr Giles
 - Mr Lloyd
 - Your Form tutor
-
- The reference will mirror and support your personal statement- your referee will be able to view this.
 - However ensure that your tutor has seen (and supported you with) your personal statement before this point.

REFERENCES

What do we include?

- General background information about the school.
- Comments about attendance, punctuality and attendance.
- A paragraph on your performance in each subjects. This is provided by subject teachers.
- Wider contribution to the school / extra-curricular activities e.g. leadership (what you have been involved in, level awarded & the skills developed).

REFERENCES

- Keep us informed!
- Something valuable that you can't fit in to your personal statement? Let us know!
- Are you involved in anything outside of school that we don't know about?

AN INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT FINANCE — MR LLOYD

One of the biggest concerns students have when faced with the idea of university is money.

Thankfully, Student Finance England (SFE) provides financial support on behalf of the **UK Government** (not a commercial bank) to students from England entering higher education in the UK. It is linked to how much you earn – not how much you borrowed, and is fixed against the Retail Price Index, meaning it will not spiral in interest.

- The two main costs you'll have while studying are **tuition fees** and **living costs**.
- **There's student finance available to help you with both.**
- Depending on your circumstances, you could also get extra financial help while you study. If you are studying Medicine, for example, the NHS offers bursaries as incentives.

MISCONCEPTION

! I can't afford to go to university.

! All eligible students receive:

- Tuition fee loan
- Maintenance loan

MISCONCEPTION

! The debt is unmanageable and not worth the cost

- ! • No win no fee – repayments only start after you start earning £26,575.
- Wiped after 30 years.

MISCONCEPTION

! If something goes wrong you are all on your own.

- ! • Student Welfare Officers
- Student Hardship Fund
- Additional support services

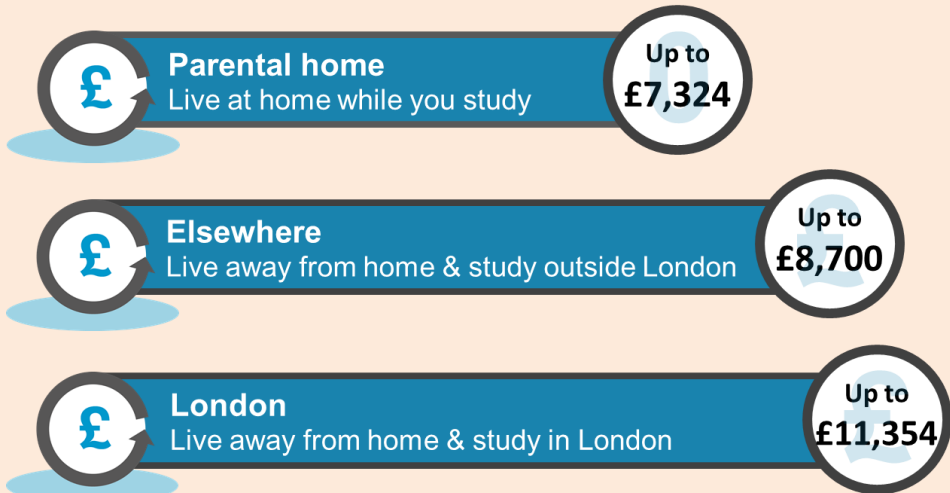


Tuition Fee Loan

- **The Tuition Loan goes straight to the university – not your bank account.**
- **This pays for the course itself; for the lecturers, seminars and overall academic experience.**
- **This is $\frac{1}{2}$ of your overall Student Loan.**
- **Loans go up to £9,250 per year for standard 3-year undergraduate courses.**
- **Universities can charge up to £11,500 for accelerated 2-year courses.**
- **The tuition fee loan is not dependent on household income. Instead, it varies depending on the cost of your course per year (most are £9,250 per year now).**
- **You repay the loan after you graduate alongside your Maintenance Loan.**



Maintenance Loan



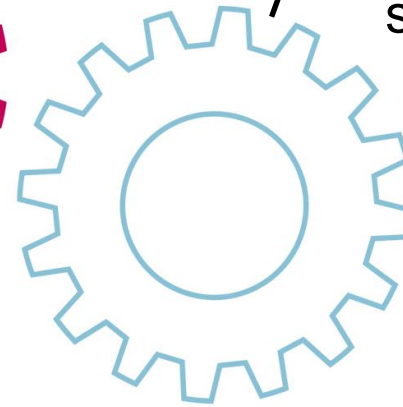
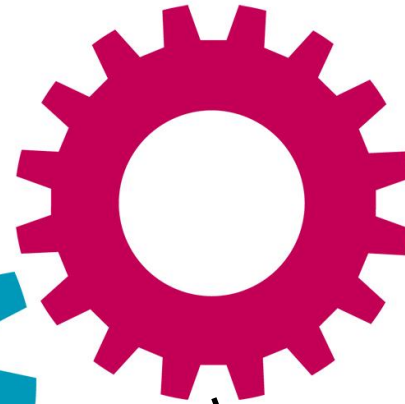
- **The Maintenance Loan (minimum of £3000 – maximum of £11,354) goes straight to your account – not to the university.**
- **This loan is to pay for living costs; it aims to cover rent/accommodation and some food/social costs.**
- **Unfortunately, the loan does not always cover the overall amount needed. For example, the average rent is usually £1200 per semester. X3 semester's totals £3600 – meaning that if you plan to survive on the Maintenance Loan alone and you receive the minimum amount, the £600 usually needs to be made up elsewhere.**
- **It can also arrive late – it's issued when the course technically starts. Most university's offer a 'Fresher's Week' where students move in a week before the course starts. Some students get stung by this as they have no money to sustain the week until the Loan comes in.**
- **The loan is dependent on household income, as well as where you are studying – it can vary for London & Wales. The sliding scale goes from a loan of £3000 for households earning £65K plus, to a £3000 loan and £5700 in bursaries for households with an overall income of less than £25K.**
- **Whilst the Loan needs to be paid back with your tuition fee, the Bursary (if eligible) does not.**
- **Paid at the start of a semester – September, January and April.**

Tuition Fee Loan

£9250 per year.

Covers the course.

Goes straight to Uni.



Extra support

The difference can be made up via parental support, part-time jobs or pre-university summer savings.

Maintenance Loan

Depends on household income.

£3000 minimum as loan.

Additional £5700 available for low-medium income households available as a grant (see sliding scale on SFE's website for details).

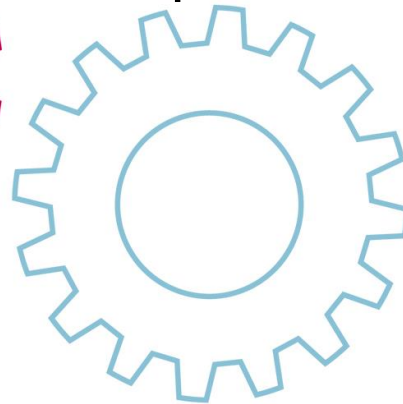
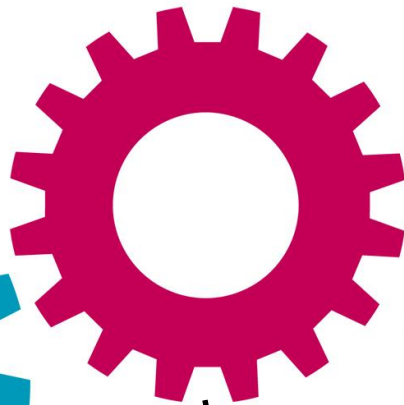
HOW DO YOU GET IT?

APPLICATIONS & INFORMATION

You **APPLY** online
(Submit all relevant details

- Including payslips to prove household income

The money is **TRANSFERRED.**



SF **ASSESS** your Application.

Approve/Review decision made.

Q

What is the easiest way to apply for your student finance?

A

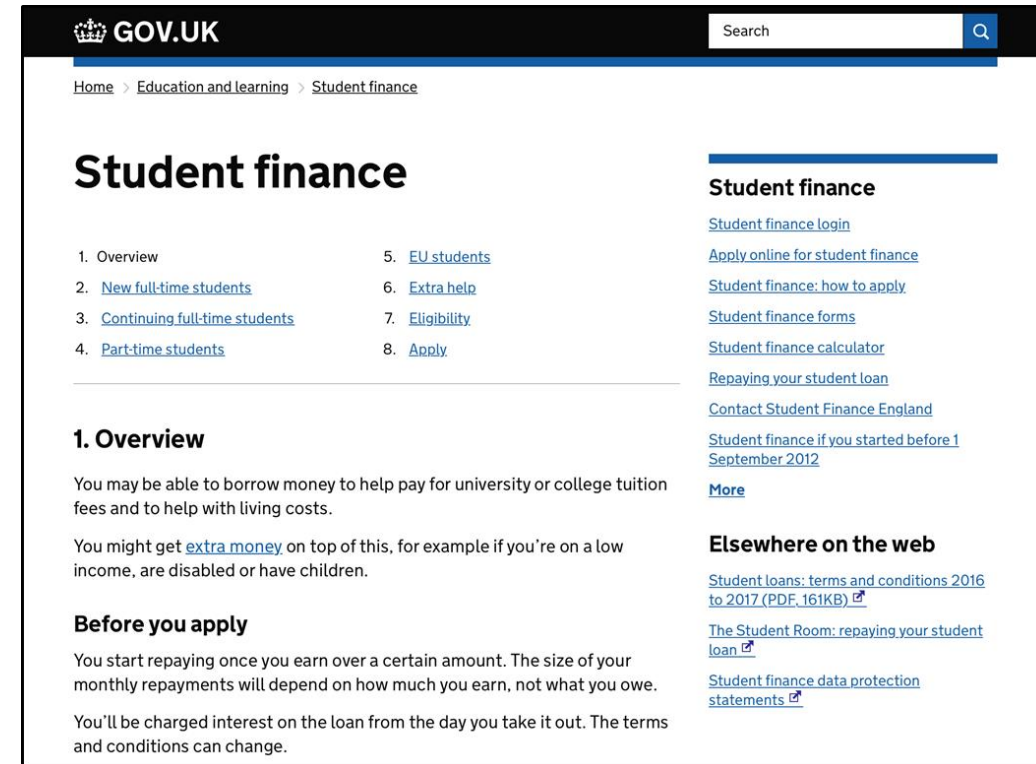
b) Online @ www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Q

When should you apply for your student finance?

A

When instructed by the Sixth Form Team – the application window is usually Jan-May.



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for Student finance. The page includes a search bar, navigation links for Home, Education and learning, and Student finance. The main heading is 'Student finance'. Below this is a list of links: Overview, New full-time students, Continuing full-time students, Part-time students, EU students, Extra help, Eligibility, and Apply. The '1. Overview' section is expanded, showing text about borrowing money for tuition and living costs, and a note about extra money for low-income students. A 'Before you apply' section mentions repaying the loan based on earnings and interest charges. A sidebar on the right contains links for Student finance login, Apply online for student finance, Student finance: how to apply, Student finance forms, Student finance calculator, Repaying your student loan, Contact Student Finance England, and Student finance if you started before 1 September 2012. There is also a 'More' section and an 'Elsewhere on the web' section with links to Student loans: terms and conditions 2016 to 2017, The Student Room: repaying your student loan, and Student finance data protection statements.



Repayment Facts



- Student Finance Loans are not like commercial bank loans.
- Instead of it being based on what you borrow, repayment is based on what you earn (informally called Graduate Tax).
- Start repayments the April after you graduate.
- ... But, you only start repayments if you are earning above £26,575 per year.
- Repay 9% of anything above £26,575.
- Automatically taken from your pay check (unless you live abroad).
- Linked to RP Index – interest won't spiral.
- Wiped after 30 years.

SUMMARY:

Student Finance is eligible to ALL students.

It is comprised of two components: the **Tuition Fee Loan** and the **Maintenance Fee Loan**.

For low income households, additional support is available in the form of a **Bursary**, which does not need to be paid back.

Application window opens January – May 2023. Parental support needed to fill this in.

The loan is not private; students will never be asked to pay the sum back immediately.

Repayments are fixed at 9% of earnings over £26,575 and in-line with the Retail Price Index.

Check the fine print in the contract just in case.



/SF_England



/SFEEngland



YouTube /SFEFILM

www.gov.uk/studentfinance



Student Loans Company



student finance england
The student finance experts

ENTRANCE EXAMS



BMAT
BioMedical
Admissions Test

UK
Clinical
Aptitude
Test

ENTRANCE EXAMS — REGISTRATION AND TIMESCALE

<https://lnat.ac.uk/registration/dates-and-deadlines/>

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/ucat-test-cycle/>

Chase Terrace Academy

Post 18 options

Mrs Poppleton



chaseterraceacademy

WIDER POST 18 OPTIONS

- ❑ **Further Education/Higher Education at College-** Many Colleges offer HE courses which are often linked with Universities. This option might really suit some students - for example, those who want to stay closer to home because it might be cheaper or because they have family or personal commitments. Some might prefer to study in a smaller environment and be particularly interested in a shorter course related to a vocational area (with an option to top up to a full Honors Degree later). Student finance available
- ❑ **Higher Technical Qualifications-** HTQs are either new or existing Level 4 and 5 qualifications (such as HNDs/Foundation Degrees/Diploma HE) delivered at Colleges and Universities. Developed with employers/businesses due to current technical skills gaps. Start September 2022 starting with Digital, then Construction and Health and Science in 2023, with full roll-out over a four-year period. Student finance available
- ❑ **School leaver scheme** Offered in sectors like Accountancy, Engineering, Finance, IT, Law, Leisure and Retail. Similar to graduate employment schemes run over a longer period of time.
- ❑ **Internship-** short term spent with a company to learn new skills and gain experience in a particular industry or job role. This work experience gives you the opportunity to improve your understanding of a particular job or industry. Can be paid or unpaid and you can learn what a particular role is like, and gain real life work experience.
- ❑ **Start your own business** - Becoming an entrepreneur can be exciting, but needs careful thought about ideas, a solid business plan and likely start-up costs.
- ❑ **Gap Year** - offers an opportunity to gain skills and experiences, while giving you time to reflect and focus on what you want to do next. A productive gap year can be valuable on a CV which many employers and Universities value.
- ❑ **Direct Employment** - For some careers you do not need to study at a higher level than level 3 and you can go straight into work

Useful websites

- <https://targetcareers.co.uk>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/higher-technical>
- <https://www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/articles/article/101/post-18-options>
- <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/alternatives-higher-education>
- www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
- <https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz>
- www.whatuni.com
- <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles>
- <https://www.gapyear.com>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year>

APPRENTICESHIPS (INCLUDING HIGHER AND DEGREE LEVEL)

Daniel Birch

Work pays apprenticeships





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY

Any Questions ?