



# Student Finance and Budgeting

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Recruitment & Admissions

# Where is Lancaster?



Approximate train journey times

# Triple Top 15 *in the UK*

10<sup>TH</sup>

The number 10 is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. A small red building icon is positioned to the left of the '0'. A small blue circle containing the letters 'TH' is placed above the '0'. Two white cloud icons are also present, one above the '1' and one to the right of the '0'.

Complete University

Guide 2026

14<sup>TH</sup>

The number 14 is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. A small white cloud icon is positioned above the '1'. A small blue circle containing the letters 'TH' is placed above the '4'.

The Guardian

University Guide 2026

15<sup>TH</sup>

The number 15 is rendered in a large, blue, sans-serif font. A small blue circle containing the letters 'TH' is placed above the '5'. A stylized duck icon is integrated into the right side of the '5'.

The Times and Sunday Times

Good University Guide 2026



North  
Campus

# Our campus

The campus occupies 578  
acres of beautiful parkland

South  
Campus



Health Innovation Campus



Sports Centre



South-West Campus

# Today's session

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- Student Loans
- The Application Process
- Repayments
- Cost of Living
- Budgeting



# Student Loans Explained



# Student Finance Loans

## **Tuition Fees**

Pays your  
course fees

## **Maintenance**

To support  
living costs

# Tuition Fee Loan

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Capped at £9,790 per year currently.

Money is paid straight to the university.

All home students can apply for the full tuition fee loan.

No upfront fees on arrival at university!



# Maintenance Loan

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This is a *contribution* towards living costs, implying other sources of income may be needed.

All home students receive a base amount, with further amounts being means-tested.

Money is paid directly to your student bank account at the start of each term.



# Maintenance Loan

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The amount of maintenance loan you can receive is dependent on:

- Year of study
- Household income
- Location of your study and living



# Maintenance Loan: Location

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The maximum amount you can get depends on where you live while you're studying.

Location	Minimum Amount (non-means tested)	Additional Amount (means tested)	Combined Potential Total
Living with your parents/guardians	£4,013	£5,105	£9,118
Living away from home, in London	£7,039	£7,096	£14,135
Living away from home, outside London	£5,048	£5,782	£10,830

# Maintenance Loan: Household Income

Household Income	Minimum Amount (non-means tested)	Additional Amount (means tested)	Combined Total
< £25,001	£4,915	£5,629	£10,544
£30,000	£4,915	£4,876	£9,791
£35,000	£4,915	£4,123	£9,038
£40,000	£4,915	£3,370	£8,285
£45,000	£4,915	£2,617	£7,532
£50,000	£4,915	£1,864	£6,779
£55,000	£4,915	£1,111	£6,026
£60,000	£4,915	£358	£5,273
> £62,377	£4,915	£0	£4,915

# Student Finance Grants

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Extra financial help is available through Student Finance England, including:

- Disabled Students' Allowance
- NHS Bursaries (for certain courses)
- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Adult Dependants' Grant
- Childcare Grant



# Scholarships and Bursaries

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Awarded directly by individual universities and are managed directly by them.

Can be awarded for a range of reasons, including:

- Academic performance
- Sporting Ability
- Contextual Information

These do not need to be paid back.

Browse opportunities on UCAS, **The Scholarships Hub** or university websites.



# Lancaster Scholarships 2026

## Lancaster Bursary

*£1,000 per year of  
study*

For Home students  
from a household  
income of <£35,000

## Lancaster UG Excellence Scholarship

*£3,000 in first year*

For Home students who  
achieve A\*AA or  
equivalent and received  
five GCSEs at 7/A or  
above

# Applying for Student Finance



# Application Process

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Apply online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

Usually, Student Finance England applications open in early spring (March) and close after a couple of months (May/June).

Apply within the deadline to ensure timely payments when starting University!



## Stages of the application process

### **Create an account**

To begin, you need to create a login with SFE.

### **Eligibility**

Details about you, your course, nationality, etc.

### **The Loans**

Select which loans you require (tuition or maintenance)

## Stages of the application process

### **Dependency Status**

Are you  
assessed on  
parental  
income or not?

### **Additional Support**

Access to the  
additional SFE  
support  
strands

### **Household Income**

Parents' and  
Partners'  
Income for the  
last tax year

# Repayments



# Repayments: Interest

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Interest accumulates from the time of your first payment at university.

Interest is applied at the level of RPI (Retail Price Index; a measure of inflation on a 'basket of goods').

The Student Loan interest rate is usually fixed annually and is currently 3.1%.



# Repayments: How it works

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Both loans are combined into one balance.

Repayments begin in the April after graduation and the loan is written off after 40 years.

Everyone pays **9% of any income above £25,000**, and this is always based on income, not loan balance.



# Repayments: How it works

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Payments are taken automatically from graduate's salary.

Repayments are always calculated on that salary. If your salary decreases or stops, your repayments change to reflect this.

Student Loans have no impact on credit ratings or any other credit products (mortgages etc).

Salary (before tax)	Monthly Repayment Taken
£25,000	£0
£28,000	£22.50
£31,000	£45
£35,000	£75
£40,000	£112.50
£50,000	£187.50

*Indicative monthly repayments on a Student Finance England Plan 5 loan*

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Parents are divorced. Who completes the application?

- Students should ask who they live with or have the most contact with to fill out the form. If they spend an equal amount of time with both parents, they can pick.

## Parent has remarried / has a new partner. Do they need to fill in the application?

- If the parent supporting the application has remarried or is living with a new partner, Student Finance England will need their information as well.

## Does the student meet the residency eligibility criteria to apply for Student Finance?

- Visit the Student Finance website [www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies) for a breakdown of the eligibility criteria. Any questions, can contact SFE directly or a university's admissions team.

# Budgeting



# Sources of Income

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- Maintenance loan
- Employment
- Help from family
- Scholarships
- Bursaries
- Savings



# On Campus Jobs


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- Employment and Recruitment Service
- Part time and temporary work (non-academic)
- Over 4000 individual work opportunities
- Student Ambassador, Barista, IT Technician, Referee, Lifeguard





## Income & Essential Expenses



Income	Based on 40 weeks
Maintenance Loan (£40,000 income)	£8,284
Parental support (£50 per month)	£500
Income through employment (10hrs per week)	£4,400
Scholarship	£1,000
<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>£14,184</b>

Essential Expenses	Based on 40 weeks
Rent (Mid-range room)	£7,081
Food & Household Goods (£40pw)	£1,600
Transport (With Railcard)	£250
Phone Bill (£28pm)	£336
Textbooks/Stationery	£75
Laundry	£200
Contingency (£20pw)	£800
<b>Annual Expenses</b>	<b>£10,342</b>



## Income & Essential Expenses

- Our income for the year is **£14,184**.
- Our predicted essential costs for the year come to **£10,342**

$$\text{£14,184} - \text{£9,107} = \text{£3,842}$$

- This means we have **£3,842** left for the year to cover **non-essential expenses**
- To work out our monthly allowance, this is then divided by 10 months (the 40 weeks of term time)

$$\text{£3,842} / 10 = \text{£384.20 per month}$$



# Useful Resources

- **Student Finance Website** - [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance.uk](http://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance.uk)
- **Student Finance Calculator** - [www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)
- **The Scholarship Hub** - [www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/](http://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/)
- **The Student Room: SFE Student Finance Zone** – [www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/)
- **Martin Lewis MoneySavingExpert** – [www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/)



## Funding Uni

Student loans mythbusting  
Should you take the 'Plan 5' loan?  
Parental contribution calculator  
Student loan repayment  
Postgraduate loans

## Student Money

Student bank accounts  
Young drivers' Insurance  
Graduate accounts  
Student budgeting planner  
How to start saving

## Broadband & Mobile

How to get cheap broadband  
Best sim only deals  
Broadband Deals  
Negotiate with service providers  
Mobile broadband

## Uni Travel

Cheap train tickets  
Cheap flights  
Cheap hotel deals  
Backpacker insurance  
Cheap travel insurance

# Thank you

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Any Questions?