

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER

**GUIDE TO UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT FINANCE 2016**
PROSPECTIVE UK/EU STUDENTS



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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Deciding to go to university is one of the most important decisions you will ever make and we're delighted you're thinking about coming to the University of Exeter.

We are committed to attracting the best and brightest students and providing you with the support and facilities you will need to realise your potential. As well as investing in campus-wide developments to provide you with world class teaching and learning facilities, we have created a significant number of fee waivers and bursaries to complement the Government loans that are available. We believe that financial circumstances should not deter anyone from studying and that's why we are spending approximately £6 million on financial support for students in 2016/17.

The University of Exeter will be charging a tuition fee of £9,000 in 16/17 for all undergraduate programmes for students starting in 2016 and this guide will help to explain all the facts that you need to know about tuition fees and the additional support that will be available.

We know that the whole issue of student finance can be confusing. Being an undergraduate student involves two main expenses: tuition fees and living expenses; however, there is a variety of funding and financial help available from the Government and universities to pay for these. Our aim in this guide is to demystify and explain the system as clearly as possible, so you can make informed choices about your future and be able to budget effectively for your university career.

The information in this guide is mainly aimed at students from the UK, or those who are classed as Home students (although some information is also relevant to students from the European Union intending to study full-time). Students who are considering part-time study should see the back cover for advice on where to get further information.

TUITION FEES

For UK and EU students starting a new full-time degree at the University of Exeter in 2016, the fee will be £9,000. This figure may be subject to small increments set by the Government each year.

The only degrees which are an exception to this are:

- BSc Medical Imaging (Diagnostic Radiography):** the tuition fees will be paid by the NHS*
- BMBS Medicine:** the fee is £9,000 per year for years one to four. In year five the tuition fees will be paid by the NHS*
- Year Abroad or Year in Industry:** if, as part of your four-year degree programme, you spend a full academic year studying abroad you will pay a reduced fee of £1,350 (or 15 per cent of the maximum fee for that year). If you spend a full year on a work placement (in the UK or abroad) you will pay a reduced fee of £1,800 (or 20 per cent of the maximum fee for that year)

Tuition fee loans

As a UK/EU student, you will be able to apply for a loan to cover all your tuition fees in each year of your degree:

- You will not have to pay for any of your tuition fees in advance.**
- You will only start repaying the loan once you've graduated and are earning over £21,000 per year.**

You apply for your tuition fee loan through Student Finance England (www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance) at the same time as you apply for a maintenance loan (see page 5). Student Finance England pay the tuition fees direct to the university on your behalf. If you are eligible for a tuition fee loan, you will receive it regardless of your household income. Interest on the loan is linked to inflation, plus up to three per cent.

This tuition fee loan will then be added to any maintenance loan you take out, in terms of repayment. See page 5 for further information on the maintenance loan and page 7 for information on repaying these loans.

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER BURSARIES

We are committed to attracting and supporting the most talented students, irrespective of their financial background. We recognise, however, that some students will have concerns about the cost of their studies, especially if their families are less able to offer financial support, and so we provide a bursary scheme.

Access to Exeter Bursaries

The Access to Exeter Bursary is a guaranteed, non-competitive bursary available to students with a household income below £25,000, which does not have to be paid back.

Under the scheme we will provide a range of bursaries depending on your household income:

Household income	Access to Exeter Bursary Yr 1	Access to Exeter Bursary Yr 2 onwards
Below £16,000	£2,000	£1,500
£16,001 to £25,000	£1,000	£1,000

You do not have to apply for an Access to Exeter Bursary – we will automatically assess your entitlement based on information about your household income provided by Student Finance England. **However, we can only do this if you consent to Student Finance England sharing your financial details when you complete your application form.**

The Access to Exeter Bursary is available for each year of your undergraduate study.



From the moment I first visited Exeter, I knew it was the right university for me. Nestled in the heart of a beautiful city, Exeter had such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere; I felt at home instantly. What struck me most, aside from the fantastic range of facilities and excellent calibre of teaching staff, was the levels of enthusiasm students had when describing their experiences of Exeter life. You will gain more than a good degree here, you will gain a good CV and a strong foothold into the world of work. That is an offer hard to find in these economic times! So come and experience Exeter for yourself – it truly will be the best time of your life!



Holly Rodgers, 3rd Year, Archaeology



MAINTENANCE LOANS

Apart from taking out a loan to cover tuition fees, most students also need financial support to help with their living costs. Maintenance loans are available from the Government in addition to any support eligible students may receive from the University of Exeter or chosen university.

The figures below relate to financial support for students who are normally residents in England and who are starting university in the academic year 2016/17. Financial support is also available for students from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and also other EU countries; for further details visit the Student Finance website at www.gov.uk/student-finance.

If you are a full-time UK student, you will be able to apply for a loan to assist with your living costs such as food, accommodation and travel in each year of your degree. The amount you will be entitled to depends on your household income.

- A loan of up to £8,200 will be available if you live away from home and study outside London.

Household Income	Maintenance Loan
£25,000	£8,200
£30,000	£7,612
£35,000	£7,023
£40,000	£6,434
£42,875	£6,095
£45,000	£5,845
£50,000	£5,256
£55,000	£4,667
£60,000	£4,078
Over £62,180	£3,821

- A larger loan of up to £10,702 will be available if you live away from home and study in London.
- A loan of up to £6,904 for students living at home.

All eligible students are entitled to 65 per cent of the loan, regardless of their household income. Entitlement to the other 35 per cent is dependent on your household income.

Student Finance England will pay your loan straight into your bank or building society account in three instalments – one at the start of each term.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Full-time students with dependants

If you are a full-time student with children or adult dependants you may qualify for extra help. Non-repayable funding sources (2015/16 figures) that are dependent on household income include:

- Childcare Grant** – up to 85 per cent of childcare costs per week, up to a maximum of £155.24 for parents with one child or £266.15 for parents with two or more children
- Parents' Learning Allowance** – up to £1,573 per year towards course-related costs
- Adult Dependants Grant** – up to £2,757 per year if you have a financially-dependant partner or other adult

You should be aware that if you are claiming benefits, your eligibility for a maintenance loan (whether you take it or not) and some student grants may be counted as income by the job centre and housing benefits office. Further information on these grants, including eligibility criteria, can be found at www.gov.uk/student-finance

Other grants for specific circumstances

Some groups of students may be able to get additional, non-repayable grants from the Government. Additional grants are available in the form of the following:

- Disabled Students' Allowance** – this help is not means-tested and is intended to help towards additional support you may need because of a disability. This is paid on top of your other student finance and does not need to be repaid. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas
- Hardship Funding** – provides help for students in hardship who may need extra financial support for their degree and to stay in Higher Education

PAYING BACK YOUR LOANS

You only start to pay your tuition and maintenance loans back once you are earning over £21,000 a year.

When you are earning over £21,000 per year you will only repay a small proportion of your income above £21,000.

If your salary falls below £21,000, your repayments will stop – for example if you take a career break or are unemployed.

Repayments only start again when you earn over £21,000. The loan repayments will be deducted from your salary, normally through the tax system.



LIVING EXPENSES – HOW MUCH WILL THEY BE?

Your living expenses will mainly include accommodation (unless you are a student living rent-free at home), food, entertainment and books. Other living costs will depend on your lifestyle.

How can I budget for my living costs?

Step 1: Incoming budget – Start by working out an overall incoming budget. Add together how much money you will receive from loans, bursaries and any other sources of funding, such as savings or parental contributions.

Step 2: Outgoings budget – Make a list of the things you will need and want to spend money on. These generally include:

Accommodation

Accommodation will normally be your largest expenditure. In 2015 the average cost of accommodation in catered University halls (where breakfast and dinner are provided daily) was £193 per week, and in self-catered University accommodation it was £130 per week (depending on the type of room). It may seem that this makes self-catered much cheaper, but you should bear in mind that catered accommodation contracts are for

32 weeks of the year (so you pay for fewer weeks but have to clear out your room during the holidays); whilst self-catered University accommodation contracts are generally for 40 or 44 weeks per year (which means you don't have to clear out your room during Christmas and Easter holidays but you are paying for it when you may not be there). In private sector accommodation, rents in 2014 were in the region of £80-120 per week, plus a deposit of around £400 per person. For up-to-date information on accommodation costs go to www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation

Bills

In University accommodation, rents include all utility bills and contents insurance cover for the room. In private accommodation, gas, electricity, water, telephone, TV licence, insurance and broadband costs all need to be taken into consideration.

Food

While catered accommodation is great for those who don't want to have to cook for themselves (although you will still need to think of lunches), self-catered accommodation offers the flexibility to cook all meals for yourself. However, costs can mount up if you don't plan ahead and relying on takeaways or ready-meals is expensive.

Try to organise a menu for a week and write a shopping list to ensure that you only purchase the food you will use. If you're in self-catered accommodation it's cost effective to shop, cook and eat in a group as sharing the cooking will save you money and time and can be a lot more fun.

Course costs

Some courses require you to buy more books and materials than others and some may require you to take part in field trips or buy special equipment such as lab coats. At the University of Exeter essential health and safety equipment and the cost of compulsory field trips will be covered by your tuition fees. Your academic department will be able to provide a guide to the costs you can expect for other field trips and special equipment and some provide bursaries towards the costs of these. Forward planning, second-hand book sales and good use of the library can save money.

Travel costs

At the University of Exeter, our accommodation is either on the campuses or within walking distance, so you won't have to spend money on transport to and from campus. All of our campuses are also within walking distance (or short bus journeys)

of stations, shops and entertainment. Take advantage of special discounts for students on trains and coaches, and book trips as far in advance as possible, so you can get the cheapest fares. If you own a car, consider whether you need a car at university at all – parking on campus is severely restricted and the costs of running a car are high.

Leisure and sports

Consider club and society membership costs, gym membership and whether you'll need to hire equipment or pay for extras.

Social life and entertainment

There is so much to do while you're a student and not all of it costs a lot! Our Students' Guild provides fantastic subsidised entertainment but costs can still mount up if you go out often. Make sure that you are realistic about how much you might need and how much you can afford to spend, then stick to your budget.

Other expenses

You also need to consider other necessities such as clothing, toiletries, haircuts and extras including presents, telephone (including mobile contract), internet and TV licence.

Step 3: Balance the books – Once you've got a general idea of how much income you'll have from loans and bursaries and how much your living costs will be, you'll be able to work out how much you need to spend each week or month, whether your income will cover this and whether there is any shortfall. Working out how much you will need to live on is an important calculation to make before university starts. It is worth thinking about how this breaks down week by week, particularly as student finance/funding tends to be paid on a term by term basis, and you will need to make your loan stretch until the next term begins.

Most students will find that expenditure exceeds income and so you'll need to find ways of saving money and/or increasing

your disposable income. Additional income sources include savings, extra parental contributions and interest-free bank overdrafts. If your outgoings exceed what is coming in, it is probably worth thinking about getting a sensible level of part-time work to help bridge the gap. Vacation work is also a good option as you can supplement your term-time expenses.

Part-time work

Most students supplement their grants and loans by working part-time. The maximum recommended is 10-15 hours during term-time and the national average pay for students working 16 hours a week is around £90. The Career Zone on the Streatham Campus in Exeter is there to help students find part-time jobs and the Careers Service at the Penryn Campus offers a similar service for Cornwall-based students.



Example expenditure

Student A – living in catered accommodation

Catered accommodation for students based in Exeter 2015/16
(term-time costs only – 32 weeks per year)

Accommodation	Average £ 193 per week for 32 weeks	£6,180
Books and equipment		£300
Food – lunches, coffees, etc	Approx £20 per week for 32 weeks	£650
Clubs and societies		£300
Clothing		£250
TV licence		£145
Travel home		£200
Toiletries and haircuts		£150
Telephone and internet		£250
Social life	Approx £35 per week	£1,120
House deposit for next year		£400
TOTAL		£9,945

Student B – living in University self-catered accommodation

Self-catered accommodation for students based in Exeter 2015/16
(term-time costs only – NB generally, rent is payable for 40/44 weeks of the year)

Accommodation	Average £130 per week for 40 weeks	£5,200
Books and equipment		£300
Food – all food	Approx £35 per week for 32 weeks	£1,120
Clubs and societies		£300
Clothing		£250
TV licence		£145
Travel home		£200
Toiletries and haircuts		£150
Telephone and internet		£250
Social life	Approx £35 per week	£1,120
House deposit for next year		£400
TOTAL		£9,515

NOTE: These examples are intended to demonstrate costs of living at university during term-time only. It assumes that you will be supported by your parents, or by other means, during holidays. Rents are reviewed annually and details for October 2016 will be available in March 2016.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What help is available for mature or part-time students?

Part-time students will still have to pay tuition fees on a pro-rata basis but can also apply for a tuition fee loan to cover their tuition costs, again on a pro-rata basis. To be eligible for a tuition fee loan, this must generally be the first time you've studied on a Higher Education degree and you must complete a minimum of 25 per cent of the equivalent full-time course load per year. We know that part-time and mature students often have more complex financial queries that they need to discuss before they make the decision to go to university. Prospective students can access impartial advice from the Students' Guild Advice Unit. You can telephone them on 01392 723520 to make an appointment, email them at studentadvice@exeter.ac.uk or visit their website www.exeterguild.org/advice

What are you doing to support students from lower income households?

We are committed to ensuring that high achieving students will be able to study for an undergraduate degree at the University of Exeter irrespective of their financial background. In 2016/17 we will spend approximately £6 million on financial support for around one third of our UK/EU students beginning their studies in that academic year. In addition we will spend £6 million on activities that support access,

student success and progression to raise aspirations and encourage students to enter and remain in Higher Education.

How much will I have to pay if I choose a degree which includes a year abroad or a year-long industrial placement?

Students enrolling in four-year programmes involving a year-long work placement will pay £1,800 and students studying abroad will pay £1,350 during their year away from the University instead of the full annual tuition fee. These reduced fees will be used to cover the costs of administration, and preparing and supporting students during their year away.

How much will I have to pay if I choose a degree which includes a semester abroad? If you are studying abroad for a semester you will pay the standard tuition fee for the year in which you are away, ie, £9,000.

My degree involves a lot of field work. Will I be expected to pay extra for this?

Your tuition fee will cover the cost of participation in compulsory field trips, although you may be required to pay a contribution depending on your choice of field location. If you choose to participate in additional, optional field trips or field work, you may be expected to contribute to costs. Bursaries will be available to help eligible students pay for these additional optional costs.





Useful contacts

For more information on financial help available to undergraduate students visit:

www.gov.uk/student-finance and

www.exeter.ac.uk/funding

For information on student finance at the University of Exeter:

Phone: 0300 555 0444

Email: sid@exeter.ac.uk

Visit: www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance

For independent advice about finance contact:

Students' Guild Advice Unit
(Exeter campuses)

Phone: +44 (0)1392 723520

Email: studentadvice@exeter.ac.uk

Visit: www.exeterguild.org/advice

FXU Advice Service (Penryn Campus)

Phone: +44 (0)1326 370447

Email: advice@fxu.org.uk

Visit: www.fxu.org.uk

This document forms part of the University's Undergraduate Prospectus. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the Prospectus is correct at the time of going to print. The University will endeavour to deliver programmes and other services in accordance with the descriptions provided on the website and in this prospectus. The University reserves the right to make variations to programme content, entry requirements and methods of delivery and to discontinue, merge or combine programmes, both before and after a student's admission to the University. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications/disclaimer

