



# Guide to undergraduate student finance

For prospective UK students looking  
to start university in 2026



University  
of Exeter

**DISCOVER  
UNIVERSITY**



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# INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Deciding to go to university is an important decision 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 bursaries to complement the Government finance that is available. We believe that financial circumstances should not prevent anyone from studying at university.

Being an undergraduate student involves two main expenses: tuition fees and living costs; 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 explain the system as clearly as possible, so you can make informed choices about your future and be able to budget effectively.

This guide is aimed at students from the UK, or those who are classed as Home students. Students who are considering part-time study should see the useful contacts section for advice on where to get further information.

For information on whether you qualify as a UK Home student for funding purposes, check the UKCISA website: [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Further information for students who qualify as international may be found on: [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/international/](http://exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/international/)



# TUITION FEES

Tuition fees for UK students starting in 2026 have not yet been approved by the UK Government but are £9,535 per year from September 2025. This figure could be subject to change should government policy alter. The fee covers all tuition fees, essential course costs, registration and exams.

The only exceptions to the standard fee are:

- **BMBS Medicine:** The standard tuition fee is applied per year for years one to four. Home students are potentially eligible for NHS bursary funding to cover their final year tuition fees. Each country within the UK has different rules around this funding. Application for seeking that funding is the responsibility of each individual student. To find out more about current rules, please go to [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary)
- **Year Abroad / 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 approximately 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 20 per cent of the maximum fee for that year.

## Tuition Fee Loans

Tuition fees don't have to be paid upfront. Eligible students can get a Tuition Fee Loan that covers the full cost of their tuition fees. By taking out a tuition fee loan you are effectively deferring payment of your tuition fees until after you graduate and are earning.

As a UK 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.
- Student Finance 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, see Paying back your loan.

Most students do take a tuition fee loan, but if you don't want to, then you can pay the university the tuition fees directly. Options will be presented to you when you enrol that include paying by direct debit in three instalments during the academic year.

# LIVING COSTS

The other main costs are your living costs. These can vary hugely depending on your lifestyle/priorities, course and where you live during university.

The cost of going to university and managing your money can be a concern or a challenge to many students. It may be your first time living away from home, you may have dependents to care for, or you may not have additional financial support from family members.

Accommodation will usually be your biggest living cost. This will be the case if you move away from home for university. If you stay at home, it depends on what arrangements you have with your parents/carers. We offer a wide range of accommodation, to suit all budgets and tastes. You might go for catered halls so that you can hand the responsibility for cooking over to our catering team, or go for the flexibility of self-catered accommodation, in which case you'll want to budget for your weekly shop (including eating out). There are also private accommodation options in both Exeter and Penryn.

The prices below give a guide to approximate weekly costs for both self-catered and catered options at our Devon and Cornwall campus locations, ranging from shared rooms to private rooms or studios with en-suite facilities. For further details, see our accommodation pages; [exeter.ac.uk/study/life/accommodation](https://exeter.ac.uk/study/life/accommodation)

	Campus	
	Streatham and St Luke's (Exeter, Devon)	Penryn (Cornwall)
Self-catered	£118.72 - £210.77 per week	£144.41 - £192.50 per week
Catered	£204.68 - £325.22 per week	£200.69 - £248.78 per week

These are based on prices for the 2025/26 academic year.

## Typical living costs (per year)

Self-catered accommodation (40 weeks)	£6,589.80
Academic costs	£192.00
Takeaways	£351.76
Supermarket spend	£976.00
Hobbies	£348.00
Clothing and fashion	£630.00
Home entertainment	£96.00
Socialising	£552.00
Household bills	£1,262.24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£10,997.80</b>

Accommodation cost based on University of Exeter average (Exeter campuses), Sept 2025. Other costs based on the Natwest Student Living Index, August 2024.

## Maintenance Loan

Apart from taking out a loan to cover tuition fees, most students also need financial support to help with their living costs. Eligible students can apply for maintenance funding to help with these costs. The funding you receive will depend on where you live and importantly your household income.

The government decides how much Maintenance Loan you should receive based on your household income. This is because they expect your parents or guardians to contribute to your living costs, however they are under no obligation to do so.



## Currently Living in England

The minimum loan you will receive from Student Finance England will be dependent on where you are living and on your family household income.

Full-time Student	2025/26
Living at home	Up to £8,877
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £10,544
Living away from home, in London	Up to £13,762
Spending a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £12,076

## Currently Living in Wales

In Wales, all students apply to Student Finance Wales. You can get a mixture of loan and grant to help with your living costs. How much you get depends on your household income and where you live and study. The proportion available as a grant and loan will depend on your family household income, below shows the maximum amounts available, see Student Finance Wales for breakdown by household income.

Full-time Student	2025/26		
	Loan	Grant	Total Available
Living at home	Up to £3,595	Up to £6,885	Up to £10,480
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £4,245	Up to £10,544	Up to £12,345
Living away from home, in London	Up to £5,291	Up to £10,124	Up to £15,415
Spending a year of a UK course studying abroad	Students can apply for a Travel Grant (eligibility applies to cover the extra costs if studying abroad or a health-care student on placement in the UK).		

# ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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:

- Adult Dependants' Grant – if you have a financially dependant adult
- Parents' Learning Allowance – if you have a dependant child/ren
- Childcare Grant – if you use registered or approved childcare
- Disabled Students' Allowance – to help with associated costs of a specific learning difficulty or disability.

You apply for these at the same time as you apply for your tuition fee and maintenance funding, there are also some difference in amounts and eligibility dependent on your home location across the UK.

## Funding for specific circumstances

- Disabled Students' Allowance – to help with associated costs of a specific learning difficulty, health difficulty or disability. This help is not means-tested and is intended to help towards any extra support you may need during your studies, e.g. equipment, travel support, a sign language interpreter, etc. 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](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas)
- Hardship Funding – provides help for students in hardship who may need extra financial support for their degree

## NHS Learner Support Fund

- Through the NHS Learning Support Fund, students starting or continuing study on a range of Nursing and Allied Health degrees at undergraduate or postgraduate level can apply for a Training Grant of £5,000 per academic year.
- Potential extra payments worth up to £3,000 per academic year will be available for eligible students. This includes £1000 for those studying in an area of shortage specialism, including radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic) and mental health nursing. Find out more and how to apply: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learner-support-fund](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learner-support-fund)

# PAYING BACK YOUR LOANS

You will only start to repay your student loans once you have completed your studies, and your income is above the earnings threshold.

Your tuition fee loan and maintenance loan will be added together and paid back in the same way, with the same rate of interest applied. You do not need to pay back other student finance, for example grants and bursaries.

Repayments will be deducted from your salary if you are an employee. If you are self-employed you will need to calculate and make your own repayments. Your repayments automatically stop if either you stop working or your income goes below the threshold. There's no penalty for paying some or all of your loan off early.

As it's not a commercial loan it does not go on a student's credit file. Therefore, it doesn't impact a student's ability to access credit for other commercial loans (though repayments can be taken into account when working out affordability). However, it's likely that there will be other bills or contracts that a student may have once living independently after university, which will have an impact on their ability to access commercial credit.

## Example

For home students from England the repayment threshold is currently when your income is over £25,000 a year.

You'll repay 9% on your income over the threshold, for example:

You have an income of £30,000 a year, you would be £5,000 per year over the £25,000 threshold.

Therefore paying 9% on the £5,000, which would be £450 per year.

This means the amount you'd repay each month would be £37.50, this amount only changes if your salary changes.



## Example of monthly repayments for students who are from England

Annual salary	Total monthly repayment
£25,000 or less	£0
£28,000	£22
£31,000	£45
£33,000	£60
£35,000	£75
£45,000	£150

## Interest

You are charged interest from the first payment to you or to your university until your loan has been repaid in full or cancelled. Interest is added to your balance each month.

The interest rate is usually set on 1 September each year, based on the Retail Price Index of the previous March. The interest rate charged is normally the Retail Price Index. The rate of interest and the terms and conditions of your student loans can change in line with Government legislation and review. Any change in repayment conditions should be communicated to you by your relevant UK Funding Body, eg Student Finance England.





### Financial Support from the University of Exeter

We are committed to supporting students from all walks of life and building an inclusive learning environment. Our range of financial support includes travel bursaries, tuition fee waivers, help with accommodation, paid internships and more.

Scholarships, bursaries and awards are university dependent and are designed to help with your tuition fees and living costs. The way they are managed is specific to the university and are subject to change.

### Access to Exeter Bursary

The Access to Exeter Bursary is a guaranteed, non-competitive bursary available to students with a household income below £35,000. It does not have to be paid back. It's paid in three termly instalments, with larger amounts being paid for the first two terms.

The scheme will be available to students for each year of undergraduate study, provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

We will automatically assess your entitlement for an award based on your household income information provided by the relevant UK Funding Body. However, we can only do this if you, and your parent(s) or sponsor, do not opt out of consenting to share your financial details when you complete your Application for Student Finance.

### Support for specific groups

We have a range of support which is financial but also other support services for specific groups. Bursary amounts for the groups below are not always fixed and can be dependent on personal situation. In addition, eligibility criteria apply across the different support opportunities. For more information visit: [exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support](https://exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support)



The Exeter Cares Team is here to help undergraduate students if they are a care leaver, care experienced, estranged, student carer, a mature learner, Asylum seeker and refugee. The team can offer advice and guidance with the application process, and with a range of pastoral and financial support to help students succeed in their studies and reach their full potential.



- **Care Leavers Financial Support Full Tuition Fee waiver** – We offer financial support in the form of a full tuition fee waiver to undergraduate students who are verified as being a care leaver.

The **Care Leavers Bursary** offers financial support for undergraduate students who are recognised as a care leaver.

To view full eligibility criteria and terms and conditions visit [exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/careleavers/](https://exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/careleavers/)

- **Estranged students** – **The estranged student's bursary** offers financial support for undergraduate students who are recognised as being estranged from their parents.

To view full eligibility criteria and terms and conditions visit [exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/estrangedstudents/](https://exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/estrangedstudents/)

- **Asylum seekers and refugees** – **The Sanctuary scholarship** is open to asylum seekers and refugees who are not able to access student finance, and who are applying for undergraduate and doctoral programmes at the University of Exeter, the Sanctuary Scholarship provides full tuition fee waivers, grants for living costs and research funding where applicable. For information about eligibility [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/award/?id=2750](https://exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/award/?id=2750)

**Partial tuition fee waiver** – If you are a current asylum seeker, you may be eligible for our partial tuition fee waiver. While you will still be classed as an international student, your tuition fees will be the same as those for students from the UK.

- **Young adult Carers** – **Student Carers Travel Fund** aims to financially support students with additional travel costs that you may incur due to your caring responsibilities. For more information and to view eligibility criteria visit [exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/studentcarers/](https://exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/studentcarers/)
- **Mature Students** – **The Mature Students scholarship** is for learners aged over 25 when they start, they course. For more information and to view eligibility criteria visit [exeter.ac.uk/students/mature](https://exeter.ac.uk/students/mature)



## Making your studies more affordable

We understand that managing your money during your studies can be challenging, especially when the cost of living is high. That's why working with the Student Unions we've created a dedicated **Cost of Living Support** hub to help you stay informed and supported throughout your time at university.

### What support is available?

#### **Money Advice & Budgeting Tools:**

Access free, confidential advice on budgeting, managing debt, and making your money go further.

**Food & Essentials:** Look out for low-cost food options, discounted groceries, and subsidised meals across our campuses.

**Sustainability:** Find useful equipment and essentials through recycle and reuse schemes.

**Accommodation Help:** Guidance is available if you're having trouble with rent or housing costs.

**Wellbeing:** free sports, cultural and social activities to help you enjoy university life on a budget.

**Financial support and payment plans:** If you're struggling financially, you may be eligible for hardship funds or help with scheduling your payments.

## Keep up to date

The University regularly updates the **Cost of Living Support** hub to reflect the latest campus-specific support options, events, and resources - so it's worth checking back often.

## Scholarships

We have a number of scholarships available, which are awarded for a number of different reasons; these may include academic merit, personal achievement and intellectual ability. These include:

**Sports** - The scheme provides a comprehensive support package and is tailored to suit the needs of each individual athlete.

**Choral** - In addition to the Chapel Choir, the University also has close performing relations with Exeter Cathedral and three local churches, each offering their own scholarship schemes. The awards available are of various values, depending on weekly duties.

**Entrance** - The University invites applications from candidates who also meet the specific requirements of the individual awards and have been offered an undergraduate place at the University (Exeter and Penryn campuses) through UCAS.

**Travel** - Including the Mrs Bessie Rook Memorial Scholarships are awarded to students who will be studying abroad in German and/or French speaking countries. Also available are a small number of travel bursaries to students of all degree programmes at the Penryn and Truro Campuses to help with the costs of residential field courses (excluding research/dissertation trips).



If you are interested in applying for a scholarship please view our funding database for details of which awards are available and how to apply; visit: [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/search](https://exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/search)



# APPLYING FOR FINANCE

Application for finance is made in the Spring before starting in the Autumn term, the exact amount you will receive may change each year. Students can apply for finance with their firm choice university, and confirm and make changes if they are awaiting summer exam results closer to the start of term.

For further details you will need to check the information provided by your national funding authority as different schemes are in place dependent on where you usually live. Please visit one of the following websites:



England  
[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)



Guernsey & Alderney  
[www.gov.gg/studentfinance](http://www.gov.gg/studentfinance)



Wales  
[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)



Jersey  
[www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/StudentFinance](http://www.gov.je/Working/SkillsCareersHigherEducation/StudentFinance)



Scotland  
[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)



Isle of Man  
<https://desc.gov.im/education/education/student-awards/>



Northern Ireland  
[www.studentfinancenir.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

## Payments

As long as you have received confirmation of your funding from your national funding authority and the details are correct (course and university), then your first instalment should be paid within 3-5 working days of you completing enrolment. If a tuition fee loan has been taken this will be paid directly to your university, the maintenance loan and any additional government finance is usually paid in three instalments across the academic year, according to your universities term dates.

When you apply most national funding authorities will ask for a bank account, this can be a current account, in the student's name. A student bank account can be opened once your student status is confirmed, usually after summer examination results.

## Sharia Law and student finance

We are aware that students of certain faiths may not wish to take out Student Finance loans to fund their study and living costs because of the interest added to the repayment of such loans. The UK government are planning to introduce a suitable alternative, but currently there is no confirmed launch date for this. A Takaful fund would be established away from other student loans to ensure full Sharia-compliance. It is worth applying for student finance but apply for a £0.00 loan, as you could still be eligible for university bursaries.

There are a few well-known Islamic banks and charities, that can offer appropriate facilities to students to help fund their studies including Ansar Finance, The National Zakat Foundation (NZF) and United Bank UK (UBL).

### Need further advice?

The University of Exeter hosts regular free webinars for both prospective students, parents and guardians. Why not sign up to one and find out more?



Prospective students can download further resources and sign up to our webinar series on: [exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity](http://exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity)



Parents, guardians and supporters may sign up to our regular newsletters and webinar programme on: [exeter.ac.uk/supporter](http://exeter.ac.uk/supporter)



# FIND OUT MORE

Our University of Exeter funding and scholarships for undergraduate students' information has a wide variety of resources, and signposts to a range of funding pathways. For details visit: [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/undergraduate](https://exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/undergraduate)



## Advice

- **Student Finance Calculator**, is for students usually based in England, to find out what you may be eligible for before you apply, visit: [www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)
- **Money Saving Expert**, has a range of guidance for parents and supporters as well as clear information about repayments, student bank accounts and budgeting tips, visit: [www.moneysavingexpert.com/students](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students)
- **National Union of Students (NUS)** highlights information about student finance and related topics from the NUS website at [www.nus.org.uk](https://www.nus.org.uk)
- **National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA)** is a charity working to help students by providing advice, information and training. You can get more information by visiting [www.nasma.org.uk](https://www.nasma.org.uk)
- **Save the Student** provides a wide range of support from loans to part time employment whilst studying, visit: [www.savethestudent.org/student-finance](https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance)

## Bursaries and Scholarships

- **Blackbullion** (The Scholarship Hub) has a free database that allows you to search the scholarships offered by universities and charities, visit: [www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk](https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk)
- **Turn2us** is a charity where you can check whether you qualify for funding from a charitable trust, search: [www.grants-search.turn2us.org.uk](https://www.grants-search.turn2us.org.uk)
- **Black Heart Foundation** is a grant-issuing organisation, visit: [www.blackheartfoundation.org](https://www.blackheartfoundation.org)
- **Disability Rights UK**, hosts a range of funding support for those accessing education with a disability, visit: [www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/funding-charitable-trusts](https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/funding-charitable-trusts)



## FAQs

### Is funding available for a masters degree?

If you are applying for an integrated masters degree, student finance will normally provide funding for the duration of the course. If you already hold a degree, you may get limited funding if you're 'topping up' a higher education qualification, or if you are applying for a course in a specific subject area. Further information may be found on [www.gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

### Is there funding available for postgraduate courses?

You may find information on funding for postgraduate courses on [exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/postgraduate](https://exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/postgraduate)

### Do you have any further information I may access about student finance?

We run free live webinars for both prospective students and parents/guardians/supporters. You may find further information about these on [exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity](https://exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity)





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