



student finance **england**  
the student finance experts

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Personal eligibility



Course eligibility



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Student  
finance  
eligibility



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# Student finance eligibility

## Whether a student can get student finance depends on:

- their personal eligibility;
- their course; and
- their university or college

## Personal eligibility

Students must meet certain criteria on nationality and residency; age; and previous study.

### Nationality and residency

To apply for student finance, the student must:

- be a UK national or have settled status (that is, no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK);
- normally live in England; and
- have been living in the UK for at least three years before the first day of their course.



They may also be eligible if they are:

- an EU national, or a relative of one;
- a refugee, or a relative of one;
- under Humanitarian Protection, or a relative of someone under Humanitarian Protection;
- an EEA/Swiss migrant worker, or a relative of one;
- the child of a Swiss national; or
- the child of a Turkish worker.

### Age

There is no upper age limit for students applying for grants or the Tuition Fee Loan. But to apply for a Maintenance Loan the student must be under 60 at the start of their course.



# Student finance eligibility

## Previous study

Students can usually only get student finance for their first higher-education qualification.

As a general rule, Tuition Fee Loans are available for the full length of the course, plus one extra year if needed, for example if:

- they change course; or
- leave their course but decide to start again.

The number of years for which a student is eligible for funding is calculated as:

**Length of current course + one additional year – years of previous study**

An additional year of support may be available if a student needs to repeat a year due to compelling personal reasons, such as illness, and can prove this.



## Course eligibility

The course must be in the UK and one of the following:

- first degree, eg BA, BSc or BEd;
- Foundation Degree;
- Higher National Certificate (HNC);
- Higher National Diploma (HND);
- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE);
- Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE);
- Integrated Masters; or
- Initial Teacher Training (ITT).



If in any doubt, students should check if their course qualifies with their university or college.

## University or college eligibility

The university or college must be in the UK and either:

- publicly funded (paid for by the government); or
- privately funded but running individual courses that receive public funding.