

## Part-time Students: Financial Support

The purpose of this leaflet is to give a basic overview of the funding that is available if you are starting a part-time course in the academic year 2018/19.

These changes **do not** apply to continuing students, who started their course before 2018.

Most students who wish to study at University on a part-time basis can now apply for a fee loan. This means that if you were deterred from studying in the past due to up-front fee costs you can apply for a loan to cover the fee costs. The amount you borrow is repayable when you have completed or you leave your course and you are earning over £25,000 per year.

### Am I eligible for the Fee Loan?

You should be eligible for a fee loan if you fit all the following criteria:

1. You are a 'home'/EU student; the rules for home status are complicated so for more information see Welfare Advice Guide: 2017/18 'Home Status and Funding'
2. You are studying for a degree, HND, HNC or similar
3. You are taking a minimum of 25% of the course per academic year
4. Your course lasts at least one year
5. You do not already hold a degree level qualification

### How much fee support will I receive?

The maximum amount payable will be up to 75% of the full-time equivalent. This means that on current University charges for full time study a maximum of £6,935.00 will be available.

### What is the maximum number of years I can receive the fee loan?

Sixteen years, assuming you are studying only 25% each year. If you study a larger percentage you will require less.

### What are the income criteria?

There are no income criteria, the loan is non-means-tested, and therefore your household income is irrelevant.

### Will I get a loan for living costs?

**Yes.** A maintenance loan has been introduced for new Part-Time Undergraduates. The amount of maintenance loan you receive would vary depending on house hold income and the intensity of your part time study.

For students who are studying 75% of a full time course, living away from home and studying in London; the maximum loan for living costs would be £8,515.

For students who are are studying 75% of a full time course and living at home; the maximum loan for living costs would be £5,493.

### How do I apply?

You apply to Student Finance England  
[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

### What about EU students?

If you are an EU student you may also be eligible to apply for the fee loan as long as you meet the residency criteria. See Welfare Advice Guide: 2018/19 'EU Students and Funding'.

### How do I pay back my Fee Loan?

You'll be due to start repaying your loan in the April, four years after the start of your course or the April after you leave your course - whichever comes first. But you only start to pay when you are earning above the £25,000 per year threshold. At this point you will have deductions made from your salary through the tax system.

For example, if you earn £25,000, your employer will deduct 9% of £4,000 which will amount to £30 per month.

### Will I be charged interest?

Essentially, while you are studying, interest on your loan will be based on inflation (RPI-Retail Price Index) plus 3% up until the April you are due to start repaying. If your income is less than £25,000 interest will be applied at RPI. If you earn between £25,000 and £41,000 interest will be applied between RPI and RPI plus 3% on a gradual scale. If you earn above £41,000, interest will be RPI plus 3%.

## Is there any help available for disabled students?

**Yes.** Non means-tested **Disabled Student Allowances** are payable to students who have a mental health condition, a specific learning difficulty or a disability. Students on distance learning courses can also apply. The allowance has three components: a Specialist Equipment Allowance, a Non-Medical Helper Allowance, and a General Allowance. All these allowances are **non-repayable**.

For more information see Welfare Advice Guide: 2018/19 'Disability Support'.

## Is there any further financial help for students with children?

**Yes.** Part-time students with children in childcare can apply for help to meet **some** of these costs through the University's **Student Support Fund (SSF)**.

## What about Welfare Benefits?

Unlike the majority of full-time students, part-time students can claim means-tested benefits while they study. These benefits, such as Income Support, ESA or Job Seeker's Allowance, have their own rules about entitlement, which have to be satisfied. The fee loan should not be counted for benefit purposes, however maintenance loan may be counted.

**Note:** Benefit changes were introduced in April 2013, Universal Credit and Personal Independent Payments are replacing existing benefits. Check with the Student Advice Team if this affects you.

## And don't forget...

Part-time students with children can receive Child Tax Credit even if they are not working. Those who are working can apply for Working Tax Credit. The Working Tax Credit has the added bonus that if the working hours suffice (24 hrs for a lone parent and 30 between couples) then you may also receive help with formal childcare costs. So if you are working it might be worth increasing your hours to qualify for help with childcare costs. See above re: benefit changes.

Please remember this is only a very brief overview of the student funding system in 2018/19. If you have any individual enquiries we suggest you contact directly:

**[www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england](http://www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england)**

## Any questions?

Contact the Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team on 020 8411 3008 or email: **[welfare@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:welfare@mdx.ac.uk)**

You can access some of our other Welfare Advice Guide information leaflets at:

**[unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides](http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides)**

Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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