

student finance wales
cyllid myfyrwyr cymru



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk



Thinking of going to university
in 2012/13?
A quick guide



Contents

Thinking of studying full-time at university in 2012/13? 1

- Living cost (Maintenance) loan 2
- Assembly Learning Grant 2
- Assembly Learning Grant and
Maintenance Loan entitlement 3
- Rates of interest 4
- Loan repayments 5
- Course requirements 5

Thinking of studying part-time at university in 2012/13? 6

- Fee Grant 7
- Course Grant 8
- Studying at the Open University 9
- Studying in England 9
- Course requirements 9

Useful contacts 10



Thinking of studying full-time at university in 2012/13?

From September 2012, universities and others providing higher education will be able to charge up to £9,000 a year for their full-time courses.

If you are from Wales and studying for your first degree or other higher education course you will not have to pay your tuition fees in advance.

Both a tuition fee loan and a new fee grant are available from the Welsh Government via Student Finance Wales. You will also get support towards your living costs.

No upfront costs

- You don't have to pay for your course upfront.
- You can get a tuition fee loan of up to £3,465 per year to cover the initial cost of your tuition, which you only start to pay back when you are earning over £21,000 a year. You can also get a **new fee grant** which will pay the balance of the tuition fees up to a maximum of £9,000, wherever you study in the UK.
- Your local authority student finance office will assess your eligibility for support and the Student Loans Company will handle your payments.



Living cost (Maintenance) loan

- A loan is available to help with your living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.
- The amount you can borrow depends on where you live and study, and your household income.
- A loan of up to £4,745 a year will be available if you live away from home and study outside London.
- A larger loan of up to £6,648 a year will be available if you live away from home and study in London.
- A loan of up to £3,673 a year will be available if you live with your parents.
- You may be eligible to receive a partial cancellation of up to £1,500 on your living cost loan, subject to the approval of the National Assembly for Wales.



Assembly Learning Grant

- The grant is available to help with your living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.
- The grant does not have to be paid back.
- The amount you receive depends on your household income.
- If your household income is £18,370 a year or less you will be entitled to a full grant of £5,000 a year.
- If your household income is between £18,370 and £50,020 a year you would be entitled to a grant of between £50 and £5,000 a year.



Assembly Learning Grant and Maintenance Loan entitlement

Household Income	Assembly Learning Grant	Maintenance Loan living away from home and studying outside London (maximum £4,745)	Maintenance Loan living away from home and studying in London (maximum £6,648)	Maintenance Loan living at their parents' home (maximum £3,673)
£18,370	£5,000	£1,901	£3,804	£829
£25,000	£3,242	£2,800	£4,703	£1,728
£30,000	£2,033	£3,526	£5,429	£2,454
£34,000	£1,106	£4,082	£5,985	£3,010
£40,000	£711	£4,319	£6,222	£3,247
£45,000	£381	£4,517	£6,420	£3,445
£50,020	£50	£4,715	£6,618	£3,643

Rates of interest

The table below shows some salaries and typical repayment amounts.

Salary	Amount of salary from which 9% will be deducted	Monthly repayment
£25,000	£4,000	£30.00
£30,000	£9,000	£67.50
£35,000	£14,000	£105.00
£40,000	£19,000	£142.50
£45,000	£24,000	£180.00
£50,000	£29,000	£217.50
£55,000	£34,000	£255.00
£60,000	£39,000	£292.50

- Interest on your loan will be applied at the rate of inflation plus 3% while you are studying and up until the April after you leave university or college.
- From the April after you leave your course, interest will be applied as follows:
 - at the rate of inflation if you are earning below £21,000
 - at the rate of inflation and up to +3% on a gradual scale if you earn between £21,000 and £41,000
 - at the rate of inflation +3% if you earn over £41,000.



Loan repayments

- You will not start to make repayments until you earn over £21,000 a year.
- If your income falls below £21,000 your repayments stop, for example if you take a career break or are unemployed until you start earning £21,000 again.
- You repay 9% of your income above £21,000. The amount you repay depends on how much you earn, for example, if your salary was £25,000, the 9% would only apply to £4,000, meaning you would repay £30 a month.
- All your student loans are added together and a single repayment will be deducted from your salary, normally through the tax system.
- Any outstanding balance is written off after 30 years.



Course requirements

As well as being personally eligible, your course must also be designated for full-time support from Student Finance Wales. Your course must be a higher education course at a publicly funded UK college or university, or a specifically designated course at a privately funded institution.



Thinking of studying part-time at university in 2012/13?

If you are normally resident in Wales and studying part-time, the existing support package currently available to students will remain in place for the academic year 2012/13.

Eligible part-time students will continue to be able to apply for a means tested:

- fee grant
- course grant for books, travel and other expenditure
- other targeted support in the form of a Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents Learning Allowance and Disabled Students' Allowance.



The grants are available from the Welsh Government via its Student Finance Wales (SFW) partners, Welsh local authorities (who assess the application) and the Student Loans Company (who make the payments).



Fee Grant

You may be able to get a Fee Grant to help pay for your tuition fees charged by your university or college.

How much can you get?

The amount of Fee Grant available to you depends on how intensive your course is. This table sets out the maximum Fee Grant you could get.

Intensity of course compared to equivalent full-time	Maximum Fee Grant available
50% – 59%	£690
60% – 74%	£820
75% or more	£1,025



How much you can get is also affected by your income and that of your parents or partner.

Household income	Amount of Fee Grant
Less than £16,865	Maximum Fee Grant
£16,866 to £25,434	Partial Fee Grant (at least £50)
More than £25,435	No Fee Grant



Course Grant

The Course Grant can help with the cost of books, travel and other expenses.

How much can you get?

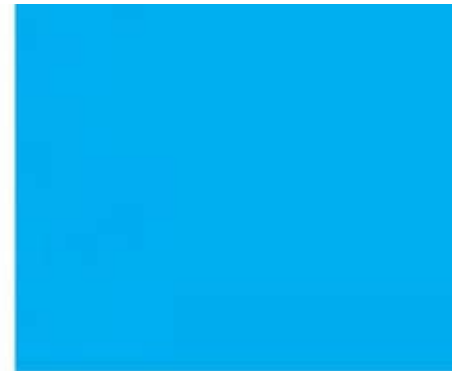
The maximum amount of Course Grant available is £1,155. The amount you can get is affected by your income and that of your parents or partner.

Household income	Amount of Course Grant
Less than £26,095	Maximum Course Grant
£26,096 to £28,180	Partial Course Grant (at least £50)
More than £28,180	No Course Grant

Extra help

You may be eligible to apply for other means-tested targeted support in the form of a Childcare Grant, Adult Dependents' Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance.

If you have a disability, mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty you may also be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance.



Studying at the Open University

If you intend to study at the Open University (OU) you should apply to them directly for the Fee Grant and Course Grant. The OU has its own application form and you would need to contact the OU Financial Support team either by e-mail at **generalenquiries@open.ac.uk** or by phone on **01908 653 411**.

Studying in England

If you decide to study part-time at a university outside Wales, you should be aware that the level of support available to you will not include a Fee Grant, but that other amounts will be the same regardless of where in the United Kingdom you choose to study. The part-time fees charged by English institutions in 2012 could be significantly higher than the fee levels set for previous academic years.



Course requirements

As well as being personally eligible your course must also be designated for part-time support from SFW. Your course must be a higher education course at a publicly funded UK college or university, or a specifically designated course at a privately funded institution.



Useful contacts

- Student Finance Wales website
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
- Student Finance Wales Contact Centre
0845 602 8845 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday
or between 9am and 1pm on Saturday.