

**Student Financial Support for Part Time Higher Education Study**

**2020**

* **Universities and colleges can vary the tuition fees they charge to part time students up to a maximum of £6,935.00 a year**
* **Tuition fees will vary between regions, institutions and courses within the same institution**
* **A student loan will be available to eligible part time students to cover tuition fees**
* **Loan repayments begin from the April after graduation if earning over the threshold amount of £25,725 per year**
* **The Disabled Students’ Allowance is available to part time students**

**Tuition Fees**

You are not required to pay tuition fees while you are studying, instead you will be able to take out a non means-tested student loan for the exact amount of fees the university or college is charging.

**Student Finance England** will pay the university or college up front on your behalf.

You are not required to make any repayments until the **April** after you have graduated and are earning over **£25,000**.

There is no age limit on applying for this support.

If you do not take out the tuition fee loan, you can make arrangements with the college to pay the fees up front if you wish.

**Equivalent or Lower Level Qualification**

If the part time higher education qualification you want to study is equivalent to or lower than one you already hold, then you will not be eligible for a tuition fee loan.

**Initial Teacher Training is an exception to this rule unless your first degree is in teacher training.**

**Disabled Students’ Allowance**

The Disabled Students’ Allowance can help you with the extra costs you may have in relation to your course as a direct result of your disability.

How much support you get will depend on an individual needs assessment.

This allowance is neither means tested or repayable.

The table below shows the help you may be able to get:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Specialist equipment allowance | Up to **£5,849.00** for the **whole course** |
| Non-medical helper allowance | Up to **£17,443.00 a year** |
| General allowance | Up to **£1,465.00 a year** |
| Travel allowance | Help with **extra** travel costs you might have to pay to get to your university/college because of your disability |

The funding is paid directly to the supplier of the service (or services)

**How to Apply**

Apply online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance) to ensure your student finance is in place for the start of your course.

You can also download the application form **(PTMN)** for new part time students from [www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk)

You can apply for this up to 9 months after the start of your course.

**Disabled Students’ Allowance**

If you only want to apply for the Disabled Students’ Allowance, then download an application form **DSA 1** from [www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk)

**Enrolment**

If you have received your student support notification to confirm you have taken out a tuition fee loan, you should bring this with you when you come to enrol.

If you do not yet have this document, you will be asked to complete an instalment arrangement and we will require your bank account details for direct debit payments. Instalments are set at termly intervals at the beginning of November, February and May.

Once you have received your notification, you should give this in to the centre office who will then notify finance and your instalment agreement will be cancelled.

**If you require a termly payment to be deferred, you must give finance enough notice of this.**

**Repayment of Student Loans**

Once you have finished studying, repaying your student loan is straightforward and the amount you repay each month is linked to your earnings.

You are not required to repay your student loan until you are earning over **£25,000** per year. Repayments are based on future earnings and not what you borrow.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Income Each Year Before Tax** | **9% will be Deducted from** | **Approximate Monthly Repayment** |
| **25,725** | **-** | **-** |
| **30,000** | **5,000** | **37.50** |
| **35,000** | **10,000** | **75.00** |
| **45,000** | **20,000** | **150.00** |
| **55,000** | **30,000** | **225,00** |

The threshold will be updated annually in line with inflation.

You will pay interest on your loan from the day your first payment is made until the loan is repaid or written off, whichever is the first. Any loan remaining after 30 years will be written off.

The amount of interest charged will vary depending on your circumstances:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Circumstances** | **Interest Rate** |
| **While you are studying up until the April after you finish or leave the course** | **Retail Price Index (RPI) + 3%** |
| **From the April you are due to start repaying your loan** | **£25,725 or less - RPI**  **£25,725 - £41,000 - RPI plus up to 3% depending on income**  **£41,000 and over – RPI plus 3%** |

**Ann Daynes 252 3625**

**If you have a quick question relating to part time higher education funding, why not ……**

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**Avatar by Sami Briggs 2nd Year Level 3 Games Design Student**