

STUDENT FINANCE

Here are details of the student funding available to undergraduate students in Wales and England.

Information in this reference sheet applies to students who live in Wales and England, and who are eligible for UK student support. Please note that these funding arrangements are for students who will start a full-time undergraduate course in 2021.

If you plan to study part-time, or have already studied at higher education level for more than one year, or if you live in a different country, please contact our Student Money Advice Team for funding information – their details are below.

OVERVIEW

Standard student funding has two separate elements: one for tuition fees, and one for living costs (maintenance).

Tuition fees

Tuition fee charges for full-time undergraduate degree courses at USW are currently £9,000 per year, and are detailed on each individual course webpage. Welsh and English students can have a Tuition Fee Loan to cover the full fee charge. This money is repaid after graduation when you earn more than the threshold – currently £26,575 per year.

Living costs

Support is different depending on:

- Whether you live in Wales or England
- Your household income
- Where you will live while studying – with your parents or elsewhere

The total amount of support you are entitled to will be divided into three, roughly equal instalments. You will receive an instalment at the start of each term paid directly into your bank account. In your first year, it is worth remembering that the first term payment may take up to a week to come through.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household income is based on the 2019/20 tax year for 2021 starters and is roughly based on gross income. You can ask for a current year assessment if your household income is now significantly different from the 2019/20 tax year, but you have to request this specifically.

When looking at household income, Student Finance Wales (SFW) and Student Finance England (SFE) will assess students as:

1. Independent

- If over 25 and single
- If you can evidence you have supported yourself financially for the three years prior to starting the course (this can't include periods in full-time education)
- If you have a dependent child of your own at the start of the academic year
- If you are officially recognised as a care leaver
- If your parents are deceased
- If you are recognised by SFE/SFW as being officially 'estranged' from your parents

If you are classed as independent, your income does not count when calculating your funding entitlement and you will be assessed at the lowest income threshold.

2. Dependent on spouse/partner

- If you are married or in a civil partnership
- If you are over 25 and living with a partner

3. Dependent on parents

- If you don't fall into either category above

Please note that if your parents have separated, SFW/SFE will look at income of the parent you normally live with. If there is a step-parent who also lives in that house, they will count the income of the step-parent as well, so bear this in mind when looking at the following tables.

**ANYTHING REFERRED TO AS A
LOAN IS REPAYABLE. ANYTHING
THAT IS A GRANT OR ALLOWANCE
DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REPAYED.**

SUPPORT FOR LIVING COSTS: WELSH STUDENTS LIVING IN PARENTAL HOME IN 2021/22

Household income	Welsh Government Learning Grant	Maintenance Loan	Total
<£18,370	£6,885	£1,905	£8,790
£20,000	£6,651	£2,139	£8,790
£25,000	£5,930	£2,860	£8,790
£30,000	£5,209	£3,581	£8,790
£35,000	£4,488	£4,302	£8,790
£40,000	£3,767	£5,023	£8,790
£45,000	£3,047	£5,743	£8,790
£50,000	£2,326	£6,464	£8,790
£55,000	£1,605	£7,185	£8,790
£59,200+	£1,000	£7,790	£8,790
Special Support	£6,885	£3,895	£10,780

All students receive the same total amount of money (£8,790 per year) if living in the parental home. As household income increases, the amount of grant decreases and the amount of loan increases.

If a student is aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of the course, they can get the grant element outlined above but no loan.

Special Support Grant: If you are eligible for the Special Support Grant, you will get the same level of grant, but a higher rate of loan as detailed in the bottom row of the table. If you get the Special Support Grant instead of the Welsh Government Learning Grant, the first £5,161 of the grant doesn't count as income when you work out other income-related benefits.

You may be eligible for the Special Support Grant if you:

- Have dependent children and do not have a partner
- Have dependent children and your partner is also a full-time student
- Are eligible for certain specified disability benefits

SUPPORT FOR LIVING COSTS: WELSH STUDENTS LIVING ELSEWHERE IN 2021/22

Household income	Welsh Government Learning Grant	Maintenance Loan	Total
<£18,370	£8,100	£2,250	£10,350
£20,000	£7,817	£2,533	£10,350
£25,000	£6,947	£3,403	£10,350
£30,000	£6,078	£4,272	£10,350
£35,000	£5,208	£5,142	£10,350
£40,000	£4,339	£6,011	£10,350
£45,000	£3,469	£6,881	£10,350
£50,000	£2,600	£7,750	£10,350
£55,000	£1,730	£8,620	£10,350
£59,200+	£1,000	£9,350	£10,350
Special Support	£8,100	£4,675	£12,775

All students receive the same total amount of money (£10,350 per year) if living elsewhere. As household income increases, the amount of grant decreases and the amount of loan increases.

If a student is aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of the course, they can get the grant element outlined above but no loan.

Special Support Grant: If you are eligible for the Special Support Grant, you will get the same level of grant but a higher rate of loan as detailed in bottom row of the table. If you get the Special Support Grant instead of the Welsh Government Learning Grant, the first £5,161 of the grant doesn't count as income when you work out other income-related benefits.

You may be eligible for Special Support Grant if you:

- Have dependent children and do not have a partner
- Have dependent children and your partner is also a full-time student
- Are eligible for certain specified disability benefits

For further details on either of the above see:
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/undergraduate-students/new-students/what-financial-support-is-available/help-with-living-costs.aspx

SUPPORT FOR LIVING COSTS: ENGLISH STUDENTS IN 2021/22 (SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL)

Household income	Living elsewhere loan	Parental rate loan
<£25,000	£9,488	£7,987
£30,000	£8,809	£7,315
£35,000	£8,130	£6,642
£40,000	£7,450	£5,969
£42,875	£7,060	£5,582
£45,000	£6,771	£5,296
£50,000	£6,092	£4,623
£55,000	£5,412	£3,950
£60,000	£4,733	£3,516*
£62,212 +	£4,422*	£3,516*
Special Support	£10,815	£9,423

*All students receive this amount once above threshold listed.

Support for students living in England is all loan. Unfortunately, no grants are available for living costs.

Students aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of the course can get loan of up to £4,014.

Students who are entitled to Special Support, ie, those who are ordinarily entitled to benefits, may get a loan of up to £10,815 (if living elsewhere) or £9,423 (if living in parental home) and a proportion of this is disregarded for benefits purposes.

For further details see:
www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/products/full-time-undergraduate-education/full-time-maintenance-loan/whats-available/

LOAN REPAYMENTS

Annual income	Up to £26,575	£28,000	£30,000	£32,000	£34,000	£36,000
Monthly salary	Up to £2,214	£2,333	£2,500	£2,666	£2,833	£3,000
Monthly loan repayments	Nil	£10	£25	£40	£55	£70

- Repayments start once you are earning £26,575 year.
- Repay 9% of earnings over threshold.
- Interest is based on the Retail Price Index.
- Repayments are collected through the tax system and are calculated monthly so if your income changes, so does your monthly repayment.
- If you have not repaid the total amount you owe within 30 years, the remaining balance is written off.

EXTRA SUPPORT

Extra support may be available if you have dependants and/or a disability, depending on your circumstances:

- Adult Dependants Grant: £3,190
- Parent's Learning Allowance: £1,821
- Childcare Grant can cover 85% of **registered** childcare costs:
 - Up to £179.62 per week towards costs for one child
 - Up to £307.95 per week towards costs for two or more children

If you are a student who is classed as a single parent, you will receive the Parent's Learning Allowance and Childcare Grant (if using registered childcare). If you are a student who is classed as dependent on your spouse/partner, their income will be assessed to see if you qualify for the extra support listed above.

Find out more about the support available to you at:

- Student Finance Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
- Student Finance England: www.gov.uk/student-finance

APPLYING FOR STUDENT FUNDING

You can apply online now if you plan to start your studies in September 2020. We would advise that students apply for funding at the earliest opportunity.

Depending on where you live, you apply to either:

- Student Finance Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
- Student Finance England: www.gov.uk/student-finance

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Disabled Students Allowance

If you have a disability that means you incur extra costs to study, you may be able to access the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA). This support is not means-tested and is based on the individual student's need. The DSA could assist with things like specialist equipment, a support worker or help with travel costs. Help with applying for this is available from our Disability Service.

STUDENT MONEY ADVICE TEAM

For further information, advice and guidance:
money@southwales.ac.uk | www.southwales.ac.uk/money