



There are loans available to help EU students studying in England pay the tuition fees their university or college charges. If the student chooses to study in another area of the UK they may get different student finance. The application process may also be different.

Tuition Fee Loans

Eligible EU students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to cover the fee charged by their university or college. This means they won't have to pay for tuition fees up front.

Students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan of up to:

- **£9,000** if they're studying at a public university or college.
- **£6,000** if they're studying at a private university or college.

Some courses at private universities and colleges may cost more than the maximum Tuition Fee Loan available. It's up to the student to pay any difference between the amount of Tuition Fee Loan they can get and the amount their university or college is charging.

Bursaries and scholarships

Universities and colleges may offer other sources of financial help such as a bursary or scholarship. Students should speak to the university or college or check their website for details.

Eligibility

In order to get student finance there are three main conditions a student must meet:

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

Personal eligibility

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

Nationality and residency

A student is likely to be eligible if:

- they're an EU national, or the family member of an EU national; and
- they've been resident in the EEA or Switzerland for three years before the start of their course.

There are some circumstances where an EU student can apply for student finance as a UK national, for example:

- they've been living in the UK for three or more years before the start of their course;
- they, or a family member, are working in the UK; or
- they're the child of a Swiss national or Turkish worker who's working in the UK.



Previous study

Students can usually only get student finance for their first degree. If the student has studied a higher-education course before in any country, they might not get help for a second course.

As a general rule Tuition Fee Loans are available for the full length of the course, plus one additional year if needed. This extra year can cover any false starts or course/university transfers.

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

Length of current course **plus** **one additional year** **minus** **years of previous study**

An additional year of tuition fee support may be made available if a student needs to repeat a year due to compelling personal reasons, such as illness or bereavement. They'll need to send evidence to prove this.

Course eligibility

For the course to be eligible, it must be of a certain type and leading to a recognised higher-education qualification. The most common examples include:

- first degree, for example a BSc, BA or BEd;
- Foundation Degree, for example a FdA, FdSc or FdEng;
- Higher National Certificate (HNC);
- Higher National Diploma (HND);
- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE);
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE); and
- Some Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses.

This isn't a comprehensive list and if students have any doubts they should check with the university or college offering the course.

If the student is studying at a private university or college they should check with them that the course qualifies for student finance.

University or college eligibility

A university or college is eligible if it's in England and is either:

- publicly funded, which means it gets funding from the UK Government; or
- privately funded but running individual courses that receive public funding.



How to apply

Full-time EU students can apply as soon as the application service opens. They should fill in an EU15N form.

For more information and to download an application form, they should visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Evidence

We can't process the student's application until we have all the information we've asked for. Students applying for the first time need to send evidence of their identity, usually their passport or national identity card.

Certified copies

When an EU student is asked to send evidence this can be an original or a certified copy. A certified copy is a photocopy of an original document which must be stamped and signed as being a true copy of the original by an official such as a minister of religion, doctor, lawyer, civil servant, teacher/lecturer or police officer. The person certifying the copy must not be related to the student and they must provide their name, job title, address and contact number.

The student should download a Certifier Checklist form at www.gov.uk/studentfinance, then complete and return this checklist with any certified evidence they send us.

What happens next?

Once we've assessed the student's application we'll send them a Student Finance Entitlement letter showing how much Tuition Fee Loan they can get. Students should keep this letter as they might have to show it to their university or college when they register.

What if the student's circumstances change?

Students must let us know if any of their personal, university, college or course details change. They can do this by sending us a 'Notification of Change of Circumstances for EU students' form (EUCO1) available at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Starting university or college

Students have to enrol at university or college before we can make the first Tuition Fee Loan payment. They'll usually do this in their first week. The university or college will then let us know the student has registered and we'll make the first Tuition Fee Loan payment.

We'll pay the Tuition Fee Loan directly to the university or college. The table below shows when and how much of the Tuition Fee Loan is paid to a university or college across the academic year.

When payment is made to the university or college	How much of the Tuition Fee Loan is paid to the university or college
At the start of term 1	25% of the Tuition Fee Loan
At the start of term 2	25% of the Tuition Fee Loan
At the start of term 3	50% of the Tuition Fee Loan

If the student has applied for less Tuition Fee Loan than the university or college is charging for their course they must make arrangements to pay this themselves.

Student Finance Services is a service provided by the Student Loans Company. We provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from the EU entering higher education in England.



www.practitioners.slc.co.uk