

# Tuition fees and funding for UK and EU Undergraduates starting in 2012 (part-time)

There is a lot of confusion about the 2012 English student finance changes. This factsheet aims to provide you with an overview of the proposed changes so that you can work out how they will affect you. Some of the information on fees, funding and repayment of student loans is still subject to parliamentary approval. This means that it is important to check the further information section at the end of this sheet so that you know how to keep up-to-date.

## Tuition fees

### How much is UWE charging UK and EU students?

The tuition fees are £9,000 for new undergraduate students starting from September 2012. The level of part-time fees is subject to parliamentary approval and should be announced during the summer 2011. The Government has suggested that fees for part-time courses will relate to the level of the full-time fees and the intensity of study.

Full-time fee per year	25% of full-time year	50% of full-time year	75% of a full-time year
£9,000	£2,250	£4,500	£6,750
Years of study	12 years	6 years	4 years

## Funding for tuition fees

### Will UK and EU students have to pay these tuition fees as they begin their studies at university?

No, the cost of tuition will be covered by a fee loan which is paid directly to UWE. The fee loan is not affected by family income.

### Eligibility for tuition fee loan

To be eligible for the tuition fee loan towards fees for part-time courses you must be:

- an English-resident student (or an EU student who meets the relevant eligibility criteria);
- studying on a course which is at least 25% of the equivalent full-time course load per year;
- studying for a degree for the first time.

Students who already hold an honours degree will not be eligible to apply for a tuition fee loan.

Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish students who decide to study at UWE, receive their financial support from their 'home' devolved administration. It's a matter for the devolved administrations to decide how they wish to support their students and in some cases this is still being decided. Keep an eye on Student Awards Agency for Scotland - [www.student-support-saas.gov.uk](http://www.student-support-saas.gov.uk), for Northern Ireland - [www.studentfinancenl.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk), and for Wales - [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

### Will students be able to receive help towards living costs such as accommodation, food, travel and course costs?

No, Students on part-time courses will not be eligible to apply for the maintenance loans, grants or other living cost support from Student Finance England. You may be eligible for some means-tested benefits while you study.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

### Is there any help from UWE for students from low income families?

The Office for Fair Access has approved UWE's plans to support English-domiciled students from disadvantaged backgrounds with a package of support that includes pre-entry advice and access to paid internships once studies start. In addition, UWE is providing 1,000 bursaries to undergraduates from lower income families (£25,000 or less).

Just over 500 of these bursaries will provide £3,000 benefit to full-time students or a pro-rata fee waiver for eligible part-time students (Category 1). There is an additional 500 Category 2 Bursaries of £1,000 for full-time students or a pro-rata amount for part-time students.

The amount of either bursary depends on the intensity of study. So, for example, if you are taking 50% of a course, you may be eligible for £1,500 fee waiver under Category 1 (£3,000 for full-time students), or £500 cash if eligible for a Category 2 Bursary (£1,000 for full-time students).

Priorities for the UWE Bursary 2012 are access students, disabled students, care leavers and refugees. Students from areas of low participation in Higher Education and students from very low income families (under £15,000) may also receive a bursary.

**Please note:** we have a limited number of Bursaries and meeting the above criteria does not guarantee entitlement.

For more information on the full eligibility criteria for the UWE Bursary and how to apply: [www.uwe.ac.uk/nsp](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/nsp)

## Additional funding from SFE

### Will students with disabilities be entitled to any extra financial support?

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are available to help if you incur extra costs because of a disability (including a long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia). DSAs are paid on top of the tuition fee loan. They are not dependant on income and do not have to be repaid.

## Terms and conditions of student loans

It is vital to know the interest rate applied to the loans, how you repay it, and how much you repay.

### When do I repay my loans?

The April after your third year of study is the first time you will become liable to repay. However, you will not have to pay anything if you earn less than £21,000 gross taxable income. This threshold will go up with inflation from April 2017.

### How much do I have to pay back?

If you are earning over £21,000, then you will repay 9% of the earnings over the £21,000 threshold (£90 per year for every £1,000 earned above threshold).

### How are repayments made?

The loan is repaid through the income tax system. That means once you're working your employer takes it off the payroll. So you never see the money, it simply reduces the amount you receive in your pay packet.

### Will I be charged interest on my loans?

While you study and until the April after your third year of study, the interest on your loans will be by RPI (Retail Price Index) plus 3%. RPI is currently 1.5% but can go up and down depending on inflation.

After three years of study, the interest charged over RPI will depend on your earnings. If you don't earn enough to repay the loan, i.e. under £21,000, the interest rate is RPI only. The maximum interest rate is RPI plus 3% which is charged when you earn more than £41,000. Earnings between £21,000 and £41,000 will attract a variable interest rate plus RPI.

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

### After 30 years any remaining debt is wiped

You stop owing when you've cleared the debt or 30 years pass, whichever comes first. If you therefore never get a job earning over the threshold, you'll never repay. The debt is also wiped if you die.

### **Will student loans affect my credit rating?**

When you borrow from a bank they will look at information on your credit reference files. Student loans are not included on these files.

### **Will the loans affect my ability to get a mortgage?**

The Council for Mortgage Lenders (the mortgage company trade association) has said "A student loan is very unlikely to impact materially on an individual's ability to get a mortgage but the amount of mortgage available may depend on net income."

### **Further Information**

Further information about the UWE Bursary 2012 will be published on our website as soon as it becomes available:

[www.uwe.ac.uk/nsp](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/nsp)

Further general information about student funding can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

[www.yourfuture.direct.gov.uk](http://www.yourfuture.direct.gov.uk)

### **Support before you start at UWE**

If you are applying to UWE and you are a student with children, a Care Leaver, a Refugee or disabled, you may be eligible for additional funding. Contact Student Advice and Welfare Service (0117 32 82822 or [saws@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:saws@uwe.ac.uk)) for a financial healthcheck before you start your studies in a personal or telephone appointment.

*Disclaimer: this information is a broad overview of the proposed changes for 2012. You are strongly advised to check the [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) website for up-to-date information on the funding for 2012 study.*

