



Why Go To University? & Student Finance

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What is university?

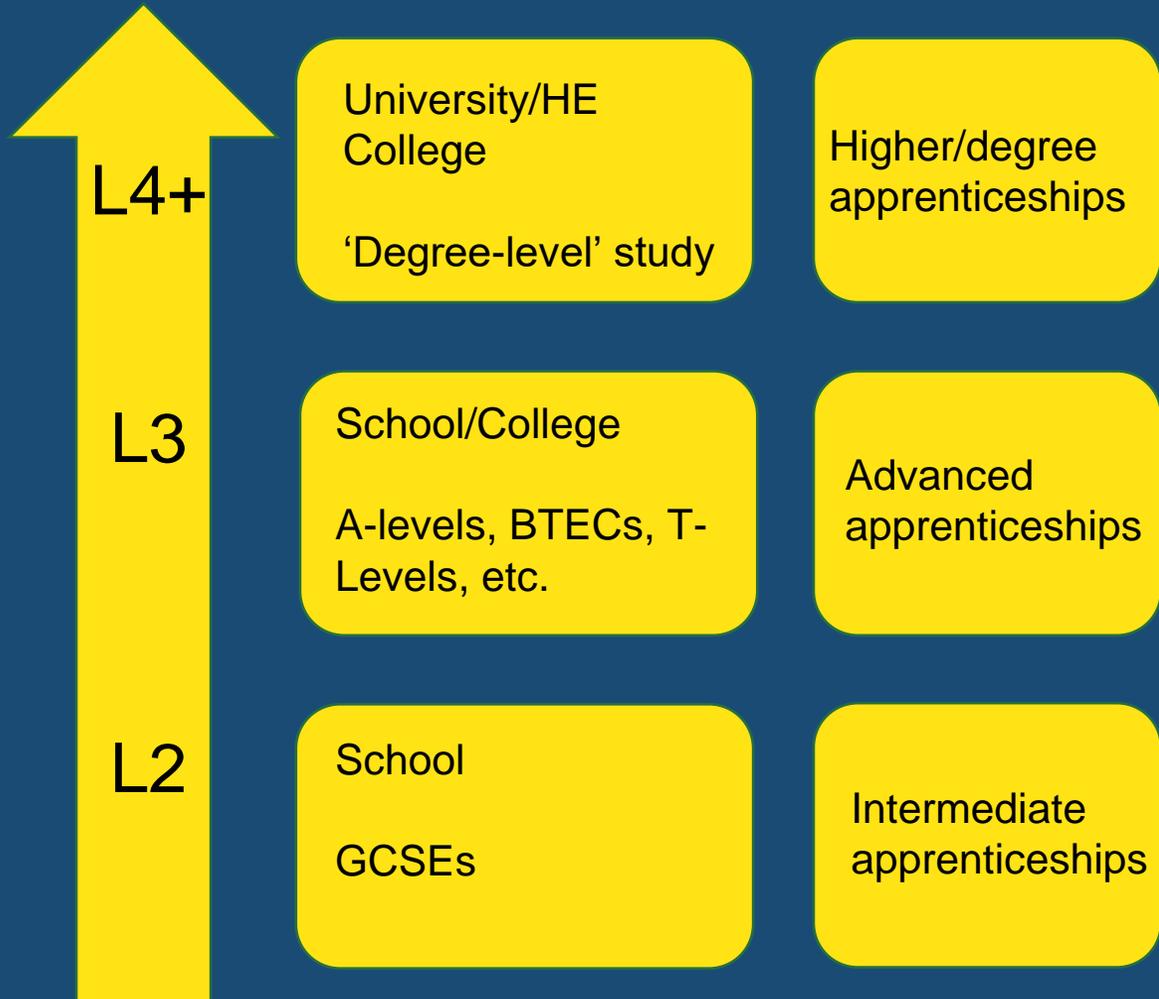
Why go to university?

An introduction to Student Finance

Questions



What is University?





What are the differences between school and university?

- Subjects
- Teaching
- Timetable
- Homework
- Social Life
- Sports and activities
- Support
- Living away from home(?)





Why go to University?

Study a subject that you love

- Continue with your favourite subject
- In-depth study of a subject you're passionate about
- An opportunity to build on your current subject choices & study something new

Enhance your degree with a work placement or study abroad period





Why go to University?

Career choices

- While only 5% of job listings mention having a degree, 61% of UK employers look at degrees when screening candidates
- Some careers require a specific degree subject (medicine, pharmacy, social work, etc.)
- Many more don't require a specific subject (marketing, PR, accountancy, law, etc.)

If you don't know what you want to do in future – don't worry! A degree will open masses of doors for you





Why go to University?

Earning potential

- In 2023, the median salary for working-age graduates – those aged 16-64 – was £40,000. This is £10,500 higher than for non-graduates (£29,500)
- The employment rate for working-age graduates was 87.7%, and for non-graduates 69.7%

Graduates
earn £100,000
more over the
course of their
working life





Why go to University?

Develop new skills

- Going to university helps students to develop a range of new skills
- Academic skills include: research skills, communication, team working & problem solving
- Life skills include: independence, time management, domestic skills & budgeting

Universities have many support services to help you develop your skills

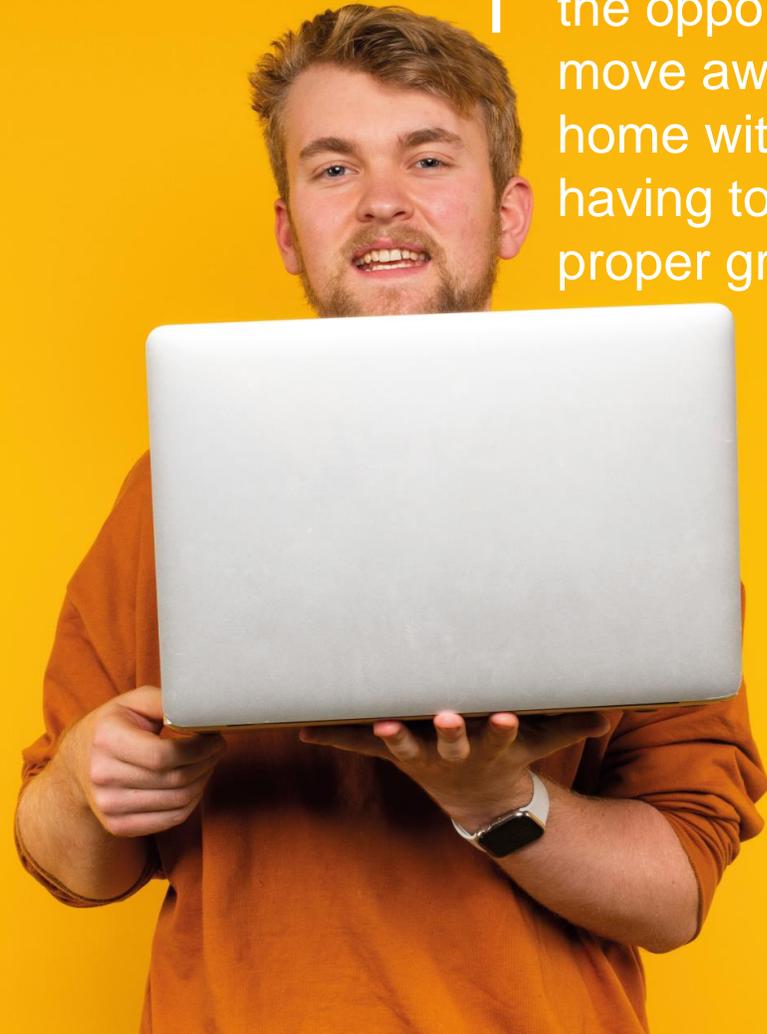




Why go to University?

Social life

- Many former students (65%) describe university as the best time in their lives
- Experience somewhere new
- Lots of potential for social activities, from nights out to joining clubs and societies



University gives you the opportunity to move away from home without having to be a proper grown-up



What is UCAS?

- University and Colleges Application Service
- ucas.com
- Online system for applying to UK universities
- All applications go through UCAS
- Provides information for applicants, teachers/advisers, and parents/carers/guardians





UCAS Application: course choices

- You have up to five choices
- Maximum of four choices for:
 - Medicine
 - Dentistry
 - Vet science/vet med
- You can only apply to one of Oxford or Cambridge
- You may be able to apply for deferred entry
- £28.95 application fee for 1-5 choices

You do not
have to rank
your UCAS
choices





UCAS Timeline

13th May: UCAS apply opens for 2026 entry

2nd September: first day completed UCAS applications can be submitted

15th October: early application deadline

14th January: application deadline for all other courses

Remember:
your school or
college
deadlines will be
earlier than
these!





An introduction to Student Finance





Tuition Fees

**Rent
and
bills**

Living costs

What are the main costs at University?



What are the main costs at University?



Accommodation
(Rent & Bills)

Food

Books & Other
Course Costs

Clothes



Social Life

Mobile Phone

Student Clubs &
Societies

Travel & Trips
Home

Contents
Insurance

Your Hobbies



The Facts: Tuition Fees

Up to £9,535 per year for full-time students

Full tuition fee loan available

Independent of household income

Paid directly to the university

Must be repaid

Tuition fee support is the same for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



Tuition Fees at Bath

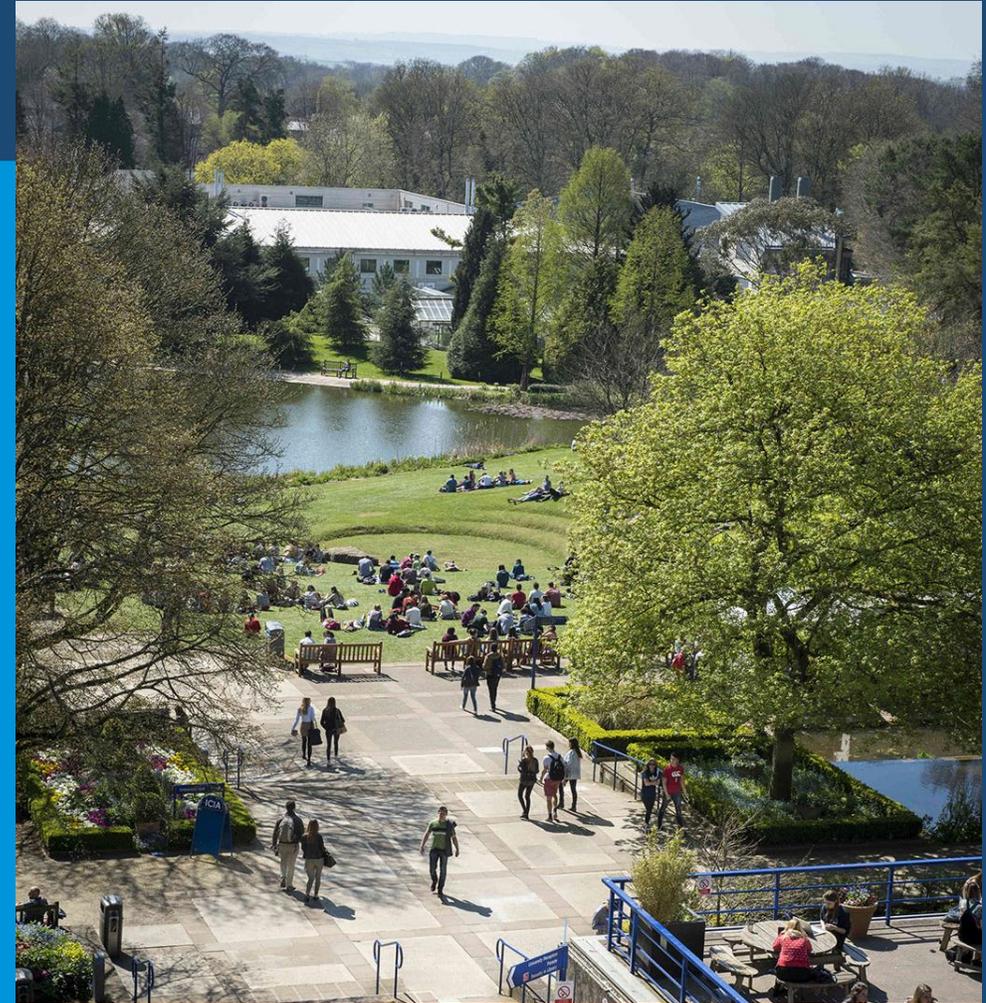
'Home' students currently pay **£9,535** per year for all campus based UG programmes

£1,905* during work placement year

£1,430* during study abroad year

Fees for international students are more varied and usually much higher

'Home' students currently includes UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. If you're unsure of your fee status, seek free advice from UKCISA



*subject to parliamentary approval

The Facts: Maintenance Support

Help with living costs

Paid into your bank account in instalments, usually at the beginning of each term/semester

Payments are generally made in September, January and April

Maintenance support is different for each country within the UK



The Facts: Maintenance Loan

The amount you could be entitled to depends on household income and whether you live:

- At home, studying at a local university
- Away from home, outside London
- Away from home, at a London university

This is a loan and must be repaid

student finance england

Applications must be made through Student Finance England



Maintenance Loans for 2025/26 academic year

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£30,000	£8,132	£9,791	£12,997
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£40,000	£6,642	£8,285	£11,465
£45,000	£5,897	£7,533	£10,700
£50,000	£5,152	£6,779	£9,934
£55,000	£4,407	£6,026	£9,168
£58,349	£3,907	£5,522	£8,655
£60,000	£3,907	£5,273	£8,403
£62,377	£3,907	£4,915	£8,039
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£70,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,871
£70,116+	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853



Budgeting in Year 1:

Living expenses for a student living in university accommodation		Undergraduate Expenses (Based on academic period of 38 weeks)
Rent: Average cost for UG £153 per week x 38 week. Inclusive of utility bills including internet and core insurance		5,814
Food, Toiletries, Household Goods etc. (at £65 per week)		2,470
Clothes (at £10 per week)		380
Travel, local & outside of Bath (public transport) (at £25 per week)		950
Leisure/Social/Sport (£25 per week)		950
TV licence/Online streaming TV providers (£5 per week)		190
Mobile Phone (£5 per week)		190
Health Costs (at £5 per week (Dentist, Prescriptions, Contact lenses))		190
Books, materials, photocopying & equipment at £9 per week		342
Contents Insurance (£3,000 belongings & £1,000 laptop)		115
Emergencies and unexpected expenses		100
Total	GBP	£11,691
	Weekly Cost	£308

Your university should provide full and accurate information on typical costs for student housing, and any compulsory course costs.

For other areas, compare these examples carefully with your own lifestyle.

Do your hobbies lead to additional expenses not counted here?

Be really honest with yourself.



Your Income

Many students may have multiple sources of income:

- Maintenance Loan
- Scholarships
- Bursaries
- Sponsorships
- Family support
- Targeted support (e.g. Disabled Students' Allowance)
- Money earned (e.g. during your work placement year or with a part time job)
- Any savings you already have



When do I repay the loan?



3 GOLDEN RULES

For repaying your student loan



1

You only repay 9% of anything you earn over £25,000 a year

£25,000
threshold

£1,000 over threshold
9% of £1000 = £90
Each month = £7.50





The size of your loan doesn't affect your repayments

Owe £30,000, earn £26,000 = £7.50 a month

Owe £50,000, earn £26,000 = £7.50 a month

Owe £70,000, earn £25,000 = £0 a month



3

After 40 years any remaining debt is wiped...

Many students do not fully pay off their loan in 40 years.

Any remaining debt for these students is wiped.



The Facts: Repayment

Both loans are combined for repayment

Repayments are taken from your pre-tax salary each month

Your student loans will accrue interest, this is currently 4.3%

Your student loan will be written off if it is not fully repaid after 40 years



Repayments by Income 2024/2025

Yearly income before tax	Monthly income before tax	Monthly repayment	% of pre-tax salary
£25,000	£2,083	£0	0%
£26,000	£2,167	£7.50	0.3%
£30,000	£2,500	£37.50	1.5%
£35,000	£2,917	£75	2.6%
£40,000	£3,334	£112.50	3.4%
£60,000	£5,000	£262.50	5.25%
£80,000	£6,667	£412.50	6.19%



What do you need to do now?

Student finance applications open in mid-March

The deadline for on-time applications is mid-May

Student provides a contact email address for a parent

You need to provide details of your household income



You will not be guaranteed loan payments by the start of your course if you miss the deadline!

How and When to Apply

www.gov.uk/studentfinance

Apply each year

Applications open in spring, typically March

Deadline typically end of May

You can apply before having made Firm or Insurance choices





Thanks for listening!

Any questions?

