

This guide outlines the funding available for full and part-time postgraduate students who usually live in England and are starting their course from September 2020.

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## **1. What student finance can I apply for?**

Eligible new students who start their course on or after 1 September 2020 can apply to Student Finance England (SFE) for a master's loan of up to £11,222 as a contribution towards their course and living costs.

The loan is not income assessed so anyone who meets the eligibility criteria will be able to receive a loan.

The loan is paid straight into your bank account and it is your responsibility to pay your tuition fee to the University.

For more information on the postgraduate tuition fees charged by Teesside University please visit:

[www.tees.ac.uk/sections/postgrad/pg\\_scholarships.cfm](http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/postgrad/pg_scholarships.cfm)

## **2. Am I eligible?**

To be eligible for financial support for a postgraduate course you must meet certain criteria:

## **Personal Eligibility**

### **Where you live**

To apply, you must:

- be a UK national or have settled status (that is, no restrictions on how long you can stay in the UK); and
- normally live in the UK on 1 September before the start of your course in the autumn; and
- have most recently been living in England; and
- have been living in the UK for at least three years before the first day of your course.

You are not eligible to receive a postgraduate loan if you have moved to England specifically to study your postgraduate course or to study an undergraduate course.

If you are recognised as a refugee you can apply for funding from SFE and do not need to fulfil the three years residency requirement.

If you're an EU national you must have been ordinarily resident in EEA/Switzerland for three years prior to the first day of the academic year.

### **Your age**

To be eligible to receive the postgraduate loan you must be aged under 60 on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

### **Previous study**

You are not entitled to the postgraduate loan if you already have a qualification that is equal to or higher than the qualification you wish to study.

This applies even if the previous qualification was self-funded and/or achieved outside the UK.

A lower-level qualification such as a postgraduate diploma or postgraduate certificate of education will not affect your eligibility to receive a postgraduate loan. However, the loan is not available to students who want to 'top-up' a lower qualification to a master's degree.

If you have already received a postgraduate loan for a master's course you will not be eligible to receive funding for a repeat year, even if you did not complete the course, unless you have compelling personal reasons, for example ill health.

**If you have any queries relating to your personal eligibility you can contact a finance adviser in Student & Library Services on 01642 342277 or email [studenthelp@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studenthelp@tees.ac.uk)**

## **Course eligibility**

### **Course level**

To qualify for the postgraduate loan you must be studying for a taught or research based postgraduate master's course.

Eligible courses include the following:

- MSc (Master of Science)
- MA (Master of Arts)
- MPhil (Master of Philosophy) on entry
- MRes (Master of Research) on entry
- LLM (Master of Law)
- MLitt (Master of Letters)
- MFA (Master of Fine Arts)
- MEd (Master of Education)
- MBA (Master of Business Administration)

## **Course length and intensity**

To be eligible for funding, a full-time course can be one or two years in length and a part-time course can take up to a maximum of four years.

A part-time course must also be studied at an intensity of at least 50% of the full-time equivalent course. For example, if a full-time course takes one year to complete, the part-time course must be completed in no more than two years. A part-time course which lasts for three years will only be eligible for funding where there is no full-time course available.

If a part-time course lasts three or four years, all payments of the postgraduate loan will be made over the first two years of study.

## **3. How do I apply for a postgraduate loan?**

You apply to SFE for the loan, and the quickest and easiest way to apply is online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance). The application will be available from spring/summer 2020 and you will only need to apply once, even if your course is longer than a year.

## **4. How will I receive my student funding?**

The postgraduate loan will be paid directly into your bank account in three equal instalments across the academic year:

### **Payment 1**

Once the University have confirmed your attendance on your course to SFE at the beginning of your course

## **Payment 2**

4 months after the course start month (last Wednesday of the month)

## **Payment 3**

7 months after the course start month (last Wednesday of the month)

If your course is longer than one year you can get up to £5,611 in your first year and the remaining loan in your second year.

## **5. How do I repay the student loans?**

Student loans are different to other types of loan, below are the key facts about postgraduate loan repayments:

- you will only start repaying your postgraduate loan once you've left your course and your income is over £21,000 per year
- the amount you repay each month is based on your income and not on how much you owe
- your repayments are 6% of your income over the threshold of £21,000 per year
- no repayments towards postgraduate loans will be taken before April 2021 but you can make voluntary repayments before this date without any penalty
- you will be charged interest on your loan and the amount of interest you pay will be linked to inflation plus 3%
- any loan or interest still outstanding after 30 years will be written off.

## **Repayment examples**

If you're paid monthly and earn £2,500 a month before tax you'll repay 6% of the difference between what you earn and the monthly threshold (£1,750):

$$£2,500 - £1,750 = £750 \quad 6\% \text{ of } £750 = £45$$

So your postgraduate loan repayment would be £45 that month.

If you've had any other loans from SFE for undergraduate study, you'll repay these loans at the same time as your postgraduate loan. How much you repay towards the student loans you already have for your undergraduate course will depend on when you studied. For example, if you took a loan for your undergraduate course that started after 1 September 2012, your repayments for both your undergraduate and postgraduate loans will be:

Your income per year	Monthly salary	Undergraduate loan repayment	Postgraduate loan repayment	Total monthly repayment
£21,000	£1,750	£0	£0	£0
£25,000	£2,083	£0	£20	£20
£30,000	£2,500	£32.06	£45	£77.06
£35,000	£2,916	£69.56	£70	£139.56
£40,000	£3,333	£107.06	£95	£202.06

## 6. Are there any other sources of funding?

### Additional statutory funding

A small number of postgraduate courses which lead to recognised qualifications in areas of potential public-sector employment also attract some statutory funding, eg social

work. If you receive a Social Work Bursary you will not be eligible to apply for a postgraduate loan.

### **Disabled students' allowance**

The disabled students' allowance (DSA) can help with the extra costs a disabled student may face to access their studies and is non-repayable. These allowances can support people who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, wheelchair users or people with mobility difficulties, medical conditions, autistic spectrum disorders, mental health conditions and people with specific learning difficulties (for example dyslexia).

For further information visit [www.tees.ac.uk/disability](http://www.tees.ac.uk/disability) or talk to our disability services team on 01642 342279.

### **Teesside University scholarships and discounts**

Teesside University is offering a range of scholarships and tuition fee discounts for new postgraduate students starting in academic year 2019/20. For further information and eligibility criteria please visit:

[www.tees.ac.uk/sections/postgrad/pg\\_fees.cfm](http://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/postgrad/pg_fees.cfm). Any scholarship or discount a student is awarded will be in addition to the postgraduate loan available from SFE and does not have to be repaid.

### **University Hardship Fund**

The University Hardship Fund is a discretionary fund which may, depending on your circumstances, provide you with additional financial support on top of any statutory funding you receive. The Fund cannot fully resolve a student's situation and will not provide large sums for students who have not made realistic provision for their studies.

Applications can be made once you have enrolled for the academic year but only once you have received your first payment of student finance. The application takes into account your income and expenditure, although it will make certain assumptions that you have made provision for your day-to-day living costs. You can request an application form from:

- The Information Desk in The Student Centre
- Call 01642 342277 for a form to be sent out to you
- Email [studenthelp@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studenthelp@tees.ac.uk)

### **Research council and charitable trust funding**

A number of charities and research councils may offer funds and grants for students studying postgraduate courses. For further information please visit:

[www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fundingpostgraduatestudy](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/fundingpostgraduatestudy)

### **Full and part-time work**

Lots of students work alongside their studies to help meet their general living costs. The University's Careers Service can offer support and advice to current students and graduates who are looking for work:

[www.tees.ac.uk/depts/careers/welcome.cfm](http://www.tees.ac.uk/depts/careers/welcome.cfm)

And the Students' Union Job Shop advertises part-time vacancies: [www.tees-su.org.uk/jobs/browse/](http://www.tees-su.org.uk/jobs/browse/)

### **Queries**

If you have any queries about student funding or other money issues contact a student adviser in Student & Library Services: [studenthelp@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studenthelp@tees.ac.uk)

01642 342277