

Student finance



MSC
Medical
Schools
Council
Selection Alliance

Did you know?

The fees for home students differ between universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, therefore specific requirements should be checked with the universities you are interested in applying to.

Fee status

Publicly funded universities usually group the fee status of their students by two categories: 'home' and 'overseas/international'. In order to be classed as a home (UK) student you normally need to meet all of the following criteria on the first day of the first academic year of the course:

- You are settled in the UK (this means there is no immigration restriction on the length of your stay)
- You are ordinarily resident in the UK, and have been for the full three years before the first day of the academic year. (Ordinarily resident means that your main home is in the UK, and you are choosing to live in the UK.)
- The main reason for you being in the UK was **not** to receive full-time education.

Applying for loans

UK applicants can apply for student loans through Student Finance. Some students may also be eligible for grants or NHS bursary support. It is best to apply for student finance as soon as you have made your UCAS application. With some exceptions for graduate entry programmes, you cannot apply for student finance if you have previously received funding for a different degree.

For more information, refer to the following organisations according to where you currently live:

- Student Finance England
- Student Awards Agency Scotland
- Student Finance Wales
- Student Finance Northern Ireland

The Student Loans Company also provide information for applicants living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Students from the Islands are subject to different funding arrangements to mainland UK students. For information on support available to you for tuition fees and living costs you should contact your island education offices.

Key dates

The deadline for student finance applications is usually May. Check the individual nation websites for exact dates and timelines.

Useful stuff

Universities may also offer their own bursaries or scholarships. It is best to research what is available on the websites of the medical schools in which you are interested.

If you do not qualify for home (UK) status then international student fees will apply. These fees vary between the different medical schools and can be found on their websites. The UK Council for International Student Affairs and the British Council offer support to help you work out how much money you will need. The UCAS website has some useful information on funding issues for overseas students.

More help and advice

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

Student Awards Agency Scotland: www.saas.gov.uk

Student Finance Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Student Finance Northern Ireland: www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

The Student Loans Company: www.slc.co.uk

Student finance – EU students: www.gov.uk/student-finance/eu-students

UK Council for International Student Affairs: www.ukcisa.org.uk

British Council: www.britishcouncil.org

British Medical Association: www.bma.org.uk/advice/work-life-support/your-finances-and-protection/medical-student-finance

Test yourself

Usually student loans can cover your tuition fees but you will need to think about maintenance costs as well. Before applying for student finance try to work out an estimate of how much money you will need for the year. This not only includes rent, but money for food, travel, books and study supplies, clothing and other miscellaneous items.

Look at the relevant student finance website and your chosen university websites.

Write down:

- The deadline for making a student finance application
- All the information that will be required from you to make an application
- Any information required from your parents/guardian
- Any bursaries offered by your chosen schools and how you can apply. When completing your student finance application, if you agree for your information to be shared with your chosen courses, the university may be able to automatically check your eligibility for bursaries.