

Postgraduate Student Loans (PGLs) Factsheet 2023/24

What are Postgraduate Student Loans?

A loan of up to £12,167 for the whole course.

You can request the full £12,167, or less.

Non-means tested, i.e. your entitlement is not based on household income.

Contribution towards the costs of studying.

Assessed and administered by Student Finance England.

All of the loan is paid directly to the student.

Which courses are eligible?

Your course must:

- be one or two years full-time.
- be a part-time course lasting two academic years which has a one year full-time equivalent; or
- be a part-time course lasting three or four academic years which has a two years full-time equivalent; or
- be a part-time course lasting up to three years which has no full-time equivalent course.

Students on a part-time course must usually be studying on average 50% intensity of the full-time equivalent throughout the course.

- be provided by an approved provider in the UK.
- NOT attract undergraduate student finance (e.g. PGCE courses).
- be studied and attended in the UK.
- be studied in England if it is a distance learning course.
- NOT have an overseas element of more than 50% of the course.
- lead to a Master's level qualification, including:
 - MA (Master of Arts)
 - MSc (Master of Science)
 - 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).



Who is eligible?

You must:

- be under 60 at the start of the academic year*.
- be a UK or Irish National, or an EU national with settled or pre-settled status, who also meets the residency eligibility criteria (visit [gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance) for more information).
- NOT already hold a Master's level (or higher) qualification.
- NOT already have received a PGL for a previous course (if applying after 2016/17).

*dates set by Student Finance England

How is the loan paid?

- Directly to the student.
- None of the loan is paid to the institution.
- Payments are split over the number of years of the course.
- UK nationals must provide Student Loans Company with your National Insurance number.
- You must be fully registered on your course to receive payment.
- Three installments per academic year, one at the start of each term provided you are fully registered.

How do I apply?

- Apply to Student Finance England online at [gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
- Apply from when the application cycle opens around April 2023
- One application per course (not per year!).
- If you have an existing student finance account and customer reference number you must use the same one or the payments will fail.
- Student Finance England (SFE) will require evidence of identity (valid passport details/birth certificate).
- Student Finance England (SFE) will require three year address history.
- Apply by at least nine months from start of course.
- Disabled Student Allowance is a separate application.

How do I repay the loan?

- Repayments start the April after you graduate/leave the course and you are earning over £21,000.
- You repay 6% of what you are earning over £21,000 - e.g. if your salary was £25,000 you would repay £20 a month.
- You repay at the same time as your undergraduate student loan payments.
- The interest rate is RPI+3%.
- If your earnings drop below £21,000 your repayments stop.
- After 30 years anything remaining is written off.

Students from Wales/Northern Ireland/Scotland:

Student Finance Wales offers a similar Postgraduate support system. You can find out more at [studentfinancewales.co.uk](https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk) Student Finance Northern Ireland and Students Awards Agency for Scotland offer different packages of support for students who apply to them. You can find out more at [studentfinancenl.co.uk](https://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk) and [saas.gov.uk](https://www.saas.gov.uk)

Useful contacts

Student Finance England

[gov.uk/postgraduate-loan](https://www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan) 0300 100 0607

Leeds Trinity Money Advice Team

moneyadvice@leedstrinity.ac.uk / 0113 283 7173

Leeds Trinity Finance Office

Finance@leedstrinity.ac.uk / 0113 283 7311

(for queries re payment of Leeds Trinity Postgraduate Tuition Fees)

Leeds Trinity Admissions

admissions@leedstrinity.ac.uk / 0113 283 7123

(for details of our courses)

Important advice

- Check the payment schedule of your PGL - if your course is slightly longer than one calendar year you may receive some PGL payments after the course has finished.
- If you have any student loan arrears, or you were ever deemed 'unfit' to receive student finance, you will not be eligible to apply.
- Repeating years/not completing the course and starting another will usually not be funded, even if you did not originally request or receive the full amount on a prior year/course.
- Temporary and permanent withdrawals may result in an overpayment of loan which will need to be paid back immediately to Student Finance England.
- Universities tuition fee payment policies may not match the PGL payments. Some universities want at least 50% of the tuition fees paid up front.
- If you are receiving means-tested welfare benefits a PGL may affect your entitlement.
- You must be studying the full credits of the masters course to qualify for a loan. If you intend to use any credits gained from a previous course you will lose your eligibility for the loan.

Checklist

- Make sure you have picked the right course and right university - you only get one chance to receive PGL funding.
- Plan your budget - will the PGL be enough to cover your tuition fees and essential living costs?
- Look at all the other sources of postgraduate funding - remember you can apply for these as well as your PGL.
- Check your university's tuition fee charging policy and make sure you can meet it before you start the course.
- Check when your PGL payments will be made - does it fit with your budgeting plans?
- Make sure you complete all the requirements to become fully registered on your course, e.g. providing qualification certificates to the university or your PGL cannot be paid to you.

About Leeds Trinity University

Leeds Trinity University is a Higher Education institution, offering both the academic and pastoral support you'll need to make a success of your studies.

Our postgraduate courses are all delivered by expert staff who are specialists in their fields - so you can be sure of a high quality academic experience. We're committed to providing an outstanding level of teaching and have great levels of employment.

For information on our Tuition fees please visit our website [leedstrinity.ac.uk/student-finance](https://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/student-finance)

Information correct at time of publication, January 2023. Information is subject to parliamentary approval/policy change.

The information in this publication can be supplied in alternative formats. Please call 0113 283 7150 or email hello@leedstrinity.ac.uk

Contact

If you have any questions about student funding please contact the Money Advice Team:
0113 283 7173
moneyadvice@leedstrinity.ac.uk

For advice on Disabled Students Allowance and disability support from Leeds Trinity, contact our Disability team at disability@leedstrinity.ac.uk