

# STUDENT FINANCE

Mrs F Hall

# June 2010

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- This information is correct as of June 2010 but please keep an eye on the press for changes.
- And look on [direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

# Know your loans from your grants

- A grant is given to you. You do not have to pay it back.
- A loan has to be repaid with interest added.
- A bursary or scholarship is given to you to by the university. You do not have to pay it back.

# Overview (2010/11)

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The cost of a university education can be broadly split into thirds: tuition fees, accommodation costs and living expenses.

# 1. Tuition fees

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- For September 2010/11 universities can charge up to £3,290 a year in tuition fees.

## 2. Accommodation

- Accommodation costs vary. The majority of first year students are offered places in halls of residence and many universities publish their accommodation prices on their websites. These range from £3,250 - £5,500+, per year, for self catering accommodation.

# 3. Living costs

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- Living costs average £4,000 per academic year depending on the student's lifestyle expectations, ability to cook and to budget for themselves.

# Total?

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- In total, it is likely to cost in the region of £11,000 per annum to finance a University education.

# Financial help for new full time students.

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- Student Loan for tuition fees
- Student Loan for maintenance
- Maintenance grant
- Bursaries
- Extra help if you have a disability

# Tuition fees Loan

- For most courses, full-time fees are up to £3290/year. (see university websites or UCAS)
- Available to all students irrespective of family income.
- Paid direct to your university.
- Once you earn over £15000, you repay the loan.

# Maintenance Loan

- To help with living costs: accommodation, food, clothes, socialising, travel.
- Maximum loan for a full year:

Living away from your parent's home and studying outside London	Up to £4950 (£6928 in London)
Living at your parents home	Up to £3838
Studying abroad for at least one academic term	Up to £5895

- Available to everyone. The amount depends on your household income. Students from better off families can borrow less.
- The money is paid in 3 instalments at the start of each term into bank account.
- Once you earn over £15000 you repay the loan

# Paying Back Your Loans

- All loans accrue interest, currently at a rate of 2.5%, from the moment of drawdown i.e. when you get the money.
- They become repayable once you have graduated and are earning over £15,000 pa. You then pay back 9% of your income over £15,000 - so someone earning £18,000 would pay back £22.50 pcm, rising as your income rises.

# Maintenance Grant

- Can apply for up to £2906/year.
- Amount awarded depends on household income.
- Does NOT need to be paid back.

Household Income	How much?
£25000 or less	Full £2906 grant
Between £25001 and £50,020	Partial grant
More than £50,020	No grant

- Paid in 3 instalments at the start of each term into bank account.
- The amount of maintenance loan a student can receive will be reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of maintenance grant entitlement.

# Bursaries

- Universities who charge the full fee HAVE to provide non-repayable bursaries of at least £319 a year to a student who qualifies for the maximum maintenance grant.
- In practice, many give considerably more.
- Many also give bursaries to students eligible for some of the maintenance grant, for example cash or discounted accommodation.
- Check the university or college website.

# Parental contributions?

- Those with a household income of less than £25,000 can currently expect over £10,000 in grants and loans. There will be little or no shortfall.
- Those with a household income of over £50,000 can currently expect about £6000 in grants and loans. Parents are expected to contribute about £5,000pa.
- Families within these totals are expected to contribute on a means-tested basis.

# Students with Disabilities

- Disabled Student Allowances (DSAs) may be available if you have a disability, mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty.
- You will need to provide proof (i.e. GP/expert).
- Does not depend on income.
- Guide 'Bridging the Gap' from website.
- The following help is available:
  - ▣ £5161 for specialist equipment (for the whole course).
  - ▣ Non-medical helpers allowance up to £20,520/year.
  - ▣ General students allowance of up to £1724/year.
  - ▣ Travel allowance for extra travel costs.

# And Finally When It Is Your Turn....

- Apply early on-line at [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)  
from February in the year that you start university
- Forms and guidance are available on-line
- Apply each year that you are a student
- All applications must be totally complete when sent off. Send the correct supporting evidence.

# Deadlines

- Application deadlines for new students in 2010:
  - **23rd April** for those who do NOT provide financial information to get a grant.
  - **25<sup>th</sup> June** for other students.