

# fs08 Student finance information for parents or partners of full-time students



If your child or partner is going into higher education, this fact sheet explains what student finance they might be able to get and how they go about getting it.

Financial help is available in the form of non-repayable grants and bursaries. There are also loans for tuition fees and living costs which are repayable but not until your child or partner has left university and is earning over a set amount. So, the good news is they won't have to pay for it up front.

## What's available in 2012/13?

Allowance	What is it for?	Do I have to pay it back?
Tuition Fee Loan	Up to £9,000 to help with the cost of tuition fees	Yes, only when you've left your course and earn over a set amount.
Maintenance Grant (or Special Support Grant)	Up to £3,250 depending on your household income to help with living costs.	No, unless you leave your course early.
Maintenance Loan	Up to £7,675, depending on your household income and where your child or partner is studying, to help with living costs.	Yes, only when you've left your course and earn over a set amount.
Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs)	Available for students who have extra costs as a direct result of a disability, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty like dyslexia.	No, unless you leave your course early
Childcare Grant	Helps with childcare costs if the student has dependent children aged under 15 (or 17 if they have special educational needs) in registered or approved childcare.	No, unless you leave your course early
Parents' Learning Allowance	Helps with course related costs if the student has dependent children.	No, unless you leave your course early
Adult Dependants' Grant	Helps if the student has an adult who depends on them financially.	No, unless you leave your course early
Bursaries & Scholarships	Extra help from your child or partner's university or college.	No, unless you leave your course early

## How do they apply?

If they are applying for any of the student finance that depends on household income, such as Maintenance Grant or Maintenance Loan, the first thing to be aware of is you will have to provide financial information to support your child or partner's application.

You should have this financial information to hand when you complete the online application, along with your National Insurance number.

We may ask you to send evidence later as part of our normal checking process, however you won't have to supply this up front. To find out what evidence you might be asked to send go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinanceevidence](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinanceevidence).

### Top tips



You can support a student's application online quickly and securely. It's the simplest way to ensure everything is in place for the start of term.

## What about repayment?

Once they are finished studying they will have to repay any Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans but only when they earn over a set amount.

**Students who start their course before 1 September 2012 (Repayment Plan 1)** will start repaying their loan the April after they leave or finish their course and earn more than £1,316 a month (£15,795 a year or £303 a week).

In this case, someone earning £21,000 would repay £39 per month.

**Students who start their course on or after 1 September 2012 (Repayment Plan 2)** will start repaying their loan from April 2016 or later, depending on the length of their course. They will only start repaying when they earn more than £1,750 a month (£21,000 a year or £404 a week).

So in this case, someone earning £24,000 would repay £22 per month.

If their income stops, or falls below the repayment threshold their repayments will automatically stop.

## Interest

Interest is charged on student loans from the day the first payment is made until they are paid back in full. For further explanation of the interest charged on loans, or repayment as a whole, please go to [www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk](http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk).

**To make sure they receive the first payment at the start of term, new students must apply online by 31 May 2012.**

**Continuing students should apply online by 30th June to ensure their support is in place for the start of term.**