

# Master's Loan Factsheet 2026/27



## What is a Master's Loan?

A loan of up to £13,206 for the whole course.

You can request the full £13,206, 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.

## 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://gov.uk/student-finance) for more information).
- NOT already hold a Master's level (or higher) qualification.
- NOT already have received a Master's Loan for a previous course.

\*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 instalments 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://gov.uk/student-finance)
- Apply from when the application cycle opens around April 2026.
- 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 will require evidence of identity (valid passport details/birth certificate).
- Student Finance England will require three year address history.
- Apply by at least nine months from start of course.
- Disabled Students' 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.

**Student Finance Wales / Northern Ireland and Scotland (SAAS)** offer packages of support for postgraduate study, visit the relevant website for more information

- [studentfinancewales.co.uk](https://studentfinancewales.co.uk)
- [studentfinancenir.co.uk](https://studentfinancenir.co.uk)
- [saas.gov.uk](https://saas.gov.uk)

Some postgraduate courses attract alternative or additional sources of funding. Visit our website for advice on funding for our MA Social Work and Masters nursing courses.

## Important advice

- Check the payment schedule of your Master's Loan - if your course is slightly longer than one calendar year you may receive some 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 Master's Loan payments. Some universities want at least 50% of the tuition fees paid up front.
- If you are receiving means-tested welfare benefits a Master's Loan may affect your entitlement.
- You must be studying the full credits of the Master's 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 Master's Loan funding.
- Plan your budget - you need to consider if the loan will be enough to cover your tuition fees and essential living costs. Information on Leeds Trinity tuition fees is available at: [leedstrinity.ac.uk/student-finance](https://leedstrinity.ac.uk/student-finance)
- Check your university's tuition fee charging policy and make sure you can meet it before you start the course.
- Check when your Master's Loan 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 Master's Loan cannot be paid to you.

## Useful contacts

### Leeds Trinity Money Advice Team

For questions about student funding, contact us on 0113 283 7100 or [moneyadvice@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:moneyadvice@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

### Leeds Trinity Disability Team

For advice on Disabled Students' Allowance and disability support, contact us at [disability@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:disability@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

### Leeds Trinity Finance Office

For queries about tuition fee payment, contact us on 0113 283 7311 or [finance@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:finance@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

### Leeds Trinity Admissions

For information about applying for a postgraduate course, contact us on 0113 283 7123 or [admissions@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

### Student Finance England

Call 0300 100 0031 or visit [gov.uk/masters-loan](https://gov.uk/masters-loan)