

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

PRESENTATION CONTENTS

This presentation will provide potential new full-time undergraduate students from England with the essential messages needed **to understand student finance**:

- Section 1 – What support can you get?
- Section 2 – How do you get it?
- Section 3 – When and how do you repay it?
- Section 4 – Budgeting and Key Messages

Figures in these slides are for **academic year (AY) 2026/27** and are subject to change in future years based on government policy



If you usually live in [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) or [Scotland](#), then the student finance administration you apply to and the funding available can differ

STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND

AN INTRODUCTION TO SFE

Student Finance England (SFE) provide support on behalf of the UK government to eligible students from England entering higher education in the UK:

- Two main costs you will have while studying are tuition fees and living costs
- SFE make funding available to help eligible students with both

You may be able to get **a range of financial help and support**, depending on:

- Your course and where you live and study
- Your household income
- Your personal circumstances



For more information on student finance eligibility, including residency and previous study go to: www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

WHAT SUPPORT COULD YOU GET?

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27

sfe

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE - TUITION FEE LOAN



**TUITION FEE
LOAN**



**MAINTENANCE
LOAN**



**EXTRA
SUPPORT**

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

TUITION FEES AND LOANS

For academic year 2026/27, Approved (Fee Cap) higher education providers can charge full-time undergraduate students **tuition fees of up to £9,790**:

With tuition fees up to £9,790, **can you afford to study in higher education?**

- Eligible students won't have to pay any tuition fees up front
- A Tuition Fee Loan is available to cover the fee charged by a provider
- Or up to £6,525 is available for courses at 'Approved' providers
- A Tuition Fee Loan doesn't depend on household income
- SFE pay a Tuition Fee Loan directly to your university or college



Other course and study options that also attract student financial support include accelerated degrees and part-time undergraduate qualifications

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE - MAINTENANCE LOAN



TUITION FEE
LOAN

**MAINTENANCE
LOAN**

EXTRA
SUPPORT

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

MAINTENANCE (LIVING COST) LOANS

So that's tuition fees covered, but **what other support can you apply for?**

A Maintenance Loan is available **to help students** with their living costs:

- All eligible students are entitled to get some Maintenance Loan support
- The actual amount you can get will depend on your household income and where you live and study
- Your Maintenance Loan is paid directly into your bank account each term
- Tuition Fee and Maintenance Loans do have to be repaid
- But not until you've left university or college and your income is over the relevant threshold



If your household income is under £25,000, you can apply for the full rate of Maintenance Loan available to you

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

FULL-TIME SFE MAINTENANCE LOAN RATES

Full-time SFE students, **not eligible for benefits or aged over 60**:

Full Year Student	Maximum Loan	Non-Income Assessed	Income Assessed
Parental Home	£9,118	£4,013	£5,105
Elsewhere	£10,830	£5,048	£5,782
London	£14,135	£7,039	£7,096
Overseas	£12,403	£5,996	£6,407

- The Overseas rate of loan is available for students on an approved study year abroad as part of their UK based course



Household income is the income of any parents, stepparent, parent's partner, wife, husband, civil partner or partner you usually live with

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

FULL-TIME SFE MAINTENANCE LOAN ENTITLEMENT

Full-time SFE students, **not eligible for benefits or aged over 60:**

Household Income	Home (£58,387)	Elsewhere (£62,410)	London (£70,131)
£25,000 & under	£9,118	£10,830	£14,135
£35,000	£7,589	£9,285	£12,563
£45,000	£6,060	£7,739	£10,991
£55,000	£4,531	£6,194	£9,419
£60,000	£4,013	£5,421	£8,632
£65,000	£4,013	£5,048	£7,846
£70,131 & over	£4,013	£5,048	£7,039



You can generate an estimate of your student loan entitlement using the calculator on: www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

SFE STUDENT SUPPORT - ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Detailed guidance covering student finance entitlement, assessment of household income, means testing and payment **is available on GOV.UK:**

- Student finance: How you're assessed and paid
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-paid
- Supporting a child or partner's student finance application
- www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-child-or-partners-student-finance-application-in-3-easy-steps



Home > Education, training and skills > Funding and finance for students > Student loans

Guidance

Student finance: how you're assessed and paid

Eligibility and payment information for under students.



Guidance

Student finance: how you're assessed and paid 2026 to 2027

Updated 19 January 2025

Applies to England

Contents

1. What is Student Finance England?
2. What's this guide about?
3. How to apply
4. Do I qualify?

1. What is Student Finance England?

Student Finance England (SFE) is a service provided by the Student Loans Company. We provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.

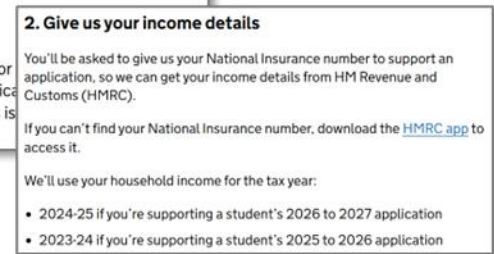


Home > Education, training and skills > Funding and finance for students > Student loans

Guidance

Supporting your child or partner's student finance application in three easy steps

If your child or partner is applying for may be asked to support their application about your household income. This is student finance as possible.



2. Give us your income details

You'll be asked to give us your National Insurance number to support an application, so we can get your income details from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

If you can't find your National Insurance number, download the [HMRC app](#) to access it.

We'll use your household income for the tax year:

- 2024-25 if you're supporting a student's 2026 to 2027 application
- 2023-24 if you're supporting a student's 2025 to 2026 application

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

THE STUDENT FINANCE PACKAGE - EXTRA SUPPORT



TUITION FEE
LOAN

MAINTENANCE
LOAN

EXTRA
SUPPORT

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

SOURCES OF EXTRA SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

There may also be **extra financial support** available for eligible students who:



Have disabilities, long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or specific learning difficulties



Have children or adult dependants



Study overseas as part of a UK based course or go on clinical placement



Study eligible Nursing, Midwifery or Allied Health Profession courses

Go to: www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help and www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/student-services

Many universities and colleges provide **bursaries and scholarships** to students:

- Eligibility can depend on things like academic results, household income or course choice, so it is important to research what is being offered

STUDENT FINANCE 2026/27

SFE DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE - DSA

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) provides help towards the additional costs a student may face due to their disability:

- This includes long-term health conditions, mental-health conditions and specific learning difficulties

DSA assessments are based on **the specific needs of each student:**

- Support entitlement can be allocated across the defined categories



For more information go to: www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa

- www.gov.uk/guidance/what-to-expect-from-your-disabled-students-allowance-dsa-needs-assessment

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

WHAT SUPPORT COULD YOU GET?

COURSES STARTING FROM JANUARY 2027

THE LIFELONG LEARNING ENTITLEMENT (LLE)

LIFELONG LEARNING ENTITLEMENT

A NEW STUDENT FINANCE SYSTEM

Eligible students starting courses from 1st January 2027, will apply for their funding support through the new **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)** system:

- Students can use LLE funding to undertake approved courses and modules at Levels 4 to 6 or some courses at Level 7
- This includes most undergraduate courses, along with some postgraduate courses and some further education courses

Under the LLE, eligible students **may be able to apply for:**

Tuition Fee Loans to help pay for course tuition fees

Maintenance Loans to help with living costs

Additional Support based on type of course or personal circumstances
Including Disabled Students' Allowance and Grants for Dependents

LIFELONG LEARNING ENTITLEMENT

LLE STUDENT FUNDING ENTITLEMENT

The amount of Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan eligible students can get through the LLE partly depends on **the number of credits they study**:

- Courses that qualify for funding will be worth a certain number of credits
- For example, a year of study on a full-time bachelor's degree is usually worth 120 credits
- The LLE will provide eligible students with a standard Tuition Fee Loan support amount, up to a total of £39,160 (AY 2026/27 levels)
- This is the same as around 4 years of full-time study or 480 credits
- Depending on their course, eligible students may also be able to access Tuition Fee Loan support in addition to their standard entitlement



Students who have received government tuition fee funding for previous study, may still have some (residual) LLE Tuition Fee Loan entitlement

LIFELONG LEARNING ENTITLEMENT

COURSES ELIGIBLE FOR LLE FUNDING

LLE Tuition Fee Loan support **can pay for a range of courses**, including:

Full courses from Level 4 to 6

This includes Bachelor's Degrees and Foundation Degrees

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Including both full courses and approved modules of those courses

Modules from full Level 6 qualifications (for example, Degrees)

In subject areas such as Computing, Engineering, Economics, Chemistry and Physics

Postgraduate Healthcare Courses

Integrated Master's Degrees

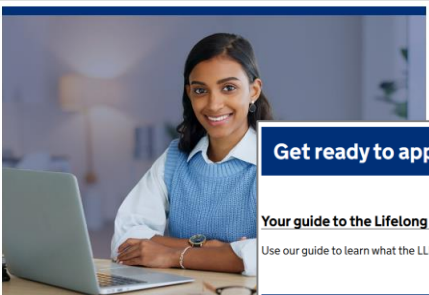
A 4-year course which awards a Master's Degree on top of a Bachelor's Degree

LIFELONG LEARNING ENTITLEMENT

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Visit the **student guidance page** on GOV.UK and the SFE campaign page for all the essential information on funding eligibility and entitlement under the LLE:

- <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/lifelong-learning-entitlement>
- www.gov.uk/student-finance-on-or-after-1-january-2027



Get ready to apply

Your guide to the Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Use our guide to learn what the LLE is, find out if you qualify and how much you can get.

What's next

Going to uni in 2027?

If your course starts after 1 January for the Lifelong Learning Entitlement

If you're starting an eligible course or module on or after 1 January 2027, you'll be able to access the LLE by applying for student finance from September 2026.

If you're starting a course before January 2027, you should apply for the current student finance that's available. You can apply online when applications open.

Student finance if your course starts on or after 1 January 2027

Contents

- Overview
- [Eligibility](#)
- [What student loans you can get](#)
- [What extra financial help you can get](#)

Overview

For courses starting on or after 1 January 2027, you can access student finance through the new student finance called your Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) for your undergraduate education and some further education for

What student loans you can get

You may be able to apply for:

- Tuition Fee Loans to help pay your course tuition fees
- Maintenance Loans to help with your living costs

All courses which qualify for Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) funding will be worth a certain number of credits. For example, a year of studying a bachelor's degree full time is usually worth 120 credits.

Any loans you borrow need to be paid back, but not until you've finished or left your course, and you earn over a certain amount.

Tuition Fee Loans are paid directly to your university or college. Maintenance Loans are paid directly into your bank account.



Students will be able to apply for their LLE funding from September 2026 for eligible courses and modules starting from January 2027 (date TBC)

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

APPLICATIONS

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

THREE STAGE PROCESS

**YOU APPLY
ONLINE**

**SFE ASSESS
YOUR
APPLICATION**

**YOU GET
PAID!**

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

KEY MESSAGES - APPLY NOW FOR AY 2026/27


Each year, too many students apply late for their finance and could have no way to pay for courses or accommodation at the start of term...**don't let that be you!**

- The full-time SFE application service for AY 2026/27 **is now open**
- Create your account and apply at: www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance



Tips to help make sure your student finance **gets paid on time:**

- You do not need a confirmed place at university or college to apply
- Apply with your first choice, you can change the details later if necessary
- Make sure any evidence and information needed to support your application is supplied 'right first time' both from you and your parents (or partner)

 If you cannot apply online, you will be directed to the appropriate paper form to complete and submit: www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

KEY MESSAGES - SFE APPLICATION DATES AY 2026/27

Students need to apply for funding for **each year** of their course and it is important to get applications submitted before (or at least close to) **the on-time deadlines:**



The AY 2026/27 application service for full-time SFE students opened on **March 23rd 2026**



The '**on-time deadline**' for new* full-time SFE application submission is **May 15th 2026**



*June 19th for **continuing SFE students** who will receive notifications, prompting them to reapply for their funding for the new AY

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

Before starting an application, **students** should have the following to hand, along with their university and course details:

- Passport, Birth Certificate or details from other official documents which can be used to verify identity and immigration status with the Home Office
- UK bank account details and National Insurance number

The easiest way for **parents or other sponsors** to support an application is also online through GOV.UK, providing their information including:

- National Insurance numbers for income verification (the prior tax year)
- Current tax year [income](#) if there has been at least a 15% decrease
- Details of other child dependants
- www.gov.uk/support-child-or-partners-student-finance-application



STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

SFE CAMPAIGN PAGE - ALL THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Visit the SFE campaign page for the essential information you need to understand student finance and to make sure you can **apply accurately and on time**:

- Content includes funding entitlement, eligibility, application submission, key dates to be aware of and what to expect on your student finance journey
- <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/going-to-uni-2026>



Going to uni in 2026

If your course starts between 31 August 2026 and 31 December 2026, you can now apply for full-time undergraduate student finance.



You can now apply for student finance!

APPLY NOW
FOR STUDENT FINANCE

sfe

What you can apply for

We provide two main types of financial help:

Loans you can apply for

- **Tuition Fee Loan** – up to £9,790 to cover your university fees. This is paid directly to your university, so you don't need to pay upfront.
- **Maintenance Loan** – between £4,013 and £14,135 (depending on help cover your living costs like accommodation, food, books and

You will need to repay your loans, but not until after you finish your course. Monthly repayments depend on what you earn, not what you owe. See [repayments](#).

Extra financial help you don't need to pay back

You could also be eligible for grants and allowances. These don't need to be repaid.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

If you have a mental health problem, long-term illness, disability or specific learning difficulties, you can get support to cover study-related costs. You can get up to £27,783 per year. It's important to apply early to make sure your support is in place when you start your application.

Before you apply

Find out what you're entitled to

Check what funding you can get and whether you qualify for extra support. You can use our [Student Finance Calculator](#) to estimate your Maintenance Loan amount.

You'll need to check if you're eligible for student finance on GOV.UK before applying.

Get your documents ready

You'll need your National Insurance number when you apply. If you're applying for a higher Maintenance Loan, you'll also need your parents' or partner's National Insurance number. Let them know in advance so they can find this information.

You don't need a confirmed place

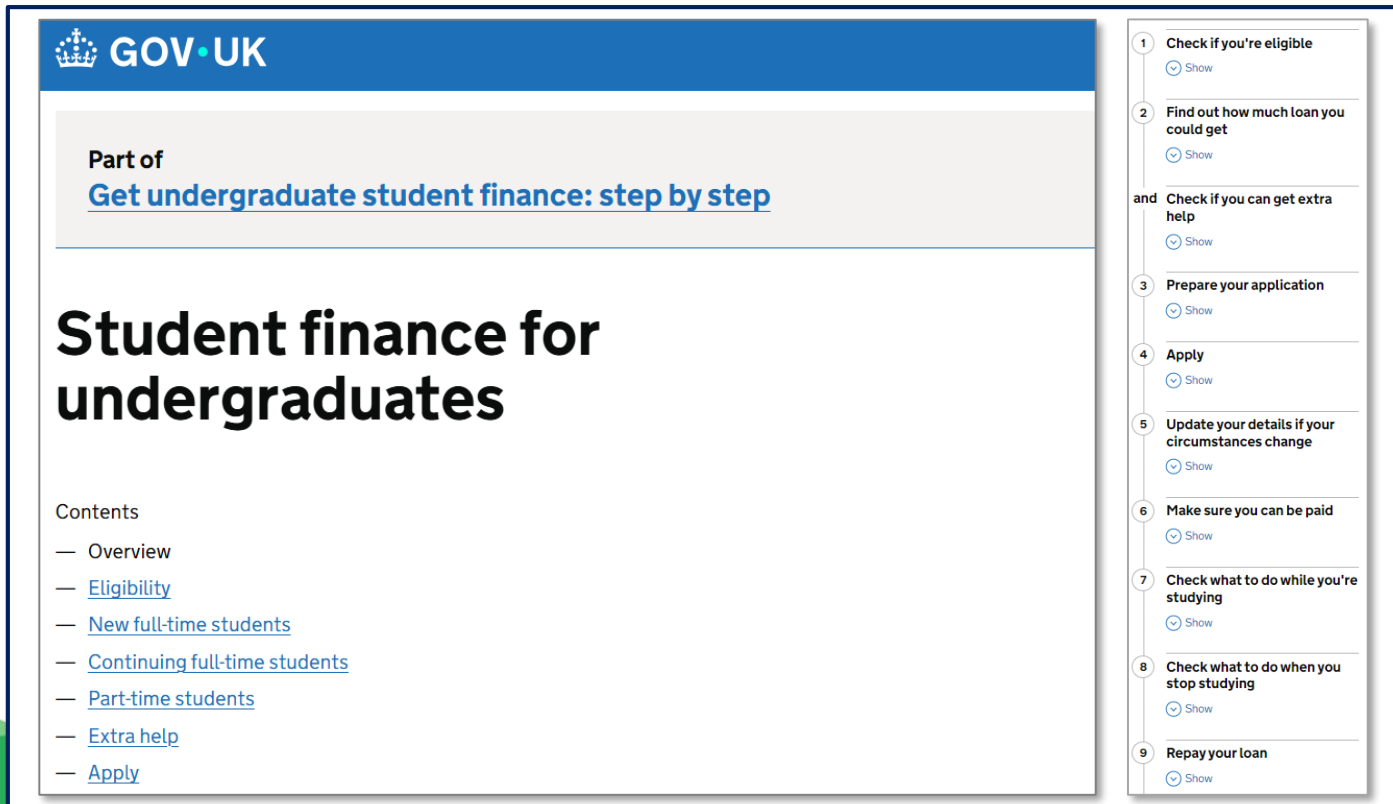
You can apply even if you haven't chosen where you'll be studying yet. You can change your application online any time before your course starts.

If you apply after the deadline, your payment might be delayed. Find out more about getting paid if you apply late.

STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

GOV.UK/STUDENT-FINANCE AND SFE ONLINE

More information on student finance can be found on GOV.UK and across the SFE social media channels: www.gov.uk/student-finance



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website page for 'Student finance for undergraduates'. The page is titled 'Student finance for undergraduates' and is part of a 'step by step' guide. The main heading is 'Student finance for undergraduates'. Below the heading, there is a 'Contents' section with links to 'Overview', 'Eligibility', 'New full-time students', 'Continuing full-time students', 'Part-time students', 'Extra help', and 'Apply'. On the right side, there is a vertical list of steps, each with a 'Show' button:

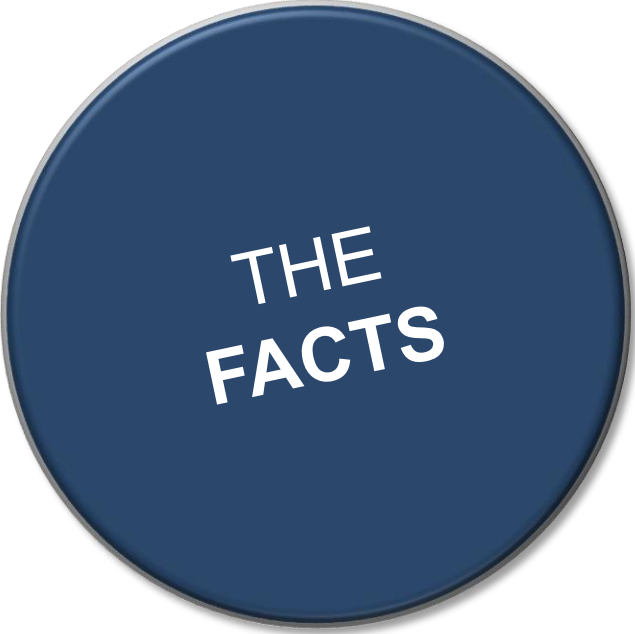
- 1 Check if you're eligible [Show](#)
- 2 Find out how much loan you could get [Show](#)
- and Check if you can get extra help [Show](#)
- 3 Prepare your application [Show](#)
- 4 Apply [Show](#)
- 5 Update your details if your circumstances change [Show](#)
- 6 Make sure you can be paid [Show](#)
- 7 Check what to do while you're studying [Show](#)
- 8 Check what to do when you stop studying [Show](#)
- 9 Repay your loan [Show](#)

STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

REPAYMENT

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

THREE THINGS TO KNOW



**THE
FACTS**



**THE
FIGURES**



**THE
INTEREST**

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - AN OVERVIEW

Undergraduate loans for new students in England are **taken under Plan 5 terms** and some essential facts about how the repayment system works include:

- You won't have to make repayments until your income is over the thresholds, which are £25,000 a year (£2,083 a month or £480 a week) until April 2027
- From April 2027 the threshold will be adjusted annually with inflation (RPI)
- If you study a full-time course, you will be due to start repaying from 6th April after completing your course or leaving/withdrawing from higher education
- You will repay 9% of any income earned over the threshold and if employed in the UK, deductions will be made from your pay through the tax system
- If your income drops below the threshold, your repayments will stop
- Any outstanding balance will be cancelled 40 years after entering repayment

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - CURRENT FIGURES

Approximate monthly repayment based on **9% of income earned** over the current **£25,000** Plan 5 loan threshold:

Annual Income (Before Tax)	9% Repayment Deducted From	Monthly Repayment (Approximate)
£25,000	£0	£0
£35,000	£10,000	£75
£40,000	£15,000	£112
£45,000	£20,000	£150
£50,000	£25,000	£187

Income
£30,000

9% Deducted
from?

Monthly
Repayment?

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

PLAN 5 STUDENT LOANS - THE INTEREST

Interest on a student loan **starts to be added** as soon as the first payments are released and is applied until the loan balance is repaid in full or is cancelled:

- The interest rate applied to Plan 5 student loans will be set at RPI only
- RPI is Retail Prices Index and the rate for student loans is set annually
- This rate uses the March RPI figure, which is carried forward and applied in September (set at 3.2% until 31st August 2026)
- Interest can affect how long it takes to repay your loan, but it does not affect weekly, monthly or yearly repayments, which are based on your income
- You will be able to check your loan balance and keep SLC updated on any changes to your circumstances using the Online Repayment Service

For more information go to: www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan



STUDENT FINANCE OVERVIEW

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

CONSIDER THE COSTS

It's important to **think about** the costs you are likely to face while you are studying and how to manage your money:

Remember, you'll get a maintenance support payment each term and you'll need to pay for things like...

- accommodation, books and other essential study or course materials
- phone, broadband, streaming services, sports, going out, food and drink

There can also be costs you might not have thought of yet, such as insurance or a TV Licence, so **planning a budget** can help:

- www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html



Could you balance study and work? Many students will work part-time alongside their course or during holidays to supplement their income

BUDGETING AND KEY MESSAGES

THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

There is a lot of information available on student finance, but it is most important to **understand what it will mean to YOU** and remember three key points...



#1



#2



#3

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN



For further information on student finance,
applications and repayment

www.gov.uk/student-finance

For a range of helpful tools and guidance,
visit the SFE student finance zone

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance