Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs)
Information for new starters in 2017/18

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Funding and Financial Support team:
t: +44 (0)115 823 2071
e: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk

In September 2007 the Government announced that it would no longer provide public funding for Home/EU students studying for a qualification that is equivalent to, or of a lower level than, one which the student already holds. This means that if you already have a first degree (e.g. BA, BSc) and wish to study for another undergraduate degree you may be charged a higher, non-subsidised tuition fee.

At the University of Nottingham new students in 2017/18 will be charged the standard fee for their course see: www.nottingham.ac.uk/fees; there is no supplement.

If you plan to study for a qualification at the same level as one you already hold you may not be eligible for a Tuition Fee Loan or Maintenance Loan. However, you may still be able to apply for extra support such as Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs), Parent’s Learning Allowance, Adult Dependents’ Grant and Childcare Grant.

ELQ Exemptions:

There are some exemptions to the ELQ legislation. New ‘Home’ students taking a second undergraduate degree in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Architecture or Social Work will still be eligible to take out a Maintenance Loan from Student Finance. However, they are ineligible for a Tuition Fee Loan when studying on a full time basis.

Part Time STEM courses
Home/EU students taking a second undergraduate degree, part time, in Computer Science; Biological Sciences; Veterinary Sciences; Agriculture (and related subjects); Physical Sciences; Engineering; Technology or Mathematics are eligible for a tuition fee loan in the 2017/18 academic year, even if they already hold an equivalent or higher level qualification.

Disabled Students Allowance (DSAs)
Students in receipt of a DSA are exempt from ELQ legislation with regard to being charged a higher tuition fee rate. However they are ineligible for a Maintenance Loan or Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance.

Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Dietetics from September 2017
Students who plan to take a course in one of the above subjects, but already hold a degree will (if personally eligible) still qualify for the full package of financial support from the Student Loans Company (Tuition Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan and supplementary grants)

If you are unsure whether or not your previous study affects your eligibility for student funding, please speak to either Student Finance, or the Funding and Financial Support Team here at the University, for clarification.
### Intercalation

Intercalation is when a student interrupts their course to study for a (related) degree, then returns to complete the original course.

Intercalation is most common for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine students and often involves studying for a higher level qualification. However, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) advised that should a student intercalate, and gain a Masters or PhD level qualification, they would fall under ELQ rules when they return to study on their original (undergraduate level) course. For example, if you intercalated after the third year of a five year BVMBVS Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery degree, you would be ineligible for a Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance for the final two years of the BVMBVS course.

**We urge students who are considering intercalating to discuss the funding implications before making a final decision. Further support and guidance is available from the Funding and Financial Support team – contact details are on the final page of this factsheet.**

### Support funds offered by the University:

#### The Student Hardship Fund

The Student Hardship Fund provides discretionary financial support which can help alleviate unexpected financial hardship, or help to make up a shortfall between income and essential expenditure.

It should be noted that self-funding ELQ students are expected to have made realistic provision at the start of the course to fund both their tuition fees and living costs. Where a student has made reasonable provision but is faced with unexpected essential costs or an unforeseen change of circumstances which causes financial difficulties it may be possible to receive help through the Hardship Fund.

#### University Childcare Support Scheme

This scheme offers eligible students help towards the costs of essential registered child care whilst they are studying. As funds are limited the University adopts a selective approach to the allocation of awards to ensure that it is those students who most need assistance who benefit from the scheme.
Useful contacts

National contacts

Student Finance England  
t: +44 (0)300 100 0607  
w: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

Student Finance Wales  
t: +44 (0)300 200 4050  
w: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

Student Finance NI  
t: +44 (0)300 100 0077  
w: [www.studentfinanceni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk)

Student Awards Agency for Scotland  
t: +44 (0)845 111 1711  
w: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

NHS Business Services Authority  
t: +44 (0)300 330 1345  
w: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students)

National Union of Students (NUS)  
Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.  
w: [www.nus.org.uk](http://www.nus.org.uk)

University contacts

Admissions Office  
t: +44 (0)115 95 14749  
e: ugadmissions@nottingham.ac.uk  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/admissions)

Funding & Financial Support, Student Services  
Advice on all aspects of student finance including Student Loans, Government grants, University scholarships, bursaries and support funds.  
t: +44 (0)115 82 32071  
e: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

Academic Support and Disability Support, Student Services  
Study support, support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties and disabilities.  
t: +44 (0)115 82 32070  
e: dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk or disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

The University of Nottingham Students’ Union Student Advice Centre  
A confidential service available to all University of Nottingham students, giving advice and information on a range of matters, such as housing, money and academic issues.  
t: +44 (0)115 84 68730  
e: SUAdvice@nottingham.ac.uk  
w: [www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice)

All information was correct at the time of writing and is based on data from Gov.UK, the University of Nottingham, the NHSBSA and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information we provide however it can only give general guidance. We would always advise you to contact the relevant funding bodies referenced in relation to your specific circumstances.

Financial Support – April 2017

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