Funding for BA Social Work & Social Policy
New undergraduate Home students entering from September 2015

If you require this factsheet in an alternative format please contact Financial Support on 0115 823 2071 or email: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk

The information in this factsheet is relevant only to students who are ordinarily resident in England and meet all the regulations to qualify for student finance. You must also be studying for your first degree. If you have completed an equivalent or higher level qualification you won’t usually qualify for a tuition fee loan or grant. If you normally live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland please contact the relevant funding body in your country.

Financial Support available from Student Finance England (SFE)

1. Student Loans – There are two types of student loan available from SFE:

   - **Tuition Fee Loan** – up to £9,000 depending on the fee the University will charge you. The money will be paid direct to your University to cover the cost of your fees.
   - **Maintenance Loan for living costs** – the maximum loan for new students in September 2015/16 studying at Nottingham is £5,740 (£4,565 if you are living with your parents). 35% of the loan is means tested.
   - **Repayments** – You repay your loan when you have graduated, or left University, and your income is £21,000 or higher. You pay 9% of any income above £21,000. For example; if your income is £25,000 per year you will repay £30 per month.

2. Maintenance Grant – Full-time students from lower income households will be eligible for a non-repayable Grant of up to £3,387 per year. How much you get will depend on your household income.

   - If the income is £25,000 or less you will be eligible for the maximum grant of £3,387.
   - Partial grants are available for those with a household income between £25,001 and £42,620.
   - Grants are payable in three instalments, one at the start of each term. The amount of Maintenance Grant you receive affects the amount of Maintenance Loan you can borrow: the Loan is reduced by 50p for every £1 of Grant you are entitled to.
   - If your circumstances mean that you can claim income-related benefits whilst a student you will receive the Special Support Grant rather than the Maintenance Grant. Receipt of the Special Support grant does not affect your Loan entitlement.

3. Additional grants – There are a number of grants available to undergraduate students in specific circumstances.

   - **Childcare Grant**: income-assessed grant to help students with dependent children meet the costs of registered and approved childcare. Can cover up to 85% of childcare costs to a maximum of £155.24 per week (one child) £266.15 (two or more children).
   - **Parents’ Learning Allowance**: income-assessed grant to help students with course-related costs, between £50 and £1,573 per year to eligible students.
   - **Adult Dependents’ Grant**: income-assessed grant for students with an adult family member who depends on them financially, a maximum of £2,757 per year.
Further details regarding eligibility are available from www.gov.uk/studentfinance. You can also contact the Financial Support team at the University www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport for advice.

- Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA): students who have a disability, specific learning difficulty or mental health condition may be eligible to receive funding to help with extra costs incurred during their course which are a result of their disability. These funds can be applied for through Student Finance England. Further information can be found on the Gov.UK website (details above). Advice is also available from the University’s Disability Support Team: www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

The Social Work Bursary

The Social Work Bursary is offered as an incentive to train in social work and is administered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHS BSA). It is available for full-time undergraduate courses in social work in **Years 2 and 3 only**. It is not income assessed and is in addition to student loans you may be eligible for from Student Finance England (SFE).

The number of bursaries offered will be capped, so it is likely that not all students will receive one.

If you pay tuition fees of £9,000 per year you could be eligible for a non income-assessed Social Work Bursary in both years. The maximum for 2015/16 is £4,862.50 for students studying outside London. How you spend it is up to you – you can choose to use the Bursary towards your tuition fees or towards living costs. The NHS Social Work Bursary is paid in three instalments.

To be eligible for the Social Work Bursary you must:

- Meet the residency eligibility criteria as defined on the NHS Business Services Authority website. For details see: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students
- Not already hold a Higher Education social work qualification
- Not be studying on an employment based course
- Not be receiving any support from a social care work employer

As there will be insufficient awards available to the number of students studying on the course, the awards will be made based on academic attainment from the first year of study. Further details will be available from the School of Sociology and Social Policy once they are confirmed.

How to apply for support

- Grants and Loans from SFE – Apply online at www.gov.uk/studentfinance
- You will receive a letter outlining the support you are going to receive from Student Finance England.
- Once enrolled at your university you should receive your support payments within a few days.
Bursaries from the University of Nottingham

Core Bursary
You may be eligible for the University's Core Bursary. Awards will be made based on household income, from the assessment carried out by Student Finance for funding purposes in Year 1. In Years 2 & 3 we will use the household income assessment PLUS any Social Work Bursary received as your income.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income bands</th>
<th>Award level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to £15,000</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
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<td>£15,001 - £25,000</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>£25,001 - £35,000</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£35,001 - £42,600</td>
<td>£750</td>
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Applications can be made via an online form accessed via the Financial Support web pages.

Nottingham Potential Bursary
The Potential Bursary offers £1,000 per year for students who meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:

- Students with adult or child dependants AND with a household income, as assessed by Student Finance, of £42,600 or below
- Student who are entering University via an Access route or with vocational qualifications AND with a household income, as assessed by Student Finance, of £42,600 or below
- Students who have been in local authority care for at least three months AND are aged under 25 at the start of the course
- Students who have fulfilled specified conditions through participation in the University's widening participation outreach activities (for example, through our summer schools)

Application forms are available to download from the Financial Support webpages.

For more information on Bursaries, Scholarships and Support Funds offered by the University visit the Financial Support web pages. See Useful Contacts.

Financial difficulties
It is expected that the statutory funding package, along with help from family, work and/or savings, should be sufficient to cover your essential living costs and that prior to commencing your studies you will have carefully considered how you would cover your essential living costs during your time at University. However we do understand that sometimes things happen unexpectedly that impact on your financial situation; for example unplanned essential costs or an unforeseen change in circumstances.

If this happens the Financial Support Team may be able to help. We offer support and advice to students, can make referrals to other support services and can advise on the availability of support/hardship funds. (see Useful Contacts)
Useful contacts

**National contacts**

**NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA)**
Advice on all elements of finance for NHS funded study.
t: +44 (0)300 330 1342
w: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students)

**Gov.uk**
Advice and information on all aspects of student finance including eligibility, entitlements and how to apply for the Student Loan via Student Finance England.
w: [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC)**
Information on tax credits eligibility and application procedures.
w: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

**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**

**School of Sociology and Social Policy**
The University of Nottingham, University Park Campus, NG7 2RD
t: +44 (0) 115 951 5234
e: socspa@nottingham.ac.uk
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology)

**Financial Support, Student Services Centre**
Advice on all aspects of student finance including Student Loans, Government grants, University scholarships, bursaries and support funds.
t: +44 (0)115 823 2071
e: financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

**Academic Support and Disability Support, Student Services Centre**
Study support, support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties and disabilities.
t: +44 (0)115 823 2070 or +44 (0)115 951 3710
e: dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk or disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices)

**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)115 846 8730
e: SUAdvice@nottingham.ac.uk
w: [www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/helpadvice](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/helpadvice)

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.

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