

## UK and EU Undergraduate Fees from 2012

The UK Government has approved changes to the student tuition fee and financial support arrangements for full-time and part-time UK and EU undergraduates from September 2012. The details are still being finalised and more information is expected to be available in the next few months. The Government will publish new information as it becomes available on the student finance section of the [DirectGov](#) website.

The main features of the new fee and financial support arrangements are likely to be as follows:

- There will be no requirement to pay an up-front fee; instead the cost of tuition will be paid by a government loan and there will be a graduate contribution that will be paid once students have left their course and are earning over £21,000. The total amount you will have to pay back will depend on how much loan you take out and how much you earn in your subsequent career.
- The basic graduate contribution which universities will be able to charge for courses is £6,000 a year. Some will be able to charge up to £9,000 a year but will need to meet strict criteria to make sure that students from all income groups can access those courses.
- A wide range of financial support will be available to help with tuition fee and living cost.
- Part-time students will be eligible for loans to cover fees, but they will not be eligible for maintenance loans or grants.
- The new arrangements will only affect those students who start university from September 2012.
- The University will agree its level of graduate contribution and financial support arrangements for 2012 entry in the next few months. This will be published on our website when it is available.

## Frequently asked questions

### 1 I'm applying for 2011 entry; will I be affected?

No, the changes only affect students who start at University from September 2012. If you start your course in 2011 or earlier you will continue on the old financial arrangements. The annual tuition fee will remain at the same level for current students and students starting in 2011, but will be increased by a small amount (linked to inflation) each year. This is set by the government and details will be published on our website.

### 2 I applied in the 2011 cycle for deferred entry to 2012; will I have to pay a higher graduate contribution?

Yes. The new arrangements apply from 2012 entry for all students starting their course in that year, even if they applied earlier with deferred entry.

### 3 How much will the University charge from 2012?

The University has not yet made a decision on the level of graduate contribution it will require but will publish details as soon as they have been agreed.

### 4 The potential increase is significant; what financial support will be available?

It is important to remember that you will not have to make any payment up-front. There will be a range of financial support available for students including non-means-tested loans to help with tuition fees and living expenses, plus means-tested loans, grants and scholarships.

For example:

- Full-time students may be entitled to a **grant** (which is not repayable) of up to £3,250 towards living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.
- Students from families with incomes up to £42,000 will be entitled to a partial **grant**.
- **Loans** (which are repayable) for living costs are available for all eligible full-time students.
- The government is planning a national scholarship scheme to support students from families with low incomes.
- The University of Nottingham will also offer a wide range of scholarships and bursaries for our students and we will be updating our financial support for 2012 in the light of the higher graduate contribution.

### 5 How much will I repay, how and when?

You will only start to repay your loans after you have left university and are earning at least £21,000. This threshold will increase in line with earnings from 2016 onwards. If for any reason your income falls below £21,000, for example if you take maternity leave, your repayments will be suspended. The amount repaid each month will depend on your earnings - repayments will be 9% of income above £21,000.

For example, someone earning £21,500 - currently the salary of a newly-qualified teacher - would initially make repayments of £4 per month. The monthly repayment would increase to £23 for someone earning £24,000 per year; £30 on a salary of £25,000; £45 on £27,000; and £68 on £30,000.

The repayments will normally be deducted automatically from your salary through the tax system. Interest on your loan will be charged at inflation plus 3% while you are studying, and up until the April after you leave university. From the April after you leave university if you are earning below £21,000, interest will be applied at the rate of inflation. Graduates earning between £21,000 and £41,000 will be charged interest on a sliding scale up to a maximum of inflation plus 3%. Graduates earning above £41,000 will be charged interest at the rate of inflation plus 3%. All outstanding repayments will be written off after 30 years.

For further information go to student finance website at [Directgov](http://Directgov)

## **6 I am a current student at the University; will these changes affect my fees or repayment schemes?**

No, students who have started their course before 2012 will *not* be affected by these changes.

## **7 What are the arrangements for part-time students?**

The fees and financial support arrangements are changing for part-time students. The two most significant changes are that:

- Students on most programmes will no longer have to pay any tuition fees up front.
- Loans for the graduate contribution will be extended to eligible part-time first-degree students who complete a minimum of 25% of the full-time course load per year (30 credits or more).

Please note that part-time students are not eligible for maintenance loans or grants.

## **8 I'm an international student; do these changes affect me?**

No, these changes only affect students from the UK and elsewhere in the European Union. Fees and financial support arrangements for international students are decided by universities themselves.

## **9 What should I do next?**

If you are a current student you don't need to do anything.

If you have applied for 2011 entry you are not affected by the proposed changes to fees.

If you have applied for a deferred place for 2012 we have written to you to advise you of your options.

If you are planning to apply for 2012 entry, the University will announce its level of graduate contribution by summer 2011. Once a decision is made we will update our website.