



## Funding for Care Experienced or Estranged

### New full-time UK undergraduate (and PGCE) students starting in September 2025

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact Financial Support:

+44 (0)115 74 86500 (Faculty Option; Option 4)

**Student Enquiry Centre:** <https://student-enquiries.nottingham.ac.uk>

This factsheet aims to give an overview of the funding available for care experienced or estranged students who live in England and are starting a university degree for the first time, at the University of Nottingham in the academic year 2025/26.

#### Care leaver

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 defines a care leaver as a young person who has been in the care of a local authority for at least 13 weeks including at the time of their 16th birthday. As a care leaver, Student Finance should grant you 'independent status' and therefore not count the finances of any parent(s)/foster parents when they assess your income. However, if you have a partner/spouse, then Student Finance will include their income.

If you do not meet this definition of Care Leaver but you have been in care for a minimum of 3 months since your 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, please see further information below in this factsheet about bursaries you might be eligible for.

Student Finance will request evidence to support your status, e.g a letter from the Local Authority or a Social Worker confirming your circumstances ('former looked after child' or 'care leaver').

#### Estranged

To be considered estranged from your parent(s), you need to show that you have had no contact, or very limited contacts, with your biological or adoptive parent(s) and this is not likely to change. Student Finance understands that estrangement can be for many different reasons. Some common examples of estrangement are; you are living with friends, or with other family members such as aunts/uncles/grandparents; you have only ever known one of your parents and they have recently passed away; you still have very limited contact with your parent(s) for specific reasons, for example keeping in contact with siblings. This isn't an exhaustive list and Student Finance will review all applications on a case-by-case basis.

Student Finance will request evidence to support your status, e.g a letter from your teacher, doctor, support worker or local authority etc which confirms that you are not in contact with your parents. However, if you do not have any evidence, you can complete and digitally upload a Confirmation of Estrangement Form which can be found in your Student Finance online account.

#### Tuition fees

The University of Nottingham will charge £9,535 for undergraduate courses starting in September 2025, with the possibility of an inflationary increase in future years depending on Government policy.

#### Loan for Tuition Fees

You can apply for a loan from Student Finance to pay your tuition fees. You can request any amount, up to £9,535. Student Finance pays the money directly to the University to cover the cost of your fees.



## Help with living costs

There are several sources of help with your living costs. Bursaries and Grants provide you with money that you don't have to pay back. A loan is different – you do have to pay it back. An adviser in our Funding & Financial Support team can support you in working out what you are entitled to. The section below summarises the main sources of support, which are:

- Loans from the government through Student Finance
- Bursaries from the University of Nottingham
- Bursaries from your Local Authority
- Additional government support
- Other financial support

### Government loan for living costs

All eligible students starting university in 2025/26 are entitled to a loan towards living costs. If your household income is under £25,000 you will be entitled to the maximum loan of £10,544 (assuming you are living in University or private rented accommodation). Where household income is between £25,001 and £62,377 the loan will be between £10,544 and £4,914 on a sliding scale.

If your circumstances mean that you can claim income-related benefits while you are a student, you may be able to receive a higher rate of loan.

### Additional Government Support

There are a number of additional grants available to undergraduate students:

- **Childcare Grant:** means-tested grant is available to students with dependent children aged 15 or under (or 17 and under for children with special educational needs) on the first day of the academic year. This allowance pays up to 85% of actual childcare costs up to a maximum of £199.62 per week for one child and £342.24 per week for two or more children
- **Parents' Learning Allowance:** means tested grant of up to £2,024 is to help with course-related costs such as books, photocopying and materials.
- **Adult Dependant Grant:** means tested allowance of up to £3,545 where the student has an adult dependant, usually their partner.
- **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 whilst attending their course which are as a result of their disability. Further details regarding eligibility are available from the Gov.UK website and the University's Funding & Financial Support and Accessibility teams (all listed in Useful Contacts on the final page of this factsheet).

## University of Nottingham Scholarships and Bursaries

**Core Bursary** – you must have a household income below £35,000 as assessed by Student Finance England.

Income	Core Bursary (per year)
£0 - £35,000	£1,400

Go to [Scholarships and bursaries](#) for more information

### Scholarships available

You may be entitled to apply for scholarships from the University, these scholarships are competitive and will require an application being submitted prior to the closing date. Further information regarding the scholarships and their application deadlines can be found below:



**The Halford Scholarship – Closing date 16 May 2025**

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/articles/scholarships-and-bursaries-ug/scholarships/halford-scholarship-programme.html>

**The Alumni Scholarships - £1500 per year of study: Closing date 5 May 2025/1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/articles/scholarships-and-bursaries-ug/scholarships/faculty-alumni-scholarships.html>

**The Stoneygate Scholarship – Closing date 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/ugstudy/articles/scholarships-and-bursaries-ug/scholarships/the-stoneygate-award.html>

**Care Experienced and Estranged student additional support**

Please refer to [www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/care-leavers.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/care-leavers.aspx) and [www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/student-support-packages/estranged-students.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/student-support-packages/estranged-students.aspx) for up to date information on what is being offered.

**The Care Experienced and Estranged Bursary** may provide £2,000 per year (£1,000 per academic year, if in receipt of Nottingham Potential Bursary - see link on previous page for more information on the Potential Bursary) to students under 25 with a household income below £35,000 (as assessed by Student Finance) and who are currently or have been in public care for a minimum period of three months, since their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students under special guardianship or kinship care during this period may also qualify OR students who have been granted independent status by Student Finance England due to estrangement. Some exclusions apply. Please refer to the links above for more information.

**Accommodation Bursary**

The University of Nottingham Accommodation Bursary provides first year care experienced and estranged students (who meet certain eligibility criteria) with support to cover the costs of their accommodation. Please refer to <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/student-living/accommodation/care-experienced-and-estranged-students.aspx#AccommodationBursaries> for more details.

**Local Authority bursary**

Care leavers who start university under the age of 25 may be entitled to additional help from their Local Authority (LA); this should include, as a minimum, a one-off bursary of £2,000. To apply for this bursary and to investigate whether any further support is available, you should contact your personal adviser, social worker or case worker at your LA.



## Further information

**Tax credits and benefits**– The Department for Work and Pensions will expect you to apply for all the student support you are entitled to. Please contact the Student Union’s Advice Centre for more details on benefits and your entitlement (see Useful Contacts).

- **Child Tax Credits (CTC)/Universal Credit (UC)** – Students with children under 16 (or under 18 in certain circumstances) can continue to claim CTC. We advise you to inform the Inland Revenue you are going into full-time education.

## Council tax

- Full-time students are exempt from council tax. Students should inform their local council of their student status. Where this leaves one eligible person in a household a 25% discount may be claimed.

## So what could you get all together for living costs?

Here is an example of support for living costs. This assumes that you are a first time undergraduate, aged under 25 at the start of the course and have been in care for at least three months, with a household income of below £25,000, and are studying at the University of Nottingham (UoN).

Means-tested loan	UoN Bursaries	LA Bursary (Year 1 only, if available)	Total
£10,544	£3,400	£2,000	<b>£15,944</b>

## Repaying your student loans

You do not have to make any repayments to your student loans until you have left University and are earning over £25,000 per year or £2,083 gross per month (2024/25 threshold Plan 5). Repayments are taken directly from your salary in the same way as you pay tax and national insurance. The amount you pay is calculated at 9% of your earnings above the £25,000 per year threshold – see table below:

Annual Income	Monthly Repayment
£24,000	<i>nil</i>
£26,000	£8
£35,000	£75
£45,000	£150

To find out more about repaying student loans, including current interest rates, go to [gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan](https://gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan)



## Useful contacts

### National contacts

#### 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.

[gov.uk/studentfinance](https://gov.uk/studentfinance)

#### Student Loans Company

Information relating to Student Loans.

[slc.co.uk](https://slc.co.uk)

#### Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

Information on tax credits eligibility and application procedures.

[hmrc.gov.uk](https://hmrc.gov.uk)

#### National Union of Students (NUS)

Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.

[nus.org.uk](https://nus.org.uk)

### University contacts

#### Care Leavers' Mentors

Louise Hemphrey is the University's Care Leavers Mentor. Louise works in the **Widening Participation Team** and provides support for looked after young people and care leavers as they progress to higher education.

Louise +44 (0)115 84 66733

[care@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:care@nottingham.ac.uk)

[nottingham.ac.uk/wideningparticipation](https://nottingham.ac.uk/wideningparticipation)

#### Funding and Financial Support, Student Services

Advice on all aspects of student finance including Student Loans, Government grants, University scholarships, bursaries and support funds.

+44 (0)115 74 85600 (FacultyOption; Option 4)

**Student Enquiry Centre:** <https://student-enquiries.nottingham.ac.uk>

[nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport](https://nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

#### Disability Support Services

Study support, support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties and disabilities.

+44 (0)115 82 32070

[disability-support-services@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:disability-support-services@nottingham.ac.uk)

[nottingham.ac.uk/student-services](https://nottingham.ac.uk/student-services)

#### The University of Nottingham Students' Union 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.

+44 (0)115 84 68730

[SUAdvice@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:SUAdvice@nottingham.ac.uk)

[su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice](https://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, and the Department for Education (DfE).

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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