



Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs) Information for new starters in 2024/25

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 2024/25 will be charged the standard fee for their course see 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 from Student Finance. 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, Pre-registration Healthcare, Veterinary Science, Architecture or Undergraduate Initial Teacher Training** 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 the following subjects may be eligible for a tuition fee and maintenance loan in the 2024/25 academic year, even if an equivalent or higher level qualification is held.

- Medicine and Dentistry
- Subjects allied to Medicine
- Biological and Sport Science
- Psychology
- Veterinary Sciences
- Agriculture, food and related sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Engineering and Technology
- Computing
- Geographical, Earth and Environmental Studies

You must be studying a minimum of 30 credits (a full time degree is 120 credits per year) to be eligible. Distance learners can only apply for a tuition fee loan, not a maintenance loan.

You may also be exempt from the ELQ rules if studying a part-time course which leads to an Initial Teacher Training 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 when studying full time or part time except with regard to the exemptions outlined above.



Nursing (including Graduate Entry Nursing), Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Dietetics students

Students who plan to take a full time 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)

Graduate Entry Medicine

Different funding rules apply for these courses. Please see our Graduate Entry Medicine factsheet for more information

Summary

Full time students	University Bursaries & Scholarships	Maintenance Loan	Tuition Fee Loan	HEU UG Tuition Fee in 2024/25
First time students	✓	✓	✓	£9,250
Students on ELQ exempt courses*	See fund criteria	✓	X	£9,250
DSA students on a second degree (non-exempt course)	See fund criteria	X	X	£9,250
New ELQ students (non-exempt course)	See fund criteria	X	X	£9,250
Nursing (including Graduate Entry Nursing), Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Dietetics	See fund criteria	✓	✓	£9,250
New part time students on an eligible STEM course*	See fund criteria	✓	✓	Please check with your School

*where a means tested assessment has been carried out by Student Finance, for funding purposes

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. 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. However, where conferral of the higher qualification is made after conferral of the lower qualification, the ELQ rule may not apply.



We therefore 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

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. Please check eligibility criteria carefully before applying.

Student Crisis Fund

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 an unexpected change in circumstances that impacts on that provision, it may be possible to receive help through the Student Crisis Fund.

University Childcare Support Fund

This fund has been set up to contribute to essential, Ofsted registered, childcare for eligible students and research students struggling to meet costs whilst they are studying. Funds are limited and financial hardship must be evidenced in order to be considered for an award.



Useful contacts

National contacts

Student Finance England

+44 (0)300 100 0607

gov.uk/studentfinance

Student Finance Wales

+44 (0)300 100 0607

studentfinancewales.co.uk

Student Finance NI

+44 (0)300 100 0077

studentfinancenl.co.uk

Student Awards Agency for Scotland

44 (0)845 111 1711

saas.gov.uk

NHS Business Services Authority

+44 (0)300 330 1345

nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students

National Union of Students (NUS)

Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.

nus.org.uk

University contacts

Admissions Office

+44 (0)115 95 14749

ugadmissions@nottingham.ac.uk

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.

+44 (0)115 82 32071

financialsupport@nottingham.ac.uk

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 74 86500

disability-support-services@nottingham.ac.uk

nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

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

su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice

Support and Wellbeing team

nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/service/s/support-and-wellbeing-service.aspx

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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