Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs)
Information for new starters in 2018/19

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 2018/19 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. However, you may still be able to apply for extra support such as Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs), Parent’s Learning Allowance, Adult Dependants’ 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 and maintenance loan in the 2018/19 academic year, even if an equivalent or higher level qualification is held. However you must be studying a minimum of 30 credits (a full time degree is 120 credits per year) and not studying as a distance learner, unless you have a disability.

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, 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)
Full time students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Bursaries &amp; Scholarships</th>
<th>Maintenance Loan</th>
<th>Tuition Fee Loan</th>
<th>HEU UG Tuition Fee in 2018/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time students</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students on ELQ exempt courses*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSA students on a second degree (non-exempt course)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New ELQ students (non-exempt course)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New part time students on STEM courses*</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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**

**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 full time 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. Part time students can only apply for financial support towards associated course costs eg books, printing

**University Childcare Support Scheme**
This scheme offers eligible students help towards the costs of essential, Ofsted 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**
  +44 (0)300 100 0607
  [gov.uk/studentfinance](https://gov.uk/studentfinance)

- **Student Finance Wales**
  +44 (0)300 100 0607
  [studentfinancewales.co.uk](https://studentfinancewales.co.uk)

- **Student Finance NI**
  +44 (0)300 100 0077
  [studentfinanceni.co.uk](https://studentfinanceni.co.uk)

- **Student Awards Agency for Scotland**
  44 (0)845 111 1711
  [saas.gov.uk](https://saas.gov.uk)

- **NHS Business Services Authority**
  +44 (0)300 330 1345
  [nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](https://nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students)

- **National Union of Students (NUS)**
  Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.
  [nus.org.uk](https://nus.org.uk)

**University contacts**

- **Admissions Office**
  +44 (0)115 95 14749
  ugadmissions@nottingham.ac.uk
  [nottingham.ac.uk/admissions](https://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](https://nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport)

- **Accessibility, Student Services**
  Study support, support for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties and disabilities.
  +44 (0)115 82 32070 or
  +44 (0)115 95 15992
  dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk or
disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk
  [nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices](https://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](https://su.nottingham.ac.uk/advice)

- **School Welfare**
  [nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/healthwelfare/index.aspx](https://nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/healthwelfare/index.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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