



Interruption or withdrawal from a postgraduate Doctoral course

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

+44 (0)115 82 32071

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

This factsheet provides information for students who have taken out a Doctoral Loan from **Student Finance England** and who subsequently decide to interrupt or withdraw from their course.

Interruption

A student can ask to interrupt their course for a specified period for a number of reasons including: ill health; pregnancy; financial reasons; academic reasons; caring responsibilities. The interruption has to be agreed with the relevant School or Department

What does this mean for me?

If you take a break from your course, your Doctoral Loan payments will stop. If you get a payment after this, you may be asked to repay it straight away, so it's important you let Student Finance know as soon as you take a break. The University will also inform them of your period of interruption and when we expect you back on the course.

As long as the interruption has been approved by the University your loan payments will resume when you return to your course. However, if you take a break for two years or more during your course, you'll only get further loan payments if you can show Student Finance that you have compelling personal reasons.

How can I pay for my living costs while I am on a voluntary interruption?

You will need to find a source of income for the relevant period. The majority of students find work; some return home to live and manage with family support. In certain circumstances you may be able to access benefits - please contact the Student Union's Advice Centre for further information - see Useful Contacts.

Whilst there is no automatic access to further Doctoral Loan instalments while you are on a period of interruption, in cases where this will cause financial hardship you can write to Student Finance to request they consider continuing to pay the loan instalment/s during this time. You should contact Student Finance to discuss this further

You will need to upload evidence relating to the reason for the interruption (eg ill health, disability, bereavement) and evidence of financial hardship. However, if funding is awarded during this period, you can never receive more than the maximum Doctoral Loan entitlement overall, so you may have to source additional funding for when you return to complete your course.



What happens about my rent?

If you have signed a contract for a room/house then you are legally bound to pay rent as agreed. If you are successful in finding work, or have sufficient family financial support, then this may not be a problem.

If you know that you are going to struggle to pay the rent try to find a replacement tenant as soon as possible. If you can, talk to your housemates and explain what is happening; they may know of someone who would be happy to move in.

We recommend speaking with a Welfare Advisor in the Student Union's Advice Centre – see Useful Contacts.

Withdrawal

If you withdraw from (leave) your course your Doctoral Loan payments will stop. If you receive a payment after withdrawal you may be asked to repay it straight away, so it's important you let Student Finance know as soon as you withdraw. The University will also tell Student Finance that you have withdrawn.

You are only able to receive one Doctoral Loan. Therefore if you withdraw from your course and subsequently decide to take another one, you are not able to apply for another Doctoral Loan unless you have compelling personal reasons for leaving the original course (eg ill health, disability, bereavement).

Repaying your Doctoral Loan

If you have been overpaid as a result of interrupting or withdrawing from your course Student Finance will contact you to advise how to repay this amount. This will only happen if you receive a loan instalment after the date of your interruption or withdrawal.

If you haven't been overpaid you will repay the Doctoral Loan in the normal way. More information about repaying your Doctoral Loan can be found at thestudentroom.co.uk/studentfinance

Tuition fee

The tuition fee for your course is outlined at nottingham.ac.uk/fees When you decide to interrupt or withdraw we recommend checking your fee liability at nottingham.ac.uk/fees/tuition-fees-student-services.aspx to ensure you have paid the correct amount.

If you have any questions about the tuition fee please contact the Fees and Charges team – see Useful Contacts



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

Student Loans Company

Information relating to Student Loans for postgraduate courses.

+44 (0)300 100 0031

slc.co.uk

gov.uk/postgraduateloan

National Union of Students (NUS)

Advice and guidance on all aspects of student life.

nus.org.uk

University contacts

Funding & Financial Support

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

+44 (0)115 82 32071

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

nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

Fees and Charges team

For queries relating to tuition fees including instalment dates and amounts.

+44 (0)115 74 86500

tuitionfees@nottingham.ac.uk

nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

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

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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