



Intercalating to take a postgraduate qualification during a Medicine or Vet Medicine undergraduate 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 with 'home fee status' who are intercalating from their Medicine or Vet Medicine course to take a Postgraduate qualification; eg Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma, Masters or PhD.

Interruption/intercalate

A student can ask to interrupt their course usually after the end of Year 3 or Year 4 and take a period of time to undertake a postgraduate qualification. They will then return to complete their original undergraduate course.

What does this mean for me?

Once you are on a period of interruption/intercalation student funding for your undergraduate course will cease to be paid to you, and the University. The University will advise the Student Loans Company (SLC) that you are interrupting your course and inform them of the date you are expected to return.

The intercalation period often begins in April/May time which is part way through a standard academic year (September – August) and this can cause problems when applying for funding from the SLC on your return to the course. At the start of your intercalation, when you interrupt your undergraduate course, Student Finance may calculate that you have been overpaid maintenance support. If this is the case they will contact you to request the overpayment is repaid. You can either make this payment immediately or have the amount deducted from future maintenance loan awards.

We would recommend that you complete an application for the following standard academic year as usual (eg if intercalating April 2022 to April 2023 please complete an application for the 2022/23 session). This means the University will be able to confirm again to the SLC that you are on a period of interruption and let them know when you have resumed study in the April/May time (in this example it would be April/May 2023) within that academic year.

When you apply for funding for your return you will be 'repeating - completing' the year you were in when you commenced the intercalation.

Therefore, if you were in Year 4 before your intercalation period you will need to apply for funding for Year 4 on your return. Your university record and student finance will not rollover into Year 5 until August of the year in which you return.

Funding for this 'repeat' year will be impacted if you have already repeated a previous year of study in attendance, or if you completed any previous higher education study before coming to Nottingham to commence your current course.

Why do I not graduate with my postgraduate qualification immediately?

If you have your postgraduate qualification awarded to you immediately after completing the course you will fall under the ELQ rules and be ineligible for tuition fee support for the remainder of your undergraduate course. This is because you would then hold a qualification that is a higher level than the one you are returning to study.



At Nottingham we usually award the postgraduate qualification at the same graduation ceremony as your undergraduate degree. This means you will not officially hold the postgraduate qualification until that time, and as such the ELQ rules do not apply. (*This has been confirmed by the SLC*)

What are the ELQ rules?

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 (eg BA, BSc) or a higher level award (eg Postgraduate Masters) and wish to study for another undergraduate degree 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 Dependents' Grant and Childcare Grant.

Students taking a Medicine or Vet Medicine course can apply for a means tested maintenance loan as these courses have been granted certain exemptions.

Tuition fee

The date you commence your intercalation will impact on the tuition fee for the year in which the intercalation starts and the fee for the year when you return.

If your intercalation commences **before** the start of Term 3 you will only pay 50% of the undergraduate fee for that year. When you return to your undergraduate course you will be liable for the remaining 50% of the fee.

If intercalation commences **after** the start of Term 3 you will have paid the full tuition fee for the year. On your return (April/May or November/December), the following year, you will not be charged an additional tuition fee while you complete the academic year.

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

If you receive a stipend for your Masters (intercalation) course

Once you commence your intercalation, you will receive two stipend payments within your first month of study. One payment within 2-3 weeks after registration, and one payment at the end of the month. Please note that the second payment you receive is an advance payment. For instance, payment made on the 30th June should be allocated for the month of July and so forth.

For example, if you are returning to UG course in mid-May, your final stipend payment will be paid to you at the end of April but, due to SFE reassessments, you may not receive your maintenance loan until the end of June. This is because when you return to your undergraduate course, Student Finance England are only able to re-instate your finance once you have officially re-registered. Therefore, it can take up to one month for you to start receiving payments again.

The University recommends that you keep this information in mind when setting your budget.

Talk to us

If you are thinking of intercalating to take a postgraduate qualification we recommend that you speak to a member of the Funding & Financial Support Team – see Useful Contacts – so your particular financial circumstances and questions can be addressed.



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, 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

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

nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

Student Fees, Student Services

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

+44 (0)115 74 86500

tuitionfees@nottingham.ac.uk

nottingham.ac.uk/student-services

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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