

Master's Loan

What you'll get

You can get up to:

- £10,906, if your course starts on or after 1 August 2019
- £10,609, if your course started between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019
- £10,280, if your course started between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018

The amount you'll get is not based on your income or your family's.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) may take account of the loan when working out any benefits you receive.

The loan is paid directly to you. You can use it for your course fees and living costs.

If your course lasts for more than a year, the loan will be divided equally across each year of your course.

When you're paid

You get the first payment after your course start date, once your university or college confirms that you've registered.

The loan will be paid in 3 instalments of 33%, 33% and 34% each year. After your application has been approved, you'll be sent a letter with your payment dates. You can also check them in your online account.

If you change university or college

Your new university or college has to confirm the change with Student Finance England before you receive any more payments.

Eligibility

Whether you qualify depends on:

- your course
- your age
- your nationality or residency status

You will not be able to get a Postgraduate Master's Loan if:

- you're already getting payments from Student Finance England for another course that you're studying
- you received a Postgraduate Master's Loan before - unless you left your course due to illness, bereavement or another serious personal reason
- you already have a master's degree, or a qualification that's equivalent or higher
- you're behind in repayments for any previous loans from the Student Loans Company

You'll still be eligible if you have a PGCE or a postgraduate diploma or certificate.

You will not get extra money if you repeat a year of your course.

Your course

It must:

- be a full, standalone master's course (not a top-up course)
- be worth at least 180 credits - check the course provider's website if you're not sure
- have started on or after 1 August 2016

Your course must be provided by an eligible university or college in the UK (including the Open University). Check with the university or college that your course is registered.

Your course can be taught or research-based.

It can be:

- full-time, lasting 1 or 2 academic years
- part-time, lasting 2 to 4 academic years - no more than twice the length of the equivalent full-time course
- part-time for up to 3 years, where no equivalent full-time course exists

Examples of postgraduate master's qualifications include:

- MSc (master of science)
- MPhil (master of philosophy)
- MRes (master of research)
- LL.M (master of law)
- MEd (master of education)
- MBA (master of business administration)

You cannot get a Postgraduate Master's Loan for a postgraduate certificate or diploma.

Distance learning

To qualify for a Postgraduate Master's Loan for distance learning, you'll need to be living in England on the first day of the first academic year of your course. You'll also need to live in:

- England for the whole of your course, if you're an EU national
- the UK for the whole of your course, if you're not an EU national

This usually does not apply if you're:

- serving in the armed forces
- a spouse or civil partner of a serving member of the armed forces
- a dependent parent living with a serving member of the armed forces

Integrated courses

You will not be eligible for a Postgraduate Master's Loan if your course is:

- integrated with an undergraduate degree - apply for undergraduate funding instead
- integrated with a doctoral degree - apply for a Postgraduate Doctoral Loan instead

Intercalated year

You might be eligible for a Postgraduate Master's Loan if you're taking a year out of an undergraduate course to study for a master's.

This will generally mean you're not entitled to undergraduate funding anymore because you'll hold a higher level qualification.

You are still eligible for undergraduate funding if your course leads to a qualification in:

- architecture
- dentistry
- medicine
- social work
- undergraduate Initial Teacher Training
- veterinary science

Master of architecture

If you plan to study for a master of architecture (MArch RIBA Part 2) qualification full-time, apply for undergraduate support.

The Postgraduate Master's Loan will only be available for your MArch if one of the following applies:

- you're taking a part-time course
- you're not eligible for undergraduate funding for another reason

- it's not a RIBA Part 2 course

Healthcare and social work

You cannot get a Postgraduate Master's Loan if you:

- are eligible for an NHS bursary
- get a Social Work Bursary - unless you only get a Placement Travel Allowance

This also applies for health and social work bursaries in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

You also cannot get a Postgraduate Master's Loan if you're starting a postgraduate pre-registration healthcare course on or after 1 August 2018. You may be eligible for [a Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan](#) instead.

Your age

You must be under 60 on the first day of the first academic year of your course.

The academic year is a period of 12 months starting on:

- 1 September, if your course starts between 1 August and 31 December
- 1 January, if your course starts between 1 January and 31 March
- 1 April, if your course starts between 1 April and 30 June
- 1 July, if your course starts between 1 July and 31 July

Your nationality or residency status

You can get the Postgraduate Master's Loan if all of the following apply:

- you're a UK or EU national, or have 'settled status', so there are no restrictions on how long you can stay
- you normally live in England, and did not move there just to study
- you've been living in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for 3 years before starting your course

You may also be eligible if you're an [EU national](#) and all the following apply:

- you've normally lived in the European Economic Area or Switzerland for the past 3 years (this is also known as being 'ordinarily resident')
- you'll be studying at a university or college in England

You could also be eligible if you're:

- the child of a Swiss national

- the child of a Turkish worker
- a refugee or a relative of one
- an EEA or Swiss migrant worker, or a relative of one
- under humanitarian protection or a relative of someone who has been granted it
- staying in the UK as a stateless person or a relative of one
- 18 or over and have lived in the UK for at least 20 years or at least half your life
- under 18 and have lived in the UK for at least 7 years

You will be able to apply for funding for the 2020 to 2021 academic year from the end of June 2020.

You only need to apply once for the Postgraduate Master's Loan, even if your course is longer than one year. Student Finance England will write to you in the summer to tell you how much you'll get in the next academic year.

You'll not be eligible for an Adult Dependents' Grant, a Childcare Grant or Parents' Learning Allowance from Student Finance England if you're studying a master's course.

For further information <https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan>