

# Advanced Learner Loan

## Aged 19 or over and thinking about further education?

You may qualify for an Advanced Learner Loan. These loans help you to pay the fees charged by colleges and training organisations. Most learners aged 19 and over, studying at Level 3 to 6, will qualify for these loans from the UK Government. It's easy to apply, your household income isn't taken into account and there's no credit check. You won't have to pay anything back until your income is over the repayment threshold. Find out more at [www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan](http://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan)

## Key facts

Read this fact sheet along with the 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Learners' which you'll find at: [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk) You can also get more information from your college or training organisation.

### Do I qualify?

To qualify you must be:

- **aged 19 or over** on the first day of your course (there's no upper age limit)
- **living in the UK on the first day of your course** and have lived in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for three years immediately before this unless you meet one of the exceptions detailed in the 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Learners'
- **studying with a college or training organisation in England** approved for public funding
- **enrolling on an eligible course at Level 3 to 6** which includes A levels, Access to HE Diplomas and other vocational qualifications.

These loans do not cover Degrees or other forms of Higher Education (HE). For information on funding for HE go to [gov.uk/studentfinance](http://gov.uk/studentfinance)

Apply online or download an application form at [www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan](http://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan)

### Making the right choice

It's important you consider your own circumstances and look into all options for paying for your course before choosing to take out a loan. If you want advice on managing your finances you can get impartial money advice from the Money Advice Service at [moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

### How much can I get?

The amount you can get depends on your course, the fees charged by your college or training organisation and maximum amounts set by the government.

The minimum loan amount is £300.

You can take out a loan for the maximum amount to cover your fee or you can pay all or part of the fee yourself.

### Course fees

The fee for your course will be set by your college or training organisation. They'll confirm the cost and the amount that can be covered by a loan before you enrol.

## Applying is easy

**Advanced Learner Loans are administered by Student Finance England (SFE).**

Student Finance England is a Student Loans Company service, providing financial support to students on behalf of the UK Government.



### Key facts continued

#### How's the loan paid?

Student Finance England will pay your agreed loan to your college or training organisation once they've confirmed that you have registered on the course.

#### How many loans can I get?

You can have up to a maximum of four Advanced Learner Loans.

You can apply for multiple advanced learner loans at the same time for courses of the same type and level.

For A Levels you can apply for a loan to fund each course you take towards your A Levels - up to a maximum of 4 A Levels. This means you can have up to 8 loans if you're taking each A Level as 2 separate courses (AS and A Level if you start on or after 1 August 2015). The courses must be in the same subject to qualify for a full A Level. You can

get up to three more loans for non A Level courses once you have completed your A Levels.

#### Access to HE Diplomas

If you're undertaking an Access to HE Diploma and then go on to complete an eligible HE qualification, the outstanding balance of your Advanced Learner Loan may be written off.

To qualify for this write off you must have fully completed both courses. You do not need to take out a loan for the HE course. However, it must be eligible for funding by Student Finance England.

The HE course does not have to relate to the Access to HE course you complete.

## Repayment

You won't start repaying your loan until the April after you finish or leave your course.

- Your monthly repayments will be based on your income, not what you borrowed.
- You'll only start making repayments when your income is more than a certain amount of money. Please visit [www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan](http://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan) for more information.
- If you're self-employed you'll be responsible for making student loan repayments as part of your annual self-assessment tax return.
- If you're employed, you don't need to do anything. Your employer will take your repayments directly off your salary as they do with tax and national insurance contributions.
- If you stop working, your repayments will stop and only start again when your income is higher than the threshold.

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### Repayment continued

- Any loan remaining 30 years after you're due to start making repayments will be written off.

### Interest

Some of the interest on your loan will be based on inflation (Retail Price Index - RPI). The table below shows how interest is calculated:

	Interest rate
While you're studying and until the April after you finish or leave your course	Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 3%
From the April after you finish or leave your course	Interest will be based on your income. RPI plus up to 3% More information on interest can be found at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/repay-your-student-loan">www.gov.uk/repay-your-student-loan</a>

### Find out more

- For information and advice on learning, career and funding options, visit [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- For more information and to apply, visit [www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan](http://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan)
- Speak to your college or training organisation

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