

Aged 19 or over and thinking about further education?

Students aged 19-23 with a full level 3 qualification and all students over 24 are now required to pay tuition fees.

To qualify for a loan you need to be:

- A resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the start of the course
- Enrolling on a course at level 3 and above, such as A-levels, Access to Higher Education, Diplomas and Certificates.



Department
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FAQs

To ensure everyone has the opportunity and right to study, Advanced Learner loans have been made available which are not means tested, ensuring

Do I qualify?

To qualify you must be:

- Aged 19 or over (24 or over if your course began before 1 August 2016) 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 (Level 3 and 4 only if your course begins before 1 August 2016) 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

Does the loan only cover the tuition fees?

Yes the loans are for tuition fees only, bursaries maybe available subject to status.

Do I get the money in full?

No, Student Finance England will pay your agreed tuition fees direct to the College in equal instalments.

The minimum loan you can take out is £300. You can take out the full cost of the tuition fee or you can pay part of the tuition fee yourself.

How do I apply?

You will be able to apply online or download an application form at gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan

When do I need to apply?

You can apply for your loan from April for courses starting between 1 August and 31 July.

equality. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for the loan but support from the college will be available throughout the process.



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COLLEGE**

Do I have to have a good credit history?

There is no credit check and your household income isn't taken into account.

It is important that you consider your own circumstances and look into all the options for paying for your course.

Independent financial advice is available from the Money Advice Service at **moneyadvice.service.org.uk** or by calling **0300 500 5000**.

Where can I find out more about the loans?

You can find out more about Advanced Learner Loans by contacting Student Services at www.howcollege.ac.uk or by calling 01905 743538 for Worcester or Malvern and 01527 572522 for Redditch and Bromsgrove.

Our advisers will be able to support you with your application as well as providing the facts about the loans.

Further information is also available at www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan/overview

Progressing onto Higher Education?

For Advanced Learner Loan candidates who successfully complete a QAA Access to Higher Education Diploma, progress onto Higher Education and graduate, the loan taken out for the Access to Higher Education Diploma will not have to be paid back.

Note: This only applies to loans taken out for QAA Access.

Key facts - loan repayments

- Repayment will only start once you have finished your qualification and are earning more than £25,000 per year
- Repayment of loans is through the tax system; first repayments commence in the April after you complete your course in line with changes to HE repayments
- Interest rates are variable based on income up to maximum of RPI+3% for incomes above £45,000
- Any loan remaining 30 years after you're due to start making repayments will be written off.

Example monthly repayment amounts, income each year before tax:

Up to £25,000 - Repay £0 per month
£27,000 - Repay £15 per month
£29,500 - Repay £33 per month
£31,000 - Repay £45 per month
£33,000 - Repay £60 per month
£45,000 - Repay £75 per month

Repayments are at 9% of income above £25,000 – irrespective of the amount of loan taken out

- These repayments will be linked to earnings rather than the loan amount, so regardless of how much you owe, the payments will be the same.
- If annual earnings fall below £25,000 repayments will stop and only re-start when earnings increase to more than £25,000 a year.

For further enquiries and support please contact our Customer Service Team.

Worcester/Malvern

01905 725575 / 725676 or studentfinance-worcester@howcollege.ac.uk

Redditch/Bromsgrove

01527 572522 or studentfinance-redditch@howcollege.ac.uk
or pop into an Advice Centre