

ADVANCED LEARNER LOAN

AGED 19 OR OVER AND THINKING ABOUT FURTHER EDUCATION?

Advanced Learner Loans are to help adult learners manage the costs of further education and training in England. These loans cover tuition fees for a range of Level 3 to Level 6 courses including A Levels, general and vocational qualifications and Access to Higher Education Diplomas.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity and right to study, Advanced Learner Loans have been made available which are not means tested, ensuring equality. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for the loan but support from the college will be available throughout the process.

FAQS

Do I Qualify?

To qualify you must be:

- Aged 19-23 with a full Level 3 qualification or 24 and over.
- You must currently live 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'.
- You must be a UK citizen or have a 'settled status'. This means there are no limits on how long you can stay in the UK.
- Studying with a college or training organisation in England approved for public funding.
- Enrolling on an eligible course at Level 3 to 6. If you are unsure whether your qualification is eligible please ask.
- For qualifications starting on or after 1st August 2017, you may qualify



if you aren't a resident in the UK, but are a serving member of the UK armed forces or their spouse, civil partner or a dependent parent living with them.

- 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 tuition fees?

Yes the loans are for tuition fees only, bursaries may be 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 will I pay back the loan?

You don't have to pay any of your loan back until you've started earning over £26,575 a year. If you leave or change course after two weeks or more, you'll have to pay back any money that was paid to your college or training provider.

How do I apply?

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

When do I need to apply?

Applications open from May onwards. You can only apply before or during your course, you cannot apply after you leave or finish the course.

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 £26,575 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 outstanding balance is automatically written off 30 years after your scheduled qualification end date.

Example of repayment amounts:

Payments will depend on the amount you earn over the repayment threshold during any given pay period, not the amount that you've borrowed.

Your pay period depends on when you

receive your salary. This could be every week, every four weeks or a calendar month. Payments will stop if you earn below the repayment threshold for that pay period.

Repayments are set at 9% of your income above the minimum of £26,575 a year, £2,214 a month or £511 a week.

Interest on your repayments

You'll be charged interest at the Retail Price Index (RPI) + 3% while you complete your course and until the following April after leaving your course. After that interest is linked to your earnings.

So if you earn:

- less than £26,575, the interest is set at the RPI
- £26,575 to £47,835, the interest is set at RPI + up to 3% on a sliding scale
- over £47,835, the interest is set at RPI + 3%.

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

Worcester/Malvern

Tel: 01905 725575 / 725676

Email: studentfinance-worcester@howcollege.ac.uk

Redditch/Bromsgrove

Tel: 01527 572522

Email: studentfinance-redditch@howcollege.ac.uk

or pop into an Advice Centre