

Changes to student finance for 2009/10, correct at April 2009.

Student finance has largely remained the same for students applying to university in 2009 and starting university in 2010.

There have however been slight changes to the amounts of the relevant fees, loans and grants. These are listed below.

1. From 2009/10 universities and colleges can charge new full-time students up to £3,225 a year in tuition fees. As was the case in 2008/09 students can choose to take out a tuition fee loan for any amount, up to the full amount of tuition fees they are charged.
2. From 2009/10 the student loan for maintenance has increased:

Students living away from their parents' home, studying in London can receive a maximum of £6,928

Students living away from their parents' home, studying elsewhere can receive a maximum of £4,950

Students living at their parents' home (London or elsewhere) can receive a maximum of £3,838

3. Students from lower income households can apply for a maintenance grant, maximum of £2,906. The grant is income assessed and the income boundaries are as follows:

Household income up to £25,000	Full grant
Household income from £25,001- £50,020	Partial Grant
Household income over £50,021	Not entitled to receive the grant

If a student is awarded the maintenance grant, their loan for maintenance will be reduced as follows:

Full maintenance grant (£2,906)	Student loan for maintenance is reduced by £1,292
Maintenance grant entitlement from £1-£1,292	Student loan for maintenance is reduced by 50p for every £1 of maintenance grant entitlement
No maintenance grant entitlement	Student receives student loan for maintenance

4. The Special Support Grant has also increased to a maximum of £2,906. This grant does not reduce the amount of maintenance loan payable to the student. The grant is income assessed and the income boundaries to receive the grant are the same as for the maintenance grant. (Figure 3)
5. Universities that charge the full tuition fee amount of £3,225 a year are required to provide financial support in the form of a bursary to students who receive the full amount (£2,906) of

maintenance grant/special support grant. The amount of the bursary has to at least match the difference between the fee charged and the amount of maintenance grant/student support grant given. For 2009/10 this has to be at least £319.

6. *The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) has also increased for 2009/10. The maximum amounts are given below:*

Type of allowance	Full-time	Part-time
<i>Specialist Equipment</i>	<i>£5,161 for the entire course</i>	<i>£5,161 for the entire course</i>
<i>Non-medical helper</i>	<i>£20,520 a year</i>	<i>£15,390 a year (depends on intensity of study)</i>
<i>General Disabled Student' Allowance</i>	<i>£1,724 a year</i>	<i>£1,293 a year (depends on intensity of study)</i>

7. *The Adult Dependants' Grant has increased for 2009/10 to a maximum of £2,642.*
8. *The Parents' Learning Allowance has increased for 2009/10 to a maximum of £1,508.*
9. *For part-time students both the course fee grant – to help with the cost of tuition fees- and the course grant – to help with course related costs such as books and materials -have increased for 2009/10. The maximum rates for 2009/10 are given below:*

	<i>50-59% of full-time intensity</i>	<i>60-74% of full-time intensity</i>	<i>75% or more of full-time intensity</i>
<i>Maximum Fee Grant</i>	<i>£805</i>	<i>£970</i>	<i>£1210</i>
<i>Maximum Course Grant</i>	<i>£260</i>	<i>£260</i>	<i>£260</i>
<i>Total Maximum</i>	<i>£1065</i>	<i>£1230</i>	<i>£1470</i>

10. *The Directgov website has a tool called the Student Finance Calculator which can estimate the fees, loans and grants which are applicable to you. This can be viewed at www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance*
11. *Student Finance Direct has changed its name to Student Finance England and can be contacted on 0845 300 50 90.*

Please be aware that these are the only changes that we are aware of as at April 2009. There might be other changes brought in later in the year that will affect you as you apply for student finance.