

STUDENT FINANCE: FOR WELSH STUDENTS

UK FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATES
2021/22 ENTRY



Studying and living at University of Reading

Tuition Fees

University isn't 'free' like school is, and there is a cost involved to run the course that you want to study. Universities call this cost the tuition fees, and in the UK, these are currently capped at £9,250 per year. Whichever university you choose to study at, you are likely to see a tuition fee of around this figure. You don't have to pay this money upfront. Most UK students take out a student loan which covers this tuition cost.



'Student Finance Wales took the stress of money away from me when considering applying to university. The process of applying was easy and the steps are well explained, so even for me who is the first person in my family to go to university could understand the process.'

Jessica, from Port Talbot
BSc Biomedical Science

Living costs

While you're at university you will also need to pay for 'everyday things' as well. Food, travel and rent will need to be paid for while you are studying at university, as well as toiletries, books, trips and any shopping you want to do. Student Finance offer the equivalent of the National Living Wage, made up of loans and grants to help with these costs.

Student Finance Wales

What student financial support can I get?

As a student thinking about studying at university, who currently lives in Wales, you have the benefit of the Student Finance Wales packages. You will be eligible for these because you grew up, or have most recently been living in Wales. You can choose any university in the UK, and you don't have to stay in Wales to be eligible for the funding - you can study anywhere in the UK. There is more information about eligibility on: **Student Finance Wales**. The funding is split into two sections, as illustrated below.

The funding is split into two sections: A Tuition Fee Loan to pay for the course and Maintenance Money to pay for your living costs while you study.

Tuition Fees Loan

For everyone eligible, the Tuition Fees Loan will be offered in full. This money is paid directly to your university when you enrol, so it will never be in your bank account – you can't accidentally spend it!

Maintenance Money

As someone who is from Wales, to help with living costs, you can apply for help with your Living Costs.

This is through:

- the Maintenance Loan
- the Welsh Government Learning Grant

Remember, this will be the case wherever you choose to study in the UK, not just if you choose a Welsh university. The funding is there because you grew up, or are currently living in Wales.

Your maintenance money explained

The total amount of maintenance money available will be the same for every Welsh student, regardless of family earnings. A student living away from home but not in London in 2021/2022 will be able to receive £10,350 per year while studying, to cover their living costs.

Everyone is eligible for at least £1000 towards their living costs at university from the Welsh Government, which will never have to be re-paid.

Depending on family income, you may be entitled to more than £1000. The table below shows a breakdown of the grants and loans available depending on family income.

Table 1 Maintenance money available for Welsh Students, through a combination of Grant and Loan.

Family Income	Living away from home, outside of London		
	Welsh Govt. Learning Grant	Loan	Total
£18,370 or less	£8,100	£2,250	£10,350
£25,000	£6,947	£3,403	
£35,000	£5,208	£5,142	
£45,000	£3,469	£6,881	
£59,200 or over	£9,350	£1,000	



How do repayments work?

The majority of UK students who have been, or are currently studying at, university will have a student loan to repay. Repayments for student loans are designed to be manageable and affordable throughout the time that you repay.

Your monthly repayments are not based on how much money you borrowed while you were studying. Instead, repayments are based on how much you earn after university – the more you earn, the more you'll pay back each month.

Repayments start from the April after graduating or leaving university, but only when your income is over £27,295 a year (2021/2022). Until you earn over this figure, you won't need to pay anything back. See the table below for an illustration of what monthly re-payments look like.

Also see the [government website](#) to read more about repayments.

'I was quite surprised by how straightforward accessing Student Finance Wales was. I put it off for a while because finance isn't something I understand greatly, but it was really easy to sort out, and knowing the dates that money is due to get to you really helps with budgeting!'

Skye, from South Wales
BSc Speech and Language Therapy



Table 2 Examples of monthly repayments.

Annual Income (Gross)	Income from which 9% is deducted	Monthly repayment
£27,295	£0	£0
£30,000	£2,705	£20
£35,000	£7,705	£58
£40,000	£12,705	£95
£45,000	£17,705	£133

Interest is applied to your loan. Find out more at www.slc.co.uk/repayment

EASY TO PAY

Loan repayments come straight out of your pay when you're working, so it's just like a tax, or pension contribution.

LOW MONTHLY COST

You repay 9% of your income over £27,295 and deductions are made from your pay through the HMRC tax system.

OUTSTANDING LOAN

Any outstanding loan balance will be written off 30 years after entering repayment.

LOW INCOME

If your income falls to £27,295 or below, your repayments will stop.



Living costs

Your living costs at university will vary depending on your lifestyle and the type of accommodation you choose. We have included a rough guide below, but please note this will vary between individuals:

Expense	Cost per week
Food	£36-52 (this will vary if you are in catered or self-catered accommodation)
Mobile phone	£4-14
Travel	£17
Books and stationery	£11
Clothing and personal care	£16-26
Entertainment	£29
Total	£113-149

If you are wondering how you can have a great time at university, without concerns about money, don't worry – there is lots of help and advice on campus. You can contact our Student Financial Support Team at studentfunding@reading.ac.uk and find more useful information [here](#).

Hear from our current students about budgeting

Vlogs	Topic	Created by
	What I spend in a week as a student at the University of Reading!	Amalia Theologou
Blogs	Topic	Created by
	The 50 30 20 budgeting rule at University	Caitlin Cannon
	Saving Money	Bethany McGuire
	Scholarship Tips	Krishna Chaitanya
	Campus Jobs at UoR	Krishna Chaitanya



Amalia Theologou



Bethany McGuire

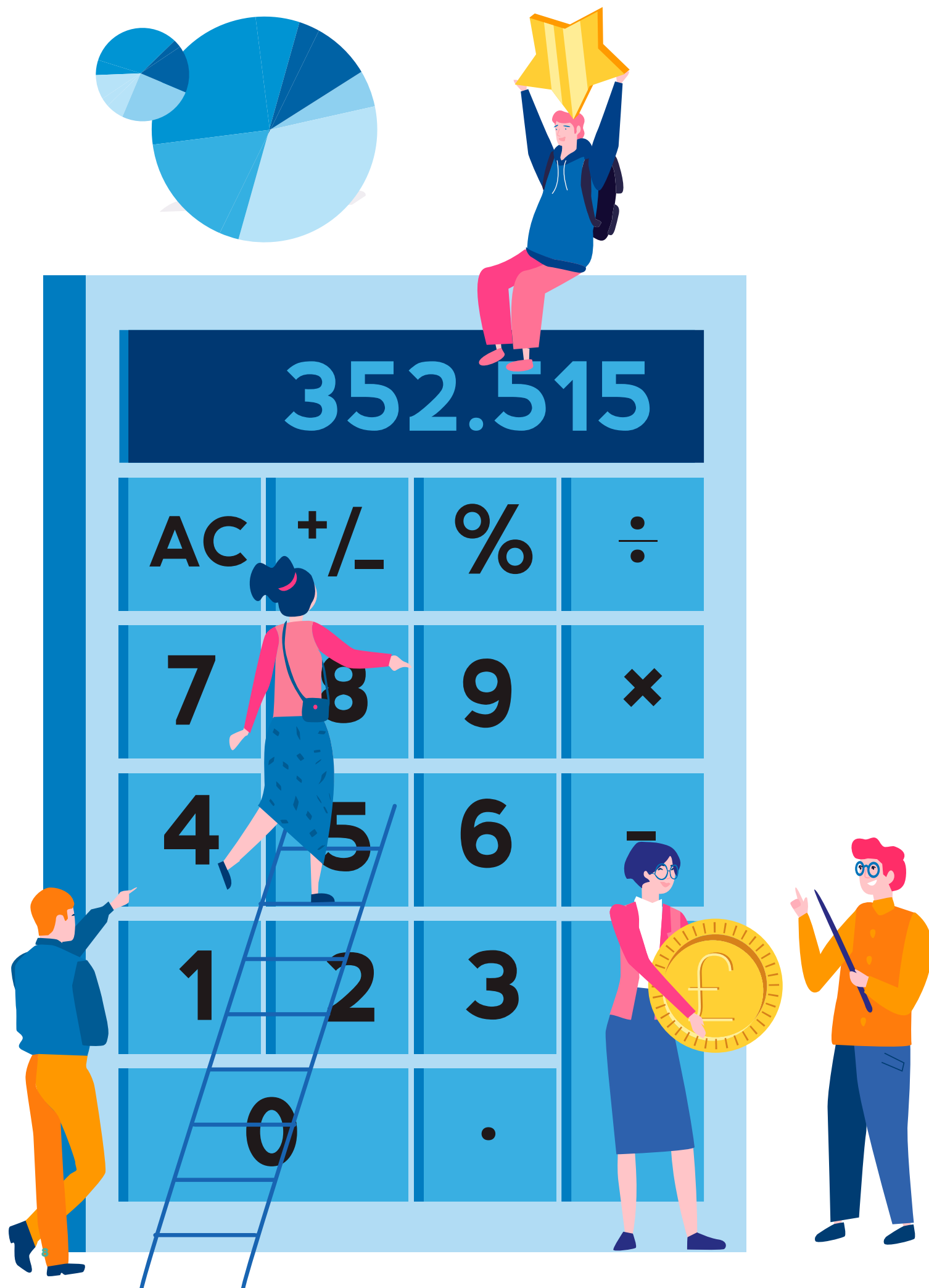
Campus Jobs

You will have the opportunity to get paid work on campus whilst studying at University of Reading, which is not only a great way to earn some extra cash, but is a chance for you to develop skills for your CV and to make friends. **Campus Jobs** is your gateway to a variety of part-time jobs at the University. You could be working a shift in one of our bars or cafes one week, and then undertaking a research project in your department the next. With one-off opportunities and regular shift work, Campus Jobs provides a flexible service for Reading students.

'I work as a Student Ambassador on campus. It's an amazingly varied role, ranging from helping year 6 students to program Lego robots one day, to touring a group of 20 prospective students and their parents the next. I enjoy meeting so many different people – it's a great buzz! I've gained a great deal of experience from my role, including leadership, management and teamwork. Head to Campus Jobs and get applying.'

Jack Abrey,
BSc Geography





FAQs

I don't know if I'm eligible for Student Finance Wales. Where can I check?

You need to 'normally be living in Wales' to qualify. Head straight to www.studentfinancewales.co.uk to check your eligibility.

When should I apply for student finance?

Applications typically open in February and the deadline is usually the end of May. You apply for student finance in the year you will be studying, for example, if you will be attending university in September 2021/22, you will apply for student finance between February and May 2021/22. You may need to provide extra evidence or information so your application can be assessed properly.

Top tip: Don't delay your application as this could cause delays in payment when you start your course!

Can I apply for scholarships and bursaries too?

Yes! There are lots of scholarships and bursaries available to students, usually from the university or college you will be attending, and you won't have to pay the money back.

Top tip: Tick the box on your student finance application that allows your information to be shared with third parties as this will allow the university or college you will be attending to automatically assess you for bursaries.

I am a parent or supporter, what do I need to know?

You can find information on supporting a student finance application [here](#). You can also sign up to our **Parents and Supporters' Newsletter** to receive useful information and updates.

Should I still apply even if I don't know which university I'll be going to when student finance applications open?

Yes, there is no need to have a confirmed place at university or know where you will be studying. Just enter the university you will most likely go to, and if this changes, you can just update your details with Student Finance later.

Do I need to apply for student finance every year?

Yes, you will need to apply for student finance each year of study. Your student finance authority will contact you when it's time to reapply.

Will I have to take up the loans?

Not at all. You can choose to take just the tuition loan, or just the maintenance loan, or neither.

I'm a care leaver. Is there any extra financial support for me?

If you've been in local authority care, you can apply for:

- A Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 from your local council
- A bursary from your university or college.

Top tip: Remember to **tick the box on your UCAS application** to let the universities or colleges you're applying to know you have been in care. This means you can easily be identified for financial or other support – but don't worry, it's confidential.

What if I don't live with my parents?

You can be assessed as an **independent student** if you:

- Are 25 or over before the start of the academic year
- Married/divorced/civil partnership
- Have care of a child
- Have no living parents
- Are estranged from your parents
- Are a care leaver
- Have no means of contacting your parents or it is not safe to do so
- Have supported yourself financially for at least 3 years.

Is there any extra funding available?

You may be eligible for **extra funding** if you:


- Have children or an adult who is dependent on you
- Have a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition, or specific learning difficulty
- Study overseas as part of your UK based course
- Are studying a certain course, such as social work, teacher training, or certain medical, dentistry or healthcare courses.



Useful links

Student Finance Information	www.studentfinancewales.co.uk www.gov.uk/studentfinance
The Student Room	www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance
UCAS for UK students	www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/getting-student-support/undergraduate-student-finance-and-support
The Uni Guide	www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-finance/how-student-finance-actually-works
Guidance on contacting student finance	www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-on-contacting-the-student-loans-company
View our courses	www.reading.ac.uk
Explore our upcoming virtual events	www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/visiting-and-open-days/virtual-events.aspx
Follow our 'Things I wish I'd known' podcast on Spotify	tinyurl.com/things-i-wish-id-known-spotify
Get money-ready for university	www.moneyreadyforuni.com
Visit our Money Matters Page	www.reading.ac.uk/money


Get in touch

 You can email our Student Financial Support Team at:

studentfunding@reading.ac.uk

Do you have other questions about university or about our courses?
You can email us at:

outreach@reading.ac.uk

 Follow your student finance authority on social media

 Student Finance Wales

 @SF_Wales