Student Money and Accommodation Advice

**Postgraduate Loan and Doctoral Loan**

Students starting a postgraduate Master’s course (full-time or part-time) from September 2025 may be eligible for a Postgraduate Loan (PGL) of up to £12,858 from Student Finance England. Students starting a PhD may be eligible for a Doctoral loan of up to £30,301 (England).

The loan will be:

* a contribution towards the costs of study ie it will be at your discretion to use the loan towards fees, maintenance costs or other costs
* non-means-tested
* paid directly into your bank account

Applications open in June and can be made online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

## Postgraduate Loan

### Eligibility

You can apply for the Postgraduate Master’s Loan if you are under 60 on the first day of the first academic year of your course and all of the following are true:

* you’re a UK or Irish national or have settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families) or indefinite leave to remain so there are no restrictions on how long you can stay
* you normally live in England
* you’ve been living in the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Ireland for 3 continuous years before the first day of your course, apart from temporary absences such as going on holiday

If you’ve been living in Ireland or a British overseas territory, you do not need to normally live in England. You can apply for the loan if you attend your course in England or do distance learning in England.

You might also be eligible if you’re a UK national (or family member of a UK national) and you’ve been living in the UK, the EU, Gibraltar, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein for the past 3 years.

If you are an EU national, or a family member of an EU national, with pre-settled status, please see the latest guidance: [www.gov.uk/masters-loan/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/masters-loan/eligibility)

A Postgraduate Master’s Loan is not available to students wanting to ‘top up’ a lower-level qualification to a Master’s degree. The course must be a full standalone master’s course.

If you are studying a MArch course you may be able to get a Postgraduate Master’s Loan if undergraduate student finance isn’t available to you.

## Postgraduate Loan and NHS-funded courses

If you are eligible to apply for the NHS Learning Support Fund you should apply for the undergraduate support package from Student Finance England. If you are in receipt of a Social Work Bursary, you are NOTeligible to apply for the Postgraduate Loan.

## Ineligible courses

Please note, the following courses are not eligible for the Postgraduate Loan:

Applied Psychology PG Dip; Assessment Only (AO) route to qualified teacher status QTS;2 Biomedical Science Online; Common Professional Exam GDL; Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Adv Dip Pro Dev; Counselling Psychology Prof Doc; Dietetics and Nutrition PG Dip; Employment Law and Practice Adv Dip Pro Dev; Examination in Professional Practice in Architecture RIBA3; Health Psychology Prof Doc; Human Resource Management PG Dip; Legal Practice Course PG Dip; Legal Practice Course Stage 1 PG Dip; Legal Practice Course Stage 2 PG Dip; Master of Architecture (covered by undergraduate funding package); Occupational Psychology Prof Doc; PGCE courses (though undergraduate funding may be available); Policing, Security and Community Safety Prof Doc; Professional Diploma in Architecture (though undergraduate funding may be available); Psychology for Graduates (by Distance Learning) Uni Cert; Public-Private Partnerships Adv Dip Pro Dev; QTS courses (though undergraduate funding may be available); Research Degree PhD; Subject Knowledge Enhancement Mathematics; Teaching Adult Dyslexic Learners in Higher and Further Education PG Cert.

If you have previously been awarded a PGCE or a postgraduate diploma or certificate you may still apply for the Postgraduate Loan.

## Students on benefits

Please note that 30% of the loan will be taken into consideration as income for benefits purposes regardless of whether or not you take out the full loan.

## Taking a break or withdrawing from your course

If you take a break from your course, your Postgraduate Loan payments will stop. If you get a payment after this, you may be asked to repay it straight away, so it’s important you let SFE know as soon as you take a break. As long as the University has agreed that you can take a break from your studies, your Postgraduate Loan payments will resume when you return to your course. However, if you take a break for two years or more during your course, you’ll only get further Postgraduate Loan payments if you can show you have compelling personal reasons.

If you withdraw from your course your Postgraduate Loan payments will stop. If you get a payment after this, you may be asked to repay it straight away, so it’s important to notify SFE as soon as you withdraw from your course. You can only get a Postgraduate Loan once. However, if you have compelling personal reasons for leaving your course you may be able to get another Postgraduate Loan for a new course but not a repeat year.

## Doctoral Loan

The loan will be divided equally across each year of your course in line with the number of years tuition fees are payable. The loan is paid into your bank account in three instalments during the academic year.

### Eligibility

You must be:

• a new PhD student starting in 2025/26

• not in receipt of any Research Council funding

• for nationality/residency criteria, please see our Postgraduate Loan   
 information above

• under 60 on the first day of the course

### Your course must:

* be a full, standalone doctoral course (not a top-up course)
* have started on or after 1 August 2018
* last between 3 to 8 academic years
* be provided by a university in the UK with research degree awarding powers

If more than one university delivers your course and one is overseas, you’ll still be eligible for the Postgraduate Doctoral Loan so long as:

* the UK university is the lead institution
* you spend at least 50% of your study time over the whole course in the UK

It can be:

* full-time or part-time
* taught or research-based, or a combination of both

## How to contact us

Visit [www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice) for up-to-date appointments and drop-in times.

The content of this information sheet has been compiled using information from external sources, as well as University data. The content has been carefully checked and is given in good faith. However, the University cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any inaccuracy. August 2025