

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ADVANCED
LEARNING LOANS



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These government-backed loans are available to help learners aged 19 and over pay their course costs for eligible courses at Levels 3 to 6. It's easy to apply, your household income isn't taken into account and there is no credit check. You won't have to pay anything back until your income is over £21,000 a year.

If you are aged 19 to 23 and have not already achieved a full Level 3 qualification, you may be entitled to full funding for a Level 3 course. Please speak to Student Services on 0121 446 4545 / 01384 344 344 or telephone the National Careers Service on 0800 100 900. The advisers can help identify where you might access this funding and for which courses.

HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

To qualify you must be:

- 19 or older on the first day you start your course and the start day of your course must be on or after the 1st August 2016 (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 3 years immediately before the start date of the course
- Studying at a college or a training organisation in England approved for public funding.
- If you are aged 19 - 23 and do not already have a full Level 3 qualification, you will be entitled to receive free tuition and won't need to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan.
- If you are aged 19 - 23 and already have a full Level 3 qualification, you can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applying is easy, you can apply for a loan from June 2016 for courses starting between 1 August 2016 and 31 July 2017.

You will be given a 'Funding and Information Letter' from the college once a course offer has been made to you, this letter will contain all the information needed to apply for the loan.

You can apply online to Student Finance England using the online application form

<https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans/how-to-claim>

or you can download the forms and apply by post.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU GET?

The minimum loan amount you can apply for is £300; the maximum loan amount you can apply for is the total course fee charged by the college. Please note that if you apply for a loan amount which is less than the college's course fee, you will be required to pay the difference to the college.

HOW'S THE LOAN PAID?

Student Finance England (SFE) will pay the loan directly to the college.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU WITHDRAW FROM YOUR COURSE?

If you withdraw from your course within 2 weeks of the course start date, the loan will not come into effect and you will not have to repay anything back. If you leave the course after more than two weeks then you'll be liable to repay the loan payments that have been made to the college on your behalf, for the time you have been on the course.

Please note you may also be required to pay the remainder of your course fees to the college.

CAN YOU APPLY MORE THAN ONCE?

Yes, once you have completed your course you will be eligible to apply for more Advanced Learning Loans, for different qualification types, (up to a total of four loans) to help you progress in your studies.

HOW DO YOU PAY THE LOAN BACK?

You will start repaying your loan from April 2018 or the April after you complete your course, whichever is later, and will only start making repayments if your income is more than £21,000 per year.

You will only pay back 9% of any income above £21,000 a year, see the table below for examples of what you will repay:

Income before tax (up to)	Monthly salary before tax	Monthly loan repayment
£21,000	£1750	£0
£22,000	£1833	£7
£25,000	£2083	£30
£30,000	£2500	£67
£35,000	£2917	£105
£40,000	£3333	£142

If you stop working, or your income falls back below £21,000, your repayments will stop and only start again when your income is more than £21,000 a year.

Any loan remaining 30 years after you were due to start making repayments will be wiped.

ARE YOU LOOKING AT ENROLLING ONTO AN ACCESS COURSE?

If you take out a loan for an Access to Higher Education course and then go on to complete a Higher Education course you will have your loan for the Access course written off.

DOES THE LOAN ACCRUE ANY INTEREST?

Yes, the following table gives details on the interest accrued on the loan

Income	Interest rate
While you're studying and until the April after you leave the course	Rate of inflation (Retail Price Index) plus 3%
£21,000	Rate of inflation or less
£21,000 to £41,000	Rate of inflation plus up to 3%
£41,000 and over	Rate of inflation plus 3%

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

It's important you consider your own circumstances and look into all options for paying for your course before choosing to take out a loan. You can get independent financial advice from the Money Advice Service at

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/loans-for-adults-in-further-education-and-training>

FIND OUT MORE

For more information about Advanced Learning Loans, including information about the application process, please go to the following website

www.direct.gov.uk/advancedlearningloans



Matthew Boulton College

Jennens Road, Birmingham B4 7PS

Sutton Coldfield College

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2NW

James Watt College

Aldridge Road, Great Barr B44 8NE

Stourbridge College

Hagley Road, Stourbridge DY8 1QU

Kidderminster Academy

Piano Building, Weavers Wharf, Kidderminster DY10 1AA

w: www.bmet.ac.uk **e:** ask@bmet.ac.uk **t:** 0845 155 0101

All of the information in this booklet
is correct at the time of going to print

