



Myths and facts 2016/17

Myth

My child can't afford to go to university, it's too expensive



Fact

No student will have to pay tuition fees upfront to go to university or college as there's a wide variety of financial help available from Student Finance Wales. All eligible students, no matter what their household income is, can apply for:

- a Tuition Fee Loan and Fee Grant to cover the full cost of fees; and
- a Maintenance Loan to help with their living costs.

Students may also be able to get a Welsh Government Learning Grant (living costs grant) or Special Support Grant and there's extra help available for students who have a disability, children or an adult who depends on them financially. Their university or college may offer bursaries, scholarships or other kinds of financial help, so it's always worth checking with them too.

All colleges and universities are charging £9,000



Some universities and colleges do charge less than the maximum £9,000 — but check their individual websites for specific course fee information. Even if they charge the full £9,000, students could still qualify for fee waivers, reductions or other benefits, and they should contact the university or college for further information.

No student will have to pay for tuition fees up front. Depending on whether they study a course at a publicly-funded university or a private university, new students may be entitled to a Tuition Fee Loan and Fee Grant that'll cover their fees. Private universities and colleges may charge more than £9,000 but your child will only be able to receive a maximum Tuition Fee Loan of £6,000 and won't receive a Fee Grant.

The Tuition Fee Loan does have to be paid back, but not until their income is over £21,000 a year. The Fee Grant doesn't have to be paid back.

Myth

The loan repayments will be a huge burden and hold my child back

Student debt will stop my child getting a mortgage or other loans

If my child can't afford to repay the loan then I'll have to foot the bill

If I have high earnings my child won't get any support

My child is 21 years old and has left home so they're classed as an independent student

Fact

Repayments don't start until your child's income is over £21,000 a year. Once they enter repayment, the amount they repay is based on their income, not what they borrowed.

For instance, if they earn £25,000 a year, that works out at £30 a month (9% of £4,000, divided by 12 months). Repayments stop if your child stops working or their income falls below £21,000 a year.

The amount they repay each month will increase with their earnings – similar to tax – and repayments will normally be collected by their employer along with their tax and National Insurance.

Loans are written off 30 years after they are due to start repaying.

Student loans are unsecured lending from the government and are very different to credit cards or commercial loans. They don't go on credit files and don't show up on credit checks.

Student loans are the sole responsibility of the student who takes them out. Liability for the loans cannot be transferred to their parents or anyone else. If the student's income isn't over the threshold then they don't pay it back.

Not all student finance depends on household income, they can still apply for:

- a Tuition Fee Loan and Fee Grant to cover the full cost of fees, and;
- a Maintenance Loan to help with their living costs; 75% of the Maintenance Loan doesn't depend on household income.

To be classed as independent, students have to fall into one of these categories:

- be aged 25 or older;
- have left the parental home and supported themselves financially for at least three years before the first day of the first academic year of their course;
- are, or have been, married or in a civil partnership;
- have the care of a person under 18 years of age, regardless of their relationship to the child;
- are permanently estranged from their parents; or
- have been in the care of their local authority.

We'll ask for evidence to confirm they're independent.

Myth

If my child moves abroad they won't have to repay their student loan



Fact

When your child takes out a loan they agree to make any repayments due. If they move abroad they must tell the Student Loans Company so we can make arrangements for them to continue paying off their loan.

You can get more information on repayment by visiting:
www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

Student Finance Wales is a service provided by the Student Loans Company. We provide financial support on behalf of the Welsh Government to students from Wales entering higher education in the UK.



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