

General Guide to Financing a University Degree

Student Loans to pay tuition fees (**£3290** per year - 2010 entry) & living expenses are available to all, regardless of parents' income. They should cover most of the cost of attending university, but have to be repaid by the student, after graduation. The key facts about these loans are:

- Interest on the loans is low (lower than any commercial rate). Based on Retail Prices Index.
- Repayments of the loan are payable once a graduate is earning over **£15,000** a year
- Payments are made at a rate of **9%** of all earnings **above £15,000** until the debt is repaid
- If graduate stops working, repayments stop
- All debt still owed after 25 years is cancelled

None of the loan for tuition fees is income assessed and neither is 72% of the loan for maintenance costs. This leaves around a maximum of **£1400** which has to be found outside the student loan scheme, where parental income exceeds **£60,000**. Grants are available which cover a large part of the total costs, where parental income is less than **£25,000 p.a.**

ALL universities now have significant bursaries (financial support) available for:

- Students with low parental income
- Students who have high academic levels compared to the average intake of that university
- Students who wish to study less popular subjects such as science & engineering
- Students with any disabilities which increase their costs of studying

Parents are **NOT** responsible for any debt accumulated by their offspring. All applications for student finance have to be made online, **even if a loan is NOT required**. This is because the tuition fees are subsidised and the student must claim for this funding or the courses become much more expensive.