Student Finance

Student finance can be a big worry for pupils and their parents. However, please allow us to reassure you. There is a wealth of support and advice available to ensure that funding concerns do not prevent your child from attending university. Key information may be found on the student finance website, or on their YouTube channel. In particular, make sure you consider:

a. There are no upfront costs if you apply for a loan through Student Finance England. Students can receive 2 loans:

a. A maintenance loan. This covers your living costs

b. A tuition fee loan. This covers the cost of the course

Students do not have to pay a penny of this back before they graduate and are earning over £21,000.

b. There are scholarships and bursaries available for pupils to apply for

a. A bursary is a means-tested fund given to students. 'Means-tested' means that they meet some sort of criteria, such as household income or disability. Students do not have to pay this money back.

b. A scholarship is a fund given to a student who has shown themselves to be very good at a particular subject or skill. These also do not need to be paid back.

c. Many universities also have hardship funds. These are funds that students may access if they fall on hard times and require short-term financial assistance.

c. Students can take up part-time jobs which help them to fund living expenses while at university

For more information and advice visit Money Saving Expert.

Please note that funding arrangements for students outside of England differ, and funding arrangements may change in the coming years.

YOUR LOAN EXPIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

Your loan is cleared 30 years from the April after graduation or when you fully repay your loan, whichever comes first. This means, if you're a low-earner or don't even meet the threshold repayment criteria, your remaining debt will be wiped and you could have paid very little for your degree.

YOUR LOAN WILL BEGIN TO ACCRUE INTEREST

This starts immediately after your first payment. If you're an England or Wales student, the current rate is the UK Retail Price Index figure plus 3percent (3.9% for 2015/16).

NO DEBT COLLECTORS

All student loans are repaid through the payroll just like income tax. Once you're working, your employer will deduct the repayments from your salary before you get it. This means no debt collectors will come chasing you as you have paid it automatically.

STUDENT DEBT CAN LIMIT YOUR ABILITY TO GET A MORTGAGE

While student debt is not listed on your credit file, it may affect your disposable income – how much spare cash you have to pay back a mortgage. Banks do look at this as a key part of their decision process regarding new mortgages.

PAYBACK IS 9%

You pay back 9% of what you earn over £21,000. So, for instance, if your salary was £22,000 you would pay back 9% of £1,000 over a 12-month period. If your yearly earnings drop below the threshold, your repayments freeze until your earn above again