



Bursaries and financial assistance available to new undergraduates – 2009/10

INTRODUCTION

Although studying at university can be expensive, there are lots of places to go for help and advice with your finances. This information sheet sets out the main sources of government and College assistance and provides some links to other sources which you may find useful.

The most important sources of help for most undergraduate students are:

- **Government**
 - Loans for tuition fees
 - Loans for maintenance
 - Grants for maintenance
 - Special support grants
 - Information and advice through over the internet
- **Heythrop College**
 - Bursaries
 - Access to learning fund
 - Emergency bridging loans
 - Information and advice form the College's Student Support Co-ordinator.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Loans for tuition fees and maintenance

As a full time home (UK or EU) undergraduate you are probably eligible for special loans to cover tuition fees and maintenance from the Student Loans Company. You should be aware that these are loans and need to be paid back in the future. The application process is now handled by Student Finance England, which has made it easier than before to apply online. For details, including information on how to apply, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance which explains the process and includes an online calculator to estimate how much you may be entitled to.

For the 2009/10 academic year, the maximum loan for tuition fees is £3,225 – enough to cover the tuition fee in full.

The maximum loan for maintenance if you live away from your parental home is technically £6,928, but some of this is means-tested and therefore depends on your household income. If you are living at your parental home then the maximum loan for maintenance is technically £3,838 – but again, some of this is means-tested. If you visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance then you can use the online calculator to work out how much you should be entitled to in your circumstances.

You can apply for loans for up to nine months after your course starts.

Grants for maintenance and special support grants



Grants do not have to be repaid. If you are a full time home (UK or EU) undergraduate you may be eligible for a maintenance grant, but it depends on your household income. If you receive a maintenance grant then the amount you can borrow from the Student Loan Company in the form of a loan for maintenance is reduced.

If you receive income support or another means-tested benefit (such as housing benefit) then you might be eligible instead for a special support grant. If you receive one of these then there is no impact on the amount you can borrow from the Student Loan Company.

The maximum grant available for students starting a course in 2009/10 is £2,906.

Applications are again handled by Student Finance England. For more details, including information on how to apply, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance which explains the process and includes an online calculator to estimate how much you may be entitled to.

You can apply for grants for up to nine months after your course starts, but it is sensible to apply as soon as possible. Grants are paid in three instalments, at the beginning of each term.

Information and advice

The government now provides a very thorough and interactive site online which most students find very helpful: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

If you live in the UK but not in England then you should visit the following sites for information and advice:

- Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
- Northern Ireland: www.studentfinancenir.co.uk
- Scotland: www.saas.gov.uk

Phone numbers are given at the end of this information sheet.

For students from the EU (other than the UK), please visit: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-EU

HEYTHROP COLLEGE

Bursaries

If you receive a maintenance grant then the College will match it with a bursary equal to 50% of the grant, up to a maximum of £1,453. (This includes the minimum statutory bursary of £319 for students in receipt of a maintenance grant.) The bursary will be paid in two instalments at the beginning of the second and third terms.

To claim a bursary, please provide a copy of your Student Loans Company financial notification or payment schedule letter so that we can be sure to give you the correct amount. You should hand in a copy to the Finance Team as soon as you can.

Access to learning fund



This fund is provided by government and administered by the College to meet the needs of students in financial hardship. The awards made by the fund are to help meet living costs and do not need to be repaid.

To make an application, please contact the Student Support Co-ordinator, Dominic McLoughlin. He can provide further information and help completing the application form and making sure that you have the supporting evidence you need.

The Principal's Fund

This fund is used to provide emergency bridging loans – for example if you need to pay the landlord for rent but are waiting for funds from the Student Loans Company. Loans are rarely made for more than £500 and you will need to know when and how you will be able to repay the loan.

To apply for a loan you should write to the Principal, Dr John McDade SJ to explain your circumstances and suggesting realistic terms for repayment. It is helpful if you can provide supporting documentary evidence. Please note that academic results are not released to students who are still in debt to the College, so it is important that you are sure you'll be able to repay the loan.

Information and advice

The College's Student Support Co-ordinator is Dominic McLoughlin. He can be contacted on 020 7795 4238 or by email: d.mcloughlin@heythrop.ac.uk.

If you are struggling with your finances then please get in touch with Dominic as soon as you can. If you are struggling with paying tuition fees then please also let the Finance Office know. We may be able to re-schedule payments to help you.

OTHER CONTACT DETAILS

Student Finance England	0845 300 50 90
Student Finance Northern Ireland	0845 600 0662
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	0845 111 1711
Student Finance Wales	0845 608 8845

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

You should be able to find these in your local library. Some educational and religious trusts and charities provide individual awards to students (mostly small grants):

- The Educational Grants Directory
- The Charities Digest
- The Grants Register
- The Directory of Grant Making Trusts