Kingston University London

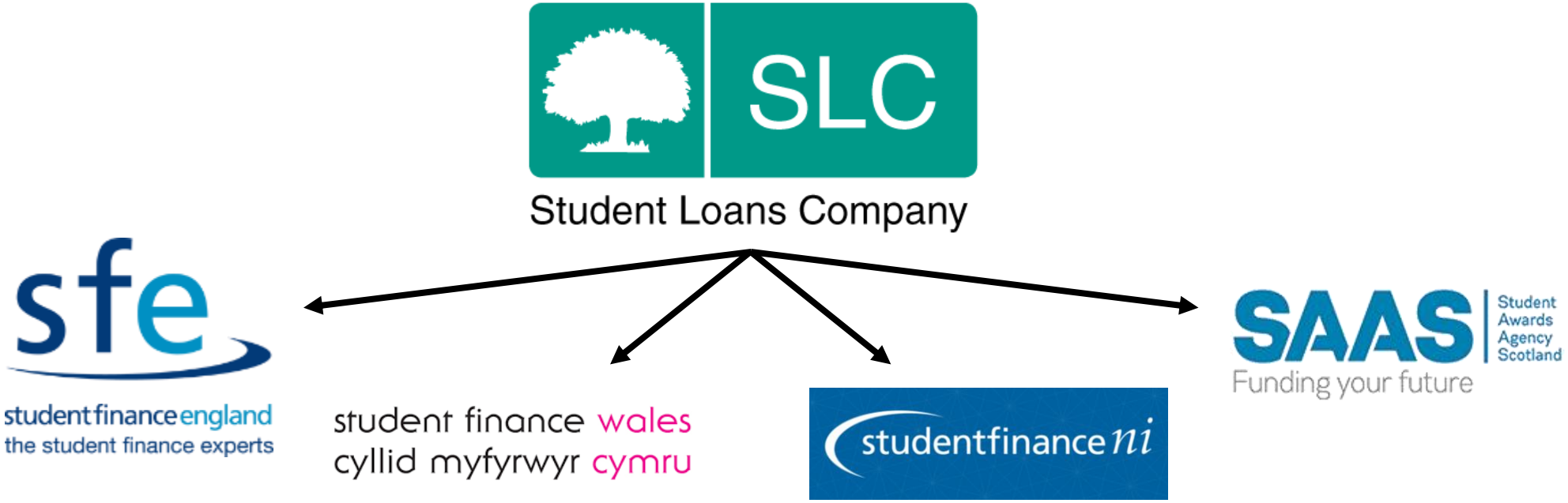
PRESENTED BY
MARK
ALGER

STUDENT FINANCE EXPLAINED

PLAN 5 (2023+) - ENGLISH STUDENTS

A quick note

- For most, student finance is relatively straightforward.
- For others, things can get very complicated, very quickly!
- There is variation across the four nations of the UK.

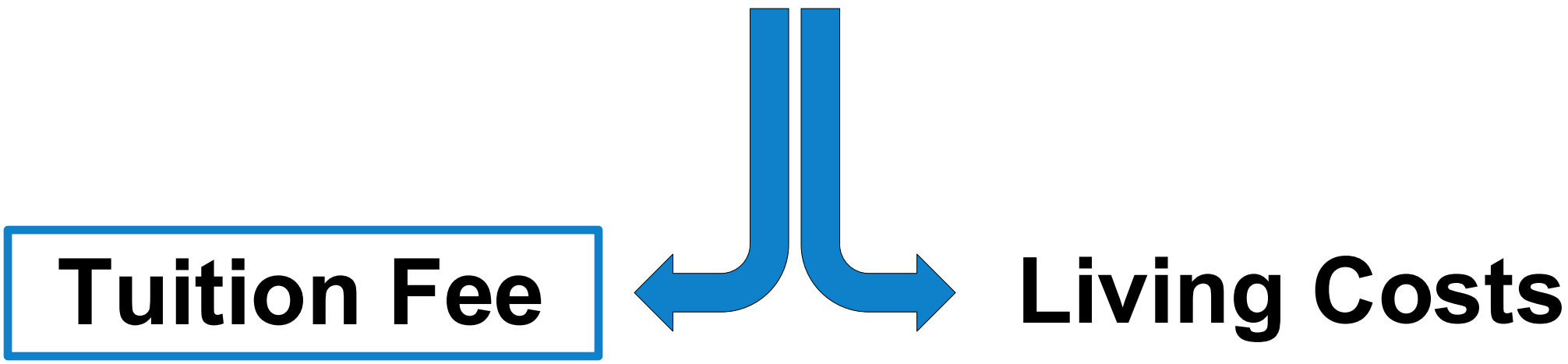


A quick note

- For most, student finance is relatively straightforward.
- For others, things can get very complicated, very quickly!
- There is variation across the four nations of the UK.
- Information concerns 2026 entry (confirmed on 26/11/2025).
- This presentation ***is in no way*** an endorsement of the current system.
- I simply want to make sure everyone who is thinking about university (plus their parent(s) or guardian(s)) has an ***accurate*** understanding of how student finance works.
- Check your eligibility (SFE): www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

gov.uk *Support with living and other costs: 2026 to 2027 academic year* (2025)

The cost of university



Tuition Fee

- For 2026/27, most universities can charge up to £9,790 (£11,750 for accelerated degrees) per academic year for undergraduate courses.
- £10,050 and £12,060 respectively for 2027/28.
- Foundation Year = up to £5,760 or £9,790 (depending on course)
- Eligible full and part-time students can cover this with a Tuition Fee Loan.
- This is paid by the student's funding body directly to their university.
- Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (if under 19 on 31st August…).

gov.uk *Student finance for undergraduates: new full-time students* (n.d.)
gov.uk *Changes to tuition fees: 2026 to 2027 academic year and 2027 to 2028 academic year* (2025)
ucas.com *Undergraduate tuition fees and student loans* (n.d.)

Tuition Fee – what does it pay for?

- Tuition fees cover key elements of your course and academic life, as well as core services related to students' wellbeing and experience on campus.
- This can include:
  - Lectures, seminars and tutorials
  - Course administration costs
  - Access to course related facilities and equipment (labs, studios etc.)
  - Access to general campus libraries and computer equipment.
  - Support services for students
  - Student Union membership (but not individual clubs/societies)
  - Field trips essential for your course (travel and accommodation only)
  - Graduation Ceremony

ucas.com *Undergraduate tuition fees and student loans* (n.d.)

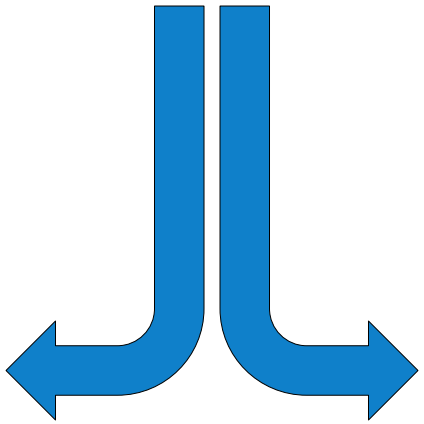
Tuition Fee – what it doesn't pay for?

- Tuition Fees don't usually cover:
  - Library printing or photocopying
  - Non-compulsory/essential field trips
  - Textbooks and other course materials (art supplies, dancewear etc.)
  - Personal technology (laptop, tablet, specialist software, cameras etc.)
  - Membership to individual Student Union clubs or societies
  - Travel costs to work placements
  - Professional body membership
  - Personal living costs (accommodation, travel etc.)
  - Graduation attire, photography, and guest tickets

ucas.com *Undergraduate tuition fees and student loans* (n.d.)

The cost of university

Tuition Fee



Living Costs

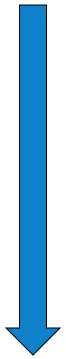
Maintenance Loan

- Eligible (F+PT) students can apply for a loan to ***help cover*** their living costs.
- 68% of students now undertake paid work during term time.
- September – January – after Easter.
- The amount a student receives depends on three factors:
  - Whether you'll be living at your parental home ("living with parents")
  - Where in the UK you'll be studying
  - Assessed household income
- Keep your funding body updated if your circumstances change.

advance-he.ac.uk *More than two-thirds of full-time students now undertake paid work during term time* (2025)

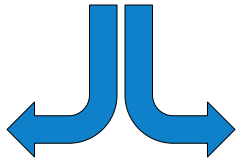
Maintenance Loan

Living with parents

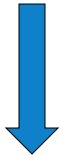


£4,013 - £9,118

Not living with parents or holds Independent Student Status*



Studying outside London**



£5,048 - £10,830

Studying inside London**



£7,039 - £14,135

*Independent Student Status = care for someone under the age of 18; you are 25 or older; you are married or in a civil partnership (even if you are now divorced/separated); you have no living parents; you have financially supported yourself for at least three years; your parents cannot be traced or it is not practically possible to contact them; you are permanently estrangement from parents (not an exhaustive list).

ucas.com *Finance for independent students* (n.d.)

**London = the former Metropolitan Police District (which includes all 32 London boroughs and some areas of Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire), courses at the University of London, and institutes in the City of London.

gov.uk *Support with living and other costs: 2026 to 2027 academic year* (2025)

gov.uk *Student finance calculator* (n.d.)

(assumed) Parental Contribution

- Historically ambiguous and/or mentioned only in passing.
- Providing you do not hold ISS, the amount you receive through your Maintenance Loan is linked to your assessed household income.
- In other words, the higher the accessed household income, the less Maintenance Loan will be received (and vice versa).
- It is ***assumed*** parent(s)/guardian(s) will be able (and willing!) to make up ("top up") the difference (but the Government does not set out any explicit level of parental contributions).

parliament.uk *The value of student maintenance support* (2025)

(assumed) Parental Contribution

- Some further information:

moneysavingexpert.com *How much should you contribute to you child's student maintenance loan? calcs* (n.d.)

NHS Learning Support Fund and Bursary

- NHS Learning Support Fund provides additional funding for eligible healthcare students.
  - **Training Grant**
  - **Parental Support**
  - **Exceptional Support Fund**
  - **Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses** (Pharmacy)
- These ***do not*** need to be paid back.

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund

- NHS Bursary = Medical and Dental students only (Year 5 onwards).

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary

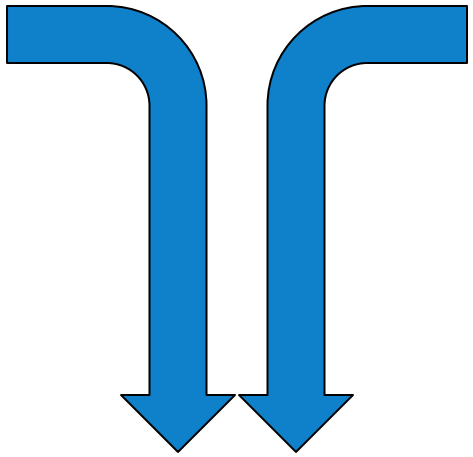
Additional forms of financial support

- Forms of additional support include:
  - **Childcare Grant**
  - **Parents' Learning Allowance**
  - **Adult Dependants' Grant**
  - **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)**
- These ***do not*** need to be paid back.
- For full details, please visit:

www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help

Tuition Fee Loan

Maintenance Loan



“Student Loan”

Repayment

- A student becomes liable for the repayment of their student loan:
  - The April after they leave university and…
  - When they are earning over £25,000 before tax (or equivalent).
- Repayments calculations are based on your income and not loan amount.
- Deducted automatically by your employer before your ‘take home’ pay.
- Having a student loan does not appear on your credit report.
- After 40 years, ***any*** outstanding balance will be written off!

moneysavingexpert.com *Student credit scorings; 10 key need-to-knows, including student loans and your credit file* (2026)

Just over half (56%) of full-time higher education borrowers are expected to repay their Plan 5 loan in full within 40 years.

moneysavingexpert.com *Plan 5 English student finance: five need-to-knows* (2026)

Repayment Examples

- Repayment rate is 9% on earnings above £25,000 before tax (or equivalent).

AMOUNT ABOVE THRESHOLD:	
£0	**£20,000 = £0 per month**
£0	**£25,000 = £0 per month**
£2,500	**£27,500 = £18 per month**
£5,000	**£30,000 = £37 per month**
£15,000	**£40,000 = £112 per month**
£25,000	**£50,000 = £187 per month**

£444

135 years!

- Interest is charged at RPI rate of inflation (currently 3.2%) for Plan 5.

moneysavingexpert.com *New student loans to cost many 50% more: Martin Lewis' 6 need-to-knows about 'Plan 5' English student finance* (updated 2026)

Applying

- There is no cost to apply.
- A student must apply and ***reapply*** every academic year.
- Opened = 23rd March 2026.
- Apply online - https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance (SFE)
- A confirmed place at university is not necessary to apply (preferred choice).
- Apply by **15th May 2026** to guarantee funding is ready for the start of your course in September 2026 (later deadline for continuing students).
- For specific university bursaries etc., you'll need to apply directly to the respective university and deadlines and eligibility will vary.

studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk *Going to uni in 2026* (n.d.)
heloa.co.uk *Student loans company: full-time undergraduates submissions* (2026)

Summary

- Tuition Fees are (initially) paid on a student's behalf (subject to eligibility).
- Support is available to help with living costs (Maintenance Loan) and the level of support is dependent on individual circumstances.
- Repayments are linked to your future income; paid only when you are earning over £25,000 and written-off after 40 years.
- Price tag vs amount paid.
- I simply want to make sure everyone who is thinking about university (plus their parent(s) or guardian(s)) has an ***accurate*** understanding of how student finance works.