

Student Finance - Previous Study

What constitutes previous study?

Student Finance will consider any time spent on a previous Higher Education/Initial Teachers Training or any specifically designated course that was provided by a publicly funded institution in the UK course as a full year's entitlement no matter how long ago this was – even if:

- You only attended for 1 day
- You didn't apply for funding
- You studied overseas

Higher Education includes:

- Undergraduate degrees
- Postgraduate degrees
- Higher National Diplomas/Certificates (HND/HNC)
- Diplomas in Higher Education (Dip HEs)
- Certificates in Higher Education (Cert EDs)
- Foundation Degrees
- Integrated Masters Degrees

Student Finance Entitlement (if you previously started a course but did not complete this)

In determining your financial entitlement, Student Finance use the Standard Entitlement calculation. In essence this is:

Length of your course plus one extra ("gift") year

E.g. if you are studying a 3 year course, your entitlement would be 3 + 1 = 4 years

Any years of previous study at Higher Education level are then deducted from your new entitlement.

Which funding does this apply to?

- Tuition fee loans
- Tuition fee grants*
- Bursaries and Scholarships

**If applicable*

Which funding might I still receive during any restricted years?

- Disabled Students Allowance
- Childcare/Adults Dependents' Grant
- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Maintenance loan (as long as you didn't obtain a qualification equal or higher to the one that you intend to study)

The years that you are not entitled to funding are applied at the start of your new course so you would need to make arrangements to self-fund this period before you commence your course.

Student Finance Entitlement (if you already have a degree or equivalent qualification)

There is no statutory funding for students who already have a degree or equivalent (or lower) qualification – even if this was obtained overseas. Therefore you may only qualify for 'targeted support' which includes:

- Disabled Students Allowance
- Childcare/Adults Dependents' Grant
- Parents' Learning Allowance

However you would not be entitled to any:

- Tuition fee loans/grants*
- Maintenance loans

This is known as the Equivalent Level Qualification rule.

There are however some courses which are exempt to this rule which are:

- Social Work
- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- Dentistry
- Architecture

The above courses allow you to apply for a Maintenance Loan however they do not include any grants and you will still need to self-fund for your tuition fees.

Students wishing to study a second honours degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics or computer science on a part time basis will also be able to access a tuition fee loan. Please see our part time funding guidance for further information about the funding available to part time students:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/pt-students/

Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions as a Second Degree

Students studying a course in nursing, midwifery or AHP as a second degree are eligible to apply for Student Finance and the NHS Learning Support Fund.

NHS Funding if you have previously studied at Higher Education level

If your previous course was not NHS funded, you may qualify for an NHS Bursary for NHS funded courses. These include:

- NHS funded year of a Medicine or Dentistry course
- Social work

For further information:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/nhs-bursary-funding/

Compelling Personal Reasons

If you didn't complete your previous course and you have compelling personal reasons for this, then you could be entitled to further funding on these grounds.

Please see our Discretionary Funding guidance for further information:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/student-finance-discretionary-funding/

How will I pay for my fees if I do not receive any support from Student Finance?

If you do not receive a fee loan from SFE, then you are personally liable to pay the fees. You become liable as soon as you enrol and therefore you must have made arrangements before commencing a course to fund your studies.

University of Manchester Scholarships and Bursaries

You may qualify for one of the University of Manchester's bursaries/scholarships even if you do not qualify for Student Finance – all you need to do is request a financial assessment from them (even though you both know you will not receive any funding!) in order to allow the University to access your household income data and assess your eligibility for support from us.

Financial Support Funds

The Living Cost Support Fund is available for any unexpected situations which may arise however students who have studied previously are not be considered to be in a priority group for support and therefore you should not rely on this as a source of income to fund your studies. You will also be expected to have secured adequate funds for your course before applying to this fund. For further information visit:

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund/>

Other Options

Please see our Postgraduate Funding guidance for further information (please don't be put off by the name – many of the organisations listed in here are not just for PG study!):

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/postgraduate-funding/

Part Time Employment

The Careers Service can advise on employment alongside your degree in order to increase your income:

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/

My previous qualification was received abroad, how can I determine the level of this?

If you need to clarify the level of an overseas qualification for Student Finance, you will need to contact the National Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC) for verification:

www.naric.org.uk/naric/

Are there other circumstances where SFE can ignore my previous study?

Yes. Study on a previous part-time HE course where no qualification was gained or study on an entirely self-funded* full time course, taken at a private institution, where no qualification was gained, may be fully disregarded.

** This is where no support of any kind was paid either to you, the university or college, to meet tuition fees or maintenance costs. If you have paid personally for a course but the charges were subsidised/reduced, for example, then this previous study would need to be disclosed as it would not be entirely self-funded.*

Useful Links

Student Finance

www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england

Bursaries

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/bursaries/

The Student Room Finance Zone

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/content.php?r=5659-Student-Finance

If you have a question which isn't answered here, please contact studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk

Please note that the information in this guide is intended for Students applying for finance through the Student Finance England system, if you have applied for funding through the Welsh, Irish, Scottish or EU systems the regulations may differ.

We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate however, we cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.