

Student Financial Support

Funding information

2023/24



Funding your degree 2023/24

If you are studying for your first degree you may be eligible for a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan for 2023/24. You can apply for your funding from early 2023.

Tuition Fees

The University of Reading charges tuition fees of £9,250 for UK students entering full-time, undergraduate degree programmes in the 2023/24 academic year.

Students can apply for a non-means tested tuition fee loan from the relevant Student Finance Authority to cover the full tuition fee and do not need to repay this loan until after they have left University (see overleaf).

Maintenance Loans

In addition to the tuition fee loan, UK students are entitled to apply for a yearly maintenance loan from the relevant Student Finance Authority to help with living costs. Eligible students at Reading (not studying in London) who are living away from their parents can apply for a minimum (non-income assessed) maintenance loan of £4,651. An additional maintenance loan amount may be available, depending on household income, providing a total loan of up to £9,978. Please note that the household income assessment for the 2023/24 academic year will be based on the 2021/22 tax year.

For students with children and/or adult dependants there may also be other support available from the Student Finance Authorities, such as the Parents' Learning Allowance, the Childcare Grant and the Adult Dependants' Grant.

Students studying part-time degree level courses qualify for loans for living costs.

The maximum loan for living costs in 2023/24 for eligible students at Reading living away from home (studying outside London) will be £9,978 100% intensity, £4,989 50% intensity equivalent in 2023/24.

For more information about loans available through the Student Finance Authorities, please visit the respective Authority's website (details under "Useful Contacts").

Loan Repayments

The repayment of loans is changing with effect from 1st August 2023. Any new student starting a course

after this date will be on repayment Plan 5. You start making repayments once your income is over the repayment threshold. The repayment threshold for the 2026-27 tax year will be £25,000 a year and repayments will stop after 40 years. You'll repay 9% of your income over the repayment threshold, which is currently £25,000 a year, £2,083 a month or £480 a week in the UK. If your income changes, either rising or falling, your repayment amount will automatically change to reflect this. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-loans-a-guide-to-terms-and-conditions-2023-to-2024#which-repayment-plan-are-you-on

What access to higher education and further education support do EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals have?

Eligibility rules are changing for EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members, who wish to commence courses in England in the academic year starting in August 2021. For courses starting on or after the 1 August 2021, you will be eligible for student finance if you have citizens' rights (or if you are an Irish citizen covered by the Common Travel Area arrangement).

Student Finance England will ask you to provide evidence in order to be awarded undergraduate financial support.

For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/studying-in-the-uk-guidance-for-eu-students

Speech and Language Therapy Students

Nursing, midwifery and most allied health students (including Speech and Language Therapy students at the University of Reading) no longer receive NHS bursaries. Instead, they have access to the same student loans system as other students. This applies to new students on pre-registration courses (those which lead to registration with one of the health professional regulators).

Students who already have a degree and are planning to undertake a nursing, midwifery or allied health profession subject (including Speech and Language Therapy at the University of Reading) as a second degree will now also have access to student loans through the student loans system.

Additional financial support is available to all new and current pre-registration students on nursing, midwifery and allied health professional courses. Eligible students will receive at least £5,000 and in some cases students can receive an additional £3,000.

Students will still access their Student Finance Authority funding for tuition fees and maintenance loans. More information can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year

The NHS Business Services Authority will provide additional funding for some nursing, midwifery and allied health professional students (including Speech and Language Therapy students at the University of Reading) because of the compulsory clinical placement required by these courses.

Eligible students may be able to access the following:

- A non-repayable grant of £1,000 per year if they have child dependants
- Exceptional support of up to £3,000 per year in the case of severe hardship
- Support for excess travel and dual accommodation expenses incurred by attending practice placements.


For further information on the specific rules please visit: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund/about-learning-support-fund

More information

www.reading.ac.uk/money

studentfunding@reading.ac.uk | 0118 378 5555





What financial support could you receive in 2023/24?

If you are a student and studying for your first degree you may be eligible for a tuition fee loan to cover the entire tuition fee in 2023/24.

A maintenance loan is available to help with living costs such as food, accommodation and travel. The amount you can borrow depends on where you live and study, and your household income. The maintenance loan is paid in three equal instalments, one at the start of each term.

Table 1 Table 1 is applicable to students who are studying outside of London and not living with parents during the 2023/24 academic year.

Household Income (£)	Maintenance loan
£25,000	£9,978
£30,000	£9,265
£35,000	£8,552
£42,875	£7,429
£50,000	£6,412
£62,343 and over	£4,651

Table 2 Table 2 is applicable to students who are studying outside of London and living with parents during the 2023/24 academic year.

Household Income (£)	Maintenance loan
£25,000	£8,400
£30,000	£7,694
£35,000	£6,988
£42,875	£5,876
£50,000	£4,869
£58,291 and over	£3,698

Please note that the loan rate for all students in their final year is less than the figures given in the two tables.

Please note, this data was correct at the time of print but may be subject to change depending on University or Government policy changes. Please contact the Student Financial Support team if you have any specific questions studentfunding@reading.ac.uk

Repaying your student loans

Your tuition fee and maintenance loans are consolidated into one student loan, so that you repay both at the same time, usually through the tax system.

The repayment of loans is changing with effect from 1st August 2023. Any new student starting a course after this date will be on repayment Plan 5. You start making repayments once your income is over the repayment threshold. The repayment threshold for the 2026-27 tax year will be £25,000 a year and repayments will stop after 40 years. You'll repay 9% of your income over the repayment threshold, which is currently £25,000 a year, £2,083 a month or £480 a week in the UK. If your income changes, either rising or falling, your repayment amount will automatically change to reflect this. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-loans-a-guide-to-terms-and-conditions/student-loans-a-guide-to-terms-and-conditions-2023-to-2024#which-repayment-plan-are-you-on

Income each year before tax	Monthly income before tax	Approximate monthly repayment
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£22
£29,500	£2,458	£33
£31,000	£2,583	£45
£33,000	£2,750	£60

Interest

The interest rate will normally be set at RPI only for Plan 5.

More information can be found at www.slc.co.uk/repayments

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The Reading Bursary and Additional Support from the University 2023/24

The University of Reading offers a range of bursaries and scholarships for Home/EU and International students. Further details can be found online, or by contacting the appropriate department or school.

Visiting the University of Reading

The University of Reading offers Pre-Application Bursaries to potential UK applicants with disabilities who need to visit the University for a disability-related reason (for example, to check that accommodation or other facilities will meet their needs or to meet with a member of staff from the Disability Advisory Service). A maximum of £300 is currently available depending on the distance travelled.

The University also offers Pre-Entry Travel Bursaries to offer-holding UK students from areas defined by Office for Students as having low participation in Higher Education and Care Leavers. This bursary can help with the cost of travel to University Departmental Visit Days and/or interviews attended prior to accepting a place.

Extra Financial Help

Students are expected to have made adequate financial provisions before enrolling with the University. However, the University is committed to providing support to help students who experience unexpected financial difficulties while studying. While we are unable to provide the main financial support for your studies, the Student Financial Support Team has a range of schemes, including the Student Support Fund, which can help **with unexpected financial emergencies or unexpected costs**. These funds cannot be used towards tuition fees. Students are expected to have explored other avenues of financial help and, if appropriate, to have applied for their full statutory support entitlement from their Student Finance Authority, before applying for help from these funds. Most awards are non-repayable.

The Reading Bursary

The Reading Bursary is a University funded award that goes above and beyond the Government's contribution towards student support. Students who meet the eligibility criteria will be notified automatically. Further information can be found at www.reading.ac.uk/money.

Students who are not eligible for the Reading Bursary

- NHS-funded students
- Students receiving sponsorship from a third party
- Students directly continuing from one course to another (for example, from Foundation degree or HND on to the final year of an Honours degree)
- Students transferring in from another institution (in the year the transfer has taken place)
- Any student who is being charged less than the full-time UK tuition fees (unless on a placement year)
- Students undertaking a postgraduate qualification
- Part-time students studying at less than 25 per cent intensity of the full-time equivalent
- Students who are returning from a suspension to part 1 of a course
- Students whose household income is assessed by the relevant Student Finance Authority as being in excess of £27,000 per annum

Applying

Full-time and part-time undergraduate ITT students do not need to apply for this funding.

It will be awarded automatically to eligible students who give consent to share their financial information with the University as part of their Student Finance Authority means-tested application.

Please note that sponsors (i.e. parent(s)/guardian(s)/partner) will also have to provide their consent.

Call **0300 100 0607** (England), **0300 200 4050** (Wales), **0300 100 0077** (N. Ireland) or **0131 244 5341** (Scotland) to check that you have given consent to share. You will need to state your Customer Reference or Student Support Number.

Allocation Deadline

Bursary assessments and payments are made at several points during the year with the final allocation of bursaries for the 2023/24 academic year being made in early June 2024. Any student who has not made their finalised household income information available to the University at this point will not be considered for a bursary. Please note that the University will not award bursaries retrospectively.

How, What and When Will You Be Paid

When enrolling online you will be asked for your choice of cash bursary or fee waiver (reduction of your tuition fees); the default option is a cash bursary. Please note that once you have made your choice, this is non-reversible.

The **cash bursary** will be paid to eligible students in two equal instalments: the first payment will be in the autumn term and the second at the beginning of the spring term. Any student who has been assessed as eligible after the payment date will be advised of their interim payment date in their bursary entitlement letter. If your confirmed household income changes between the first and second payment your entitlement may change.

The **fee waiver** will be allocated to your records during April 2024 or as soon as we have assessed you as eligible for a waiver if after this date. If you withdraw from, or suspend, your studies before this time you will not receive the fee waiver. We will inform the Student Finance Authority of your amended tuition fee amount for tuition fee loan purposes in April 2024. We therefore recommend that you request the maximum tuition fee loan available when completing your student finance application.

Payment will only be made to students who are enrolled as current students at the time the payment is due to be made.

Receipt of the Reading Bursary funding will not prohibit you from applying for other University funds but please bear in mind that the amount of cash bursary you receive may be taken into account as income for funding applications and in benefit calculations.



Entitlement Tables

Entitlement for **full-time undergraduate students** from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland entering in 2023/24 for years 1,2,3,4 of study. Please note that students from the EU must be assessed as eligible for funding by Student Finance EU Authority. Students on placement years will receive the full entitlement of cash bursary.

Household Income	Cash Bursary or Fee Waiver
£0–£27,000	£1,100

Entitlement for **part-time undergraduate students** from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland entering in 2021/22 during years 1,2,3,4 of study. Please note that students from the EU must be assessed as eligible for funding by Student Finance EU Authority.

Additional entitlement for **care experienced and estranged students** from England entering in 2021/22 for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 of study. Please note that this is in addition to the Reading Bursary.

Year of Study	Cash Bursary
1, 2, 3 and 4	£1,000

Get money-ready for uni online



The University of Reading has partnered with Blackbullion, an award winning education technology who are on a mission to make students' money smarter by providing them with financial education that they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

It's free to use and Blackbullion enables students to take their own personalised financial learning journey by presenting them with bite-size online videos, engaging games & quizzes and a student-friendly budget calculator that can be accessed wherever and whenever is convenient.

There are "Money ready for Uni" modules which students and parents can undertake that provide key financial information at the right time, when you need it. For more information and to start your learning journey log on to www.moneyreadyforuni.com



Please note, this data was correct at the time of print but may be subject to change depending on University or Government policy changes. Please contact the Student Financial Support team if you have any specific questions studentfunding@reading.ac.uk

Living Costs and Budgeting

Living costs are an important part of budgeting for your degree; accommodation costs around £140.00–£228.55 per week from standard to premium en-suite single room in University self-catered accommodation, inclusive of bills. This amounts to around £5,600–£9,142 a year for the 2023/24 academic year*.

Please note that the maintenance loan is a contribution to your overall living costs. **The loan may not be sufficient to cover your full accommodation and living expenses.**

Our standard accommodation contract is 40 weeks and covers all three terms plus the Christmas and Easter vacations. This means that you can stay in halls during the holidays without having to remove your belongings. For more information about the cost of accommodation in our halls of residence or in private accommodation in Reading, please see: www.reading.ac.uk/accommodation

You will also need to budget for food, travel and entertainment, as well as some additional costs for course materials such as books, theatre visits or art supplies. Costs vary from student to student depending on your course, interests and lifestyle.

As a rough guide you might typically expect to spend £150.00 a week, which adds up to £6,000 across the academic year.



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We recommend taking the following aspects into account when planning your budget:

Item	Cost per week (based on a single person)
Accommodation	Accommodation costs vary across campus, but the typical cost for self-catered accommodation in halls starts from £140.00 standard to £228.55 premium en-suite single room. Prices will vary for private accommodation and usually cover a 12 month period.
Food	£55 , may vary if you are in a self-catered or catered hall. Preparing simple meals at home saves money. Buying lunch and eating out will increase your weekly food costs.
Mobile telephone	£9
Travel	£18 One way to save money on travel is with a termly or annual discounted bus pass. For train travel, students can buy a 16–25 Railcard which allows a third off most rail fares.
Books and Stationery	£14 Always check the Library before buying any books or publications – we have several catalogues you can search to find out what books, DVD's and other materials we own.
Entertainment	£35 Entertainment costs vary widely between each student and while it is healthy to have a good social life at university, it is important to live within your means. Log on to Blackbullion for information and advice on how to manage your finances whilst at University www.blackbullion.com
Clothing and Person Care	£19
Total	per week excluding accommodation £150

* Please note that these amounts are based on a single person on a 40 week residency period for the 2023/24 academic year.

Student Financial Support FAQs

Household Income Assessment

What tax year will SFE assess my household income on?

For students starting their course in September 2023, you will be assessed on the tax year ended April 2022 in the first instance. Student Finance refer to this as the “prior” tax year.

Are pensions taken into account when Student Finance assess household income?

In terms of pension *income*, Student Finance will take into account gross *taxable* income. If the pension income that a parent receives is taxable then, yes, it will be taken into account as income (in the same way as income from salary or another source).

In terms of pension *contributions*, Student Finance will need evidence if parents want them to consider making deductions against their declared income for these. Some pension contributions that attract tax relief are exempt from the household income calculation and you should check with Student Finance directly about your particular pension.

Do AVCs and teacher pensions count towards taxable income?

Income-wise, they only count as income if *taxable* (as above). Student Finance will need evidence of AVCs and pension contributions if parents want them to consider making deductions against their declared income for these.

Whose income is taken into consideration if the parents are divorced or separated?

If parents are divorced or separated, Student Finance will ask applicants to declare which parent they “normally live with” and they will take into account the income of that parent and the income of any partner that the parent lives with (the other parent’s income is disregarded).

What if my income changes?

If your income has changed you can contact Student Finance and ask for a “Current Year Income Assessment”. If you can show that there has been a 15% change in the taxable income between two tax years you can be reassessed on the household’s current taxable income. Usual situations where this might apply include redundancy, reaching pensionable age, parental separation or any other change which might affect income or salary.

For more information on how to make a current year income application, please go to:

[gov.uk/support-child-or-partners-student-finance-application/current-year-income](https://www.gov.uk/support-child-or-partners-student-finance-application/current-year-income)

Tuition Fees

I am not sure if I am considered a Home/EU or International student?

Please contact the Admissions Office at the University of Reading in the first instance as they will determine your student status for fee charging purposes: ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk. You should also contact your Student Finance Authority who will determine your student status for loan purposes: www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england.

What are the fees for a placement year?

For Home/EU and International students entering in 2023/24 your placement year will be in 2025/26 and your fees will be 15% of full fee (subject to changes in the University’s Fees Policy).

What are the fees for study abroad?

For Home/EU and International students entering in 2023/24 your study abroad year will be in 2025/26 and your fees will be 15% of full fee (subject to changes in the University’s Fees Policy).

If your study abroad is covered by the Erasmus scheme, please contact the Erasmus/Study Abroad team.

Welsh Students

Is it correct that universities in England offer a tuition fee discount to Welsh students?

I am afraid that this is not the case. We do not offer any discounts to students from Wales or any other domicile.

What funding is available for Welsh students?

In 2023/24 the University of Reading is offering the Reading Bursary to students from Wales with an assessed household income, by Student Finance, of below £27,000. The Bursary is in the amount of £1,100 which can be paid as a cash bursary (payable in two instalments) or as a fee waiver.

Please check with Student Finance Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk for more information regarding the latest funding.

Additional Sources of Income: Bursaries and Part-time Work

I am from a low income family – what can I receive?

If your family income is assessed by Student Finance as being below £27,000 you may be able to receive a bursary from the University of Reading of £1,100 which you can take as cash or a fee waiver.

What does the University of Reading offer Care experienced and estranged students?

At Reading we offer a Care Leavers Bursary of £1,000 per academic year. In order to be considered for this Bursary you must meet our definition of a Care Leaver, i.e. someone who has been in Local Authority care for at least 3 months since the age of 14, is registered on a full-time undergraduate course, is classed as a home student, and is under 25 years of age on 1 August 2023.

Is it easy to get part time work?

Yes, if you are organised! Try to get work experience and an up-to-date CV prepared before you arrive and start applying for jobs before arrival too. Consider jobs in Reading town centre (a 20–30 minute walk or 10 minute bus journey from campus) as well as those on campus. See www.reading.ac.uk/campusjobs and external sites such as www.theoracle.com/jobs.

Budgeting

What are the typical living costs at the University of Reading?

The University of Reading recommends that students allow for a budget of around £150 per week while studying. Further details about living costs are available here: www.reading.ac.uk/moneymatters.

Can I speak to anyone about budgeting?

You can speak to a member of the RUSU Advice Service in the Students Union. Contact details are available under “Useful Contacts”. You can also check out MRU at blackbullion.com/library/money-ready-for-university.

Problems with Student Finance

What happens if I get here and my loans are delayed?

You should contact the Student Financial Support team in the Carrington Building and we can try and help you resolve any issues with Student Finance. Where the situation permits, short term loans may be offered towards living expenses on a weekly basis where appropriate, until statutory funding is received. We hold drop in sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.00 am–12.30 in the Carrington Building or you can make an appointment to see a member of the team or contact us by emailing studentfunding@reading.ac.uk or telephoning 0118 378 5555.

Repaying Student Loans

Is there a penalty for early repayment of my loan through Student Finance?

No, you can make extra repayments or pay off the full amount at any time on the Student Loans Company repayment website at: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk.

Can I make ad hoc payments towards my Student Finance loan?

Yes, you can make extra repayments any time on the Student Loans Company repayment website: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk. It is however important that you keep a record of any payments that you make.

Postgraduate Courses

I am a postgraduate – what funding is available?

It will depend on what type of course you are studying.

If you are studying for a Master’s Degree, you may be eligible for a loan from the UK government of up to £12,167 if your course starts on or after 1 August 2023. Please go to www.gov.uk/masters-loan/apply for more detailed information.

PhD Loans were introduced by the government for students commencing their PhD on or after 1 August 2018.

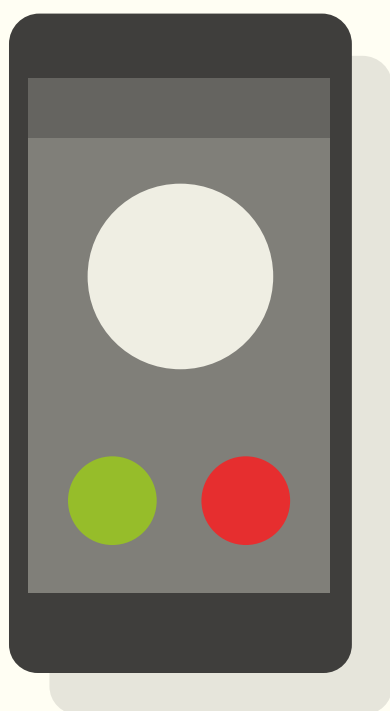
As with the Masters Loans, the money will be paid directly to the student. Eligible students will be entitled to apply for a loan (to a maximum) of £28,673 if your course starts on or after 1 August 2023. This loan will be paid in yearly instalments.

If you plan to study for a PhD you should contact the Doctoral Research Office at the Graduate School for more information about studentships: www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool.

You should note that postgraduate funding is highly competitive and students should make adequate provision for their funding and living expenses before starting their course.

Can PGCE students apply to Student Finance for support?


Yes. You can apply for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan from Student Finance. A proportion of the maintenance loan will be subject to a means test of your household income. Funding is only available to students studying the non-salaried route.



Useful contacts

	Telephone	Email/Website
Accommodation Team, University of Reading	0118 378 4203	www.reading.ac.uk/life/accommodation
Admissions Office, University of Reading	0118 378 8372	ugadmissions@reading.ac.uk
Student Financial Support, University of Reading	0118 378 5555	studentfunding@reading.ac.uk www.reading.ac.uk/money
Reading University Students' Union (RUSU)	0118 378 4100	www.rusu.co.uk
Student Award Agency Scotland	0300 555 0505	www.saas.gov.uk
Student Finance England	0300 100 0607	www.gov.uk/student-finance
Student Finance Northern Ireland	0300 100 0077	www.studentfinancenir.co.uk
Student Finance Wales	0300 200 4050	www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
Student Finance Services Non-UK Team	0141 243 3570	www.gov.uk/student-finance
UCAS	0371 468 0468	www.ucas.ac.uk
National Union of Students (NUS)	0845 5210 262	www.nus.org.uk


Student Financial Support Team

 Please contact the Student Financial Support Team if you have any enquiries or need further information:

studentfunding@reading.ac.uk

Tel **0118 378 5555**

 /theuniversityofreading

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www.reading.ac.uk/money

Disclaimer:

This brochure was issued in June 2023 and describes in outline the courses and services offered by the University starting in September. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press. However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication.

Sample modules are provided within this brochure as a taster of some of the modules that may be available at the University. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press but the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this brochure will definitely run or that all optional modules will be available to all students who wish to take them.

The University takes all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure, it does not however, guarantee the provision of such services.

To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check **www.reading.ac.uk/Ready-to-Study.aspx** for up-to-date information.