

## Student Contribution for Higher Education



From September 2006 the government permitted universities and higher education colleges (HEI's) in England and Wales to charge a higher tuition fee for their courses; for 2011 the maximum amount will be £3,375. HEI's are only allowed to charge the new tuition fee if they have reached an agreement on improving access with OFFA (Office for Fair Access). This agreement sets out the action that HEI's will take to promote fair access, so that students from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

In addition HEI's charging over £2,700 a year are obliged to provide non-repayable financial support (grant) for students in receipt of the full £2,906 maintenance grant. All of these access agreements, including London Studio Centre's, are available at [www.offa.org.uk](http://www.offa.org.uk)

London Studio Centre's OFFA agreement ensures that its students benefit from exactly the same provision as other HEI's. In common with 90% of other HEI's London Studio Centre is charging the increased tuition fee. But in practice this means that no new student is obliged to pay the tuition fees at the start of or during their course of study. The Student Loans Company pays, in full or in part, the annual tuition fee on their behalf.

### **The following list sets out the support available to different groups of students:**

- **Student Maintenance Loan** (UK students only)
- **Tuition Fee Loan** (UK & EU students)
- **Maintenance Grant** (UK students only)
- **Access Bursary** (UK students only)
- **Access to learning fund** (All students; EU & Overseas final year only)
- **Scholarships/Named awards (LSC only)** (All students)

### **Student Maintenance loan (UK students ONLY)**

The Student Maintenance Loan is aimed at helping with living costs; which enables students to support themselves whilst studying and attracts a very low interest rate.

Students do not have to start repaying the loan until the April after leaving their course and then only if they are earning over £15,000 per annum (£1,250 per month or £288 per week). The repayments are calculated as 9% of the income above the £1,250 per month threshold, so that repayments rise and fall directly in-line with income. Therefore the amount of time it takes to repay the loan depends on a person's income after graduation and the total amount borrowed.

Repayments are collected directly from a PAYE salary or via self-assessment for the self employed. Alternatively, voluntary payments may be made by a person earning under the threshold or before the start date for repayment.

Interest on the loan is linked to the level of inflation. It includes any time when the borrower is studying or not repaying the loan, as well as when they are repaying the loan. The loan will be written off if it is not paid back within 25 years from the date that the repayments are due. It is expected that the average student will take approximately 13 years to repay the loan.

Maintenance Loans can be as much as £4,950 if you live away from home and study in London

## **Tuition Fee Loan (UK & EU students)**

The Student contribution towards fees for 2011/12 is £3,375.

No EU or UK student is obliged to pay the annual tuition fee before or during the course, although the fees may be paid up-front in accordance with the wishes and circumstances of the individual student. UK/EU students are able to apply for a Student Loan to cover the cost of all or part of the fees. The tuition fee loans are paid directly to the college on their behalf in two instalments in February and May.

Like the maintenance loan, repayments start the April after leaving the HEI and then only if the student is earning over £15,000 per annum. This loan, too, will be written-off if it is not repaid within 25 years.

## **Maintenance Grant (UK Students ONLY)**

Students from lower income households will be eligible for the non-repayable maintenance grant of up to £2,906 a year. This is only available to those students who choose to be means tested.

If the parental income is £25,000 or less, the student receives the full £2,906 grant. A partial grant is payable where the parental income is assessed between £25,001 – £50,020. The grant is paid direct to students in 3 instalments at the start of each term.

## **Access Bursary (UK Students ONLY)**

Students who have been assessed as eligible to receive all or part of the Government's non-repayable Maintenance Grant of £2,906 are eligible for an Access Bursary from the London Studio Centre. This bursary amounts to 30% of the student's Grant. The minimum bursary is £30.

This means therefore that students receiving the full maintenance grant will receive, in total, a non-repayable grant of £3,777.80 per annum (£2,906 + £871.80).

## **Access to Learning Fund (All; EU and Overseas final Year only)**

There is also further provision for those students who find themselves in great financial difficulty during their studies; the Access to Learning Fund is accessible through LSC's validating university.

Students are assessed according to individual needs. Payments are usually made as grants and therefore they do not have to be repaid, although sometimes they can be given as short-term loans.

## **Scholarships/Named Awards**

The London Studio Centre has various scholarships that are available for students of exceptional ability from low-income backgrounds who are unable to fund their tuition fees.

Named Awards are either awarded or auditioned for, normally in the final year of the college for students showing outstanding talent, nominated by their teachers; these awards are given to the student directly in order to help with maintenance costs.

More information regarding these awards is available in the London Studio Centre's Access Agreement available at [www.offa.org.uk](http://www.offa.org.uk)

## **Student finance**

See the relevant link below for further detailed information about what is available for you:

### **UK Students**

- **England**



Student Finance England

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

- **Northern Ireland**



Student Finance Northern Ireland

[www.studentfinancenirni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenirni.co.uk)

- **Scotland**



SAAS (Student Awards Agency for Scotland)

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

- **Wales**

student finance wales  
cyllid myfyrwyr cymru

Student Finance Wales

[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

### **EU Students**



Student Finance Services

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu)

Any queries regarding Student Finance at the London Studio Centre please contact Stephanie Ahern, the Registrar at [Stephanie.Ahern@London-Studio-Centre.co.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Ahern@London-Studio-Centre.co.uk)