

# LIPA

## Student Finance in 2012

### Undergraduate finance for UK/EU students

#### What is LIPA charging in 2012?

Funding for universities and students is changing. Like many other UK universities, our yearly tuition fee will be £9,000 for UK/EU full-time undergraduates starting degree courses in 2012. The fee may rise with inflation in subsequent years.

#### Why are fees rising?

Tuition fees are increasing because universities will no longer receive funding or subsidies from central government for the majority of our courses.

Delivering practical, vocational disciplines is achieved by doing, with restricted lecture-based learning. This is resource intensive. This learning involves concentrated staff input, high quality facilities and industry-standard equipment. By charging fees of £9,000, we will be able to maintain our high standards of course delivery and will be able to continue to help our students to prepare to achieve sustained employment in a fiercely competitive industry.

#### What funding is available to help me cover the costs of going to university?

Most students will be able to take out loans to cover the cost of tuition fees and to contribute towards living expenses. Depending on your household income, you may also qualify for a grant, which is money you don't have to pay back after you graduate.

#### Loans for living costs

Full-time students aged under 60 at the start of their course can also take out a loan to pay for their living costs, e.g., food, books, accommodation and travel. These are usually paid in three termly instalments direct to students' bank accounts.

- A loan of up to £5,500 will be available for people living away from home and studying here.
- A loan of up to £4,375 will be available if you live with your parents.

See LIPA's 2012 entry prospectus for advice on the cost of living and how to manage your finances (page 56).

#### Non-repayable grants

These are available to help with living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.

If your household income is up to £25,000 you will be entitled to a full grant of £3,250, which you won't have to pay back (unless you leave your course early when you may be asked to pay it back).

If your household income is between £25,000 and £42,600 you would be entitled to a grant of between £50 and £3,250, which you won't have to pay back (again unless you leave your course early when you may be asked to pay it back).

### **National Scholarship Programme**

This new scheme will be introduced from 2012 to help people from lower income households. See LIPA's National Scholarship Programme Factsheet for further information.

### **Tuition fee loans**

Most students will be able to take out a tuition fee loan for each year of their course. This loan is not means-tested which means that your household income will not affect whether you get it or not.

You don't have to start paying your loan back until the April after you leave LIPA and even then only if you are working and earning more than £21,000 a year. Your monthly repayment will be a small percentage of your income so it will be affordable. Your tuition fee loan covers all your tuition costs and will be paid directly to LIPA. This means you only have to budget for your living costs. You may be able to get help with your living costs too through loans and grants, which you don't have to pay back (as described above). Information about loans for living costs and non-repayable grants is also provided in the leaflet produced by BIS, entitled Thinking of Going to Uni in 2012?

### **Students from Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland**

Students from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will receive support for tuition and living costs according to the rules laid down by their devolved governments. All countries support the general principal of a loan for your tuition fees and support towards your living costs.

### **EU students**

If you are from an EU country outside the UK you should be eligible to take out a tuition fee loan on the same basis as English students but will not generally be entitled to loans or grants for living costs. Students from outside the EU are not eligible for this loan and are also liable for a different tuition fee rate.

### **Applying for Student Funding**

You should be able to apply for your student finance by applying online at [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

Alternatively, you can call Student Finance England on 0845 300 50 90 and they will send you a paper application form.

The application cycle for funding normally opens in the January before you start your course. This means that for courses starting in September 2012, you should be able to apply for your student funding from January of that year.

**Remember:**

- You don't have to pay your tuition fees upfront – as long as you have not been to university before and meet the residency rules you will be able to take out a tuition fee loan.
- You don't have to wait until you've been formally offered a place to apply for your student funding.
- Any loans you take out for fees or living costs will be added together in one loan account. This means that when you start paying back your student loans, you will only make one affordable monthly payment.
- You don't start paying back your student loans until you are earning more than £21,000.
- If your salary falls below £21,000, your repayments stop – for example if you take a career break or are unemployed. Repayments only start again when you earn over £21,000 a year.
- Loan repayments will be deducted from your salary, normally through the tax system.
- If you have not repaid your loan after 30 years it is written off.

**Find out more**

To read more on the fees and funding for students starting university from September 2012, go to:

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

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

[www.yourfuture.direct.gov.uk](http://www.yourfuture.direct.gov.uk) - *this information is aimed primarily at 16-18 year olds thinking about going to university*

[www.studentparents.org](http://www.studentparents.org) - *this website has information targeted at applicants and students with children*

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/students2012](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students2012) This has been produced by Martin Lewis and includes an advice note containing 20 key facts everyone should know about student loans for September 2012.

Please note: the information contained in this document may be subject to change. Some funding is still subject to parliamentary approval.