

Advanced Learner Loan



A quick guide on how to apply

Advanced Learner Loans help you pay the fees charged by approved colleges and training organisations in England. Most learners aged 19 and over, studying at Level 3 to 6 (which includes A levels, Access to HE Diplomas, and other Vocational Qualifications) will qualify for an Advanced Learner Loan from the UK government.

This quick guide gives you some key facts about applying for an Advanced Learner Loan.

The flowchart on the back takes you through the application process step by step.

For more detailed information see:
gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan

Applying is easy. Your household income isn't taken into account and there's no credit check.

- Visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan once the application service is open to apply online or download an application form.
- You only need to apply once at the start of your course.

Apply at gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan

How much can I get?

The amount you can get depends on your course, the fees charged by your college or training organisation and the maximum amounts set by the UK government.

- You can take out the maximum amount to cover your fee or you can pay all or part of the fee yourself. Previous study won't affect your Advanced Learner Loan application.
- You can have up to a maximum of four Advanced Learner Loans in total. If you started your course before 1 August 2016, you can only take out one loan at a time for non A Level courses and you can't get a second loan for a course of the same type and level as one you have already completed.
- If you start your course on or after 1 August 2016 you can apply for up to four loans at the same time for courses of the same type and level.
- For A Levels you can apply for a loan to fund each course you take towards your A Levels - up to a maximum of 4 A Levels. This means you can have up to 8 loans at once if you're taking each A Level as 2 separate courses (AS and A Level if you start on or after 1 August 2015 or AS and A2 if you start before 1 August 2015).

The courses must be in the same subject to qualify for a full A Level. You can get up to three more loans for non A Level courses once you have completed your A Levels.

You must complete a separate application for each loan.

How is my Advanced Learner Loan paid?

Student Finance England will pay your fees to your college or training organisation once they've confirmed your attendance on the course.

Repayment is straightforward

You'll begin making repayments once you've completed or left your course and your income is over £21,000 a year.

Making the right choice

It's important you consider your own circumstances and look into all options for paying for your course before choosing to take out a loan. You can get impartial money advice from the Money Advice Service at moneyadvice.service.org.uk

Advanced Learner Loan



How and when to apply

START

- 1** You decide what course you want to study and the college or training organisation you want to study at.
- 2** Your college or training organisation give you a Learning and Funding Information Letter. You will need this to complete your Advanced Learner Loan application.
- 3** You register and apply online - it's quick and easy. Visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan and apply today.
You can also download an Advanced Learner Loan application form at gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan. Fill this in and return it to us.
- 4** Student Finance England send you a letter to let you know if your loan has been approved. This letter will have your Customer Reference Number (CRN) on it. Please quote this if you need to contact us.
- 5** You start your course.
- 6** Your college or training organisation tell Student Finance England that you've started your course.
- 7** Student Finance England pay the loan for your fees direct to your college or training organisation every month.

FINISH

Who does what:

-  You
-  Your college or training organisation or Student Finance England

For more information

- Visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan
- Visit nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
- Speak to your college or training organisation

When applying

Have the following to hand:

- your Learning and Funding Information Letter showing your course and college or training organisation's details;
- your National Insurance Number; and
- your valid UK passport details (if you have one)

Top tip

Complete and submit your application to Student Finance England as soon as possible to ensure your loan is in place for the start of your course.

Apply online - it's easy and your application will be processed quickly. You should hear from us within two weeks.

If you don't apply online, or you don't send us the evidence we ask for at the time of application, it will take longer to process your application.



Contact Advanced Learner Loans on **0300 100 0619**

Advanced Learner Loans are administered by Student Finance England (SFE), a Student Loans Company service, providing financial support to students on behalf of the UK government.



Advanced Learner Loan



A quick guide on how and when to repay

Advanced Learner Loans help you pay the fees charged by approved colleges and training organisations in England. Most learners aged 19 and over, studying at Level 3 to 6 (which includes A levels, Access to HE Diplomas, and other Vocational Qualifications) will qualify for an Advanced Learner Loan from the UK government.

This quick guide gives you some key facts about repaying an Advanced Learner Loan.

The flowchart on the back takes you through the repayment process step by step.

For more detailed information see: gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan

How and when will I pay back the loan?

- You'll start repaying your loan in the April after you complete or leave your course. HM Revenue and Customs collect loan repayments from employers through the UK tax system.
- You can make voluntary repayments at any time in order to pay off your loans more quickly.
- You'll only start making repayments when your income is over £21,000 a year.
- However, if your income falls below £21,000, repayments will stop and only re-start when your income is over £21,000.
- If you're employed, your employer will take your repayments directly from your salary.
- If you're self-employed, you'll make repayments as part of your annual self-assessment tax return.
- If you have more than one loan or a combination of further education (FE) and higher education (HE) loans visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan and read 'Advanced Learner Loan: A guide to terms and conditions'.
- If you take out a loan for a QAA Access to HE Diploma and progress to HE, the Student Loans Company will write off the balance of your first loan, once you complete your HE qualification.
- If you retire, loan repayments aren't taken from Pension Income, so if you're paid a pension you'll only repay if you have other taxable income above £21,000.
- If you die, your loan will be written off.
- After 30 years any remaining loan balance is written off.

How much will I repay?

- Repayments are based on your income, not on what you borrow or the number of student loans you have.
- You'll repay 9% of your income above the £21,000 annual threshold. Even if you don't earn £21,000 a year but exceed the thresholds of £404 a week or £1,750 a month at any point in the year (e.g. if you work overtime) then a loan deduction will be made.

Example repayment amounts

Income each year	Monthly income	Monthly repayment
Up to £21,000	£1,750	£0
£22,000	£1,833	£7
£25,000	£2,083	£30
£30,000	£2,500	£67
£35,000	£2,916	£105
£40,000	£3,333	£142

How much interest will I be charged?

Some of the interest on your loan will be based on inflation (Retail Price Index (RPI)). The table below shows how interest is calculated.

	Interest Rate
While you're studying and until the April after you complete or leave your course, whichever comes first.	Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 3%
From the April after you finish or leave your course	Interest will be based on your income. £21,000 or less – RPI £21,000 - £41,000 – RPI plus up to 3%, depending on income £41,000 and over – RPI plus 3%

Advanced Learner Loan

How and when you'll repay

START

1 You'll start repaying your loan the April after you complete or leave your course. HM Revenue and Customs collect loan repayments through the UK tax system.

2 If you're employed, you must tell your employer that you have an Advanced Learner Loan which is an Income Contingent Repayment Plan 2 loan (ICR Plan 2).

If you're self-employed, go to studentloanrepayment.co.uk for more information on how you repay your student loan.

3 Is your income more than £404 per week, £1,750 per month or £21,000 a year?

No

Yes

4 You don't have to make repayments.

4 You begin making repayments.

5 Your employer automatically takes repayments from your salary.

6 Your employer tells HMRC how much of your loan you've repaid.

7 At the end of a tax year, HMRC tell the Student Loans Company how much you've repaid in the previous tax year.

8 On receipt of information from HMRC, the Student Loans Company send you a statement after the end of each tax year.

9 HMRC let your employer know when to stop taking repayments.

10 Any loan balance remaining 30 years after you're due to start making repayments will be written off. The 30 years start from the April you complete or leave your course, whichever comes first.

FINISH

Who does what:

 You

 Your employer, HMRC or the Student Loans Company

For more information

- Visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan
- Visit nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
- Speak to your college or training organisation

Making the right choice

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