



FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

**Student Money Matters
for students at Falmouth
University in 2017/18**

Your guide to Undergraduate Grants, Loans and Bursaries — Current students 2017/18

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Your guide to Undergraduate Grants
Loans and Bursaries

Introduction

Studying for a degree represents a significant investment in your future, and you will no doubt be concerned about the cost of Higher Education. This guide will help you understand the cost of studying and the types of financial support available to you at undergraduate level.

In this guide we look at the main sources of funding from both the Government and Falmouth University.

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FALMOUTH
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Student Finance England

Frequently asked questions



WHEN DO I APPLY FOR MY FUNDING?

Applications will open in the spring, prior to the academic year in question.

I HAVEN'T RECEIVED MY MAINTENANCE LOAN. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

You may not have sent everything that's needed to Student Finance, or the university may not have reported that you've enrolled. Either call Student Finance directly yourself, or contact the FXU Student Funding Team to check.

I DON'T THINK I'M GETTING THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF LOAN.

You may not have been income assessed. You can either call Student Finance directly yourself, or contact the FXU Student Funding Team, who can check

I HAVEN'T BEEN INCOME ASSESSED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you haven't been income assessed, then you'll be in receipt of the lower level of loan. Check with your parents (sponsors) to see if they still have additional information to submit to Student Finance. If they're not sure, again, you can call Student Finance direct, or contact the FXU Student Funding Team for help.

WHAT IS AN INCOME ASSESSMENT?

An income assessment means that Student Finance will consider your sponsors'/parents' income to determine how much Maintenance Loan you can borrow. We will also use it to assess your eligibility for some bursaries. That means you must ensure you give 'consent to share information' when prompted in your application.

WHICH INCOME DO THEY ASSESS?

If you ask to be income assessed, they will look at the income which is coming into the address you've identified as home – this will usually be the same as the address on your UCAS application. Key points are:

- If you are under the age of 25, Student Finance will assess the income of the adults living at your home address (unless you can prove that you should be classed as an independent student – see below).

This will usually mean your parents, carer or partner will be assessed, but if you live with only one of your parents then they won't assess the parent who lives elsewhere. Step-parents (or your parents' partner) will be included if they reside at your home address.

- If you are over 25, married, have a child, or can demonstrate you are financially independent, then you'll be classed as an Independent Student, and it's your own household income which will be assessed (not your parents'). This will include your partner, if you live with them.
- For the academic year 2017/18, they will initially assess the household income for financial year 2015/16.

MY INCOME IS OVER £25,000PA, BUT MY PARENTS WON'T HELP.

Your parents (sponsors) should understand that in these circumstances the government is expecting a contribution towards your living costs. Their contribution, when added to your Maintenance Loan, should total approx. £8,430pa to put you on parity with other students. If your parents' (sponsors') income has dropped since the original assessment, then they can get reassessed (see below). Unfortunately, whether or not they intend to support you financially does not affect the amount you will receive in a Maintenance Loan.

WHAT IF MY 'HOUSEHOLD INCOME' CHANGES?

Initially you will be assessed on your household income as per the financial year 2015/16. If your household income drops (by at least 15%) then you can ask Student Finance to reassess you, based on current figures. Use a Current Year Assessment form to do this. You can download this at gov.uk/student-finance-forms and you can ask for this reassessment at any point during the academic year.



DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR MY FUNDING EACH YEAR?

You need to check your Student Finance portal in the spring, and any forms which need completing will be available there. Students who only wish to be non-means tested, might only need to complete the declaration form.

I'M THINKING OF INTERMITTING OR WITHDRAWING. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY FINANCES?

Please check with either the Student Funding Team or an FXU adviser before intermitting your studies, as there will be financial implications which you need to be aware of. For example, you won't qualify for student funding whilst intermitting. You may also not qualify for state benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance.

It should also be noted that students at Falmouth University are only eligible for support in up to four separate academic years (three years required for the course, plus one to cover false starts or transfers), so you need to check you have enough funding available for the remainder of your studies.

If you are intermitted due to medical reasons or 'compelling personal circumstances', then you may be able to appeal to Student Finance.

I NEED SOME FUNDING ADVICE - WHO CAN I TALK TO?

The Student Funding Team can help with all areas of student finance. They're based on the Falmouth Campus, but also hold drop-in sessions in The Compass at Penryn campus on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The FXU also have advisers who can help.

HOW DO LOAN REPAYMENTS WORK?

At the time of going to print, in the April after leaving university, graduates earning over £21,000pa will start to make a contribution towards their loans. All such repayments are made automatically through the income tax system (so you don't need to do anything) and you'll only repay 9% of everything you earn annually above £21,000 (before tax). If, after starting to repay the loan, you lose your job or take a pay cut; your repayments will drop accordingly. The Government will write off student loan balances which are unpaid, 30 years after you qualify for repayment (ie, the April after graduation).

Examples (based on current repayment criteria):

- A graduate earning £20,000 per year would repay £0 a month.
 - A graduate earning £25,000 per year would repay £30 a month (9% of £4,000, over 12 months).
 - A graduate earning £30,000 per year would repay £67.50 a month (9% of £9,000, over 12 months).
- The levels of repayment are quite generous, so they shouldn't impact too heavily when you start working full time, and you'll receive regular statements which will help you track and manage your finances.



Not from England? Funding options

STUDENTS FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE UK

If you live in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales, you will need to apply to your regional finance team for your funding. The below information is a guide to the support you can expect to receive. To be considered for grants/bursaries you will need to be income assessed in order to demonstrate your household income (HHI). For full details on available support, please check the website of your regional finance team, as listed below.

SCOTLAND

Students should apply for support through the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). The rates quoted here are for dependant students (under 25). If you're over 25 or independent, then you'll get a much smaller bursary rate and a higher loan. All students are eligible for a tuition fee loan. At time of going to print, 2018/19 maintenance support levels were still to be confirmed. As a guide, 2017/18 support levels are:

HHI	YP Bursary	Maximum Loan
<£18,999	£1,875	£5,750
£19,000 to £33,999	Partial bursary	£5,750
>£34,000	£0	£4,750

Tel: 0845 111 1711

Web: saas.gov.uk

WALES

Students can apply online through Student Finance Wales, which will help cover the cost of tuition fees through a combination of Fee Loan (currently £4,296) and Fee Grant (currently up to £4,954). At time of going to print, 2018/19 maintenance support levels were still to be confirmed. As a guide, 2017/18 support levels are:

HHI	LA Grant	Maximum Loan
<£18,370	£5,161	£2,622
£18,370 to £50,753	Partial grant	£2,575 to £6,922
>£50,020	£0	£6,922

Tel: 0845 602 8845

Web: studentfinancewales.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

All students are eligible for a tuition fee loan. If you normally live in Northern Ireland, contact the Student Finance NI Contact Centre. At time of going to print, 2018/19 maintenance support levels were still to be confirmed. As a guide 2017/18 support levels are:

HHI	Grant	Loan
<£19,203	£3,475	£2,953
£19,204 to £41,065	Partial grant	£2,953 to £4,840
>£41,065	£0	£4,840

Tel: 0845 600 0662

Web: studentfinancenl.co.uk



EUROPEAN UNION

Full-time EU students can apply for a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England but your living costs will need to be funded through the authorities in your home country or by your family. If you have been resident in the UK for five years or more (outside of education) before the start date of your proposed course, then it would be worth checking if you in fact qualify as a UK student instead.

Students from the EU will be considered for bursaries at Falmouth University in the same manner as UK students. After applying for your Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance England you will be sent a EU18B form which will request details of your household income. Once this has been returned and your income assessed then we'll consider you for a bursary (see page 7). You don't have to complete this form, but it's the only way by which we'll be able to consider you for university bursaries.

Contact the EU customer services team for further advice and an application form:

Tel: +44 (0) 3001000607

Opening hours: Monday to Friday,
10.00am to 4.00pm

Website: gov.uk/student-finance

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

(from outside of the European Union)

There is no funding available from the UK government for students from outside of the EU. We do suggest however that you consider the following:

- **Falmouth Scholarships.** Each year we endeavour to offer a range of International Scholarships. Once we have full details confirmed, we will announce them on our website at falmouth.ac.uk/international. They usually have a closing date in May.
- **The British Council** offer some help to non-UK nationals and details can be found in the funding your studies section of their website; britishcouncil.org. They also issue information through their Education UK Guide which can also be found on their site.
- **Your home authorities.** In many countries it's the local educational authorities who look after student funding. It's always worth contacting such departments in your home country to see if funding is available for overseas study.



Additional Support from Student Finance England

If you are a student from England, who hasn't been to university before, then you might be able to get some extra government support if you have either a disability or a dependant. This is in addition to the Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan/Grant and any university bursaries for which you might also be eligible.

Students with dependants

SFE Award	Notes
Childcare Grant	The Childcare Grant could cover as much as 85% of your childcare costs during term time and holidays. If you're eligible, the amount you may get will depend on your household income; the cost of your childcare and the number of children you have. In 2017/18 the maximum award rate for one child is £159.59/wk. This is a non-repayable award.
Parents' Learning Allowance (PLA)	PLA helps towards your course costs, such as books, materials and travel. In 2017/18 students can get between £50 and £1,617pa depending on household income. You can apply for the Parents' Learning Allowance when you apply for student finance. This is a non-repayable award.
Adult Dependents' Grant	For full-time students with an adult who is financially dependent on them. Usually a husband, wife or partner, or another adult (but not a son or daughter). The level of this award depends upon your household income and is up to £2,834pa in 2017/18. This is a non-repayable award.

Students with a disability (including dyslexia)

SFE Award	Notes
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)	To help students pay the extra costs you may have because of your disability. How much you get depends on your individual needs - not your household income. Support can then be offered for specialist equipment, non-medical helpers and/or a general allowance. Don't buy any equipment until you've been assessed - you won't be reimbursed for it. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Accessibility Office on 01326 370460 or at accessibility@fxplus.ac.uk



Falmouth University bursaries

We offer a range of bursaries and awards which we hope will help students fund their studies and make the most of their time at Falmouth.

Eligibility for each bursary and award varies and can be dependent on year of entry into Higher Education and/ or level of household income. Before submitting an application or query, students should check the details of the bursary or award they are interested in. Information is available here and also on the University's website at www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-funding

Bursaries & Awards for 2016 and 2017 entrants

MATERIALS AWARD

All UK and EU students who are assessed as having a household income of under £25,000 (for the 2017/18 academic year) will automatically receive a Materials Award. The amount of award depends on which course a student is enrolled on, as shown in the table below:

BAND 1	£400
Architecture, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Marine & Natural History Photography, Photography, Press & Editorial Photography, Illustration	
BAND 2	£300
Fashion Design, Fashion Photography, Performance Sportswear Design, Sustainable Product Design, Textile Design, Game Art: Design, Textile Design	
BAND 3	£200
Acting, Computing for Games, Creative Music Technology, Animation & Visual Effects, Drawing, Fashion Marketing, Film, Interior Design, Music, Popular Music, Television, Game Development: Music, Television	
BAND 4	£150
Creative Advertising, Business Entrepreneurship, Creative Events Management, Creative Writing, Dance & Choreography, all English courses, Journalism, Journalism & Creative Writing, Journalism & Communications, Music Theatre & Entertainment Management, Sports Journalism	

Students do not need to apply for Materials Awards - all students are considered, each year, based on the information available from their Student Finance record.

As such, the following students will not qualify for a Materials Award:

- Those who do not have a Student Finance record;
- Those who have withheld their consent for us to be able to view their record;
- Those who have not been income-assessed, or whose parents have withheld their consent for us to see this information;
- Those whose household income is assessed by Student Finance as being over £25,000;
- Those who are not in attendance for a whole year and paying a full year's tuition fee.

Materials Awards are paid directly into students' bank accounts - the same account used by Student Finance to pay maintenance loans.

The payment date for Materials Awards is Monday 29 January 2018.





Falmouth University bursaries — cont.

CORNWALL AWARD

UK students who have a Cornish (permanent) home address at the point of application to their course will be considered for a Cornwall Award. To be eligible for an award, Cornish students also need to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have been assessed by Student Finance as having a household income of under £25,000 if a 2016 entrant or under £42,675 if a 2017 starter
- Eligible for Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)
- Have a home address from an under-represented area of Cornwall. These are specific postcode areas which historically have had low numbers of residents enter Higher Education (as per the Government's Low Participation Neighbourhood indicator). Students can check if their postcode qualifies on the website here: www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-funding/undergraduate/bursaries16-17/cornwall-award

Cornwall Awards are allocated across each year of study as follows:

Year of study	Award Element
Year 1	Equipment Award
Year 2	Placement Award
Year 3	Exhibition Award
Each year	Materials Award (see above)

Amounts for each award element varies depending on the student's year of entry. All recipients will receive a letter confirming their award at the start of each academic year. Any queries should be directed to the Student Funding Team.



Bursaries for 2015 entrants

Bursaries for 2015 starters are awarded to UK students with a household income of under £35,000, as shown below:

Course Banding	Household income of £0 – £25,000pa	Household income of £25,000 – £35,000pa
BAND 1 Architecture, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Marine & Natural History Photography, Photography, Press & Editorial Photography, Illustration	£1,000	£500
BAND 2 Fashion Design, Fashion Photography, Performance Sportswear Design, Sustainable Product Design, Textile Design	£750	£400
BAND 3 Acting, Computing for Games, Creative Music Technology, Animation & Visual Effects, Drawing, Fashion Marketing, Film, Interior Design, Music, Popular Music, Television	£500	£300
BAND 4 Creative Advertising, Business Entrepreneurship, Creative Events Management, Creative Writing, Dance & Choreography, Digital Games, all English courses, Journalism, Journalism & Creative Writing, Journalism & Communications, Music Theatre & Entertainment Management, Sports Journalism	£300	£200

Students do not need to apply for these bursaries, they are awarded automatically based on the information available from the University and Student Finance records.

The payment date for 2015 starters bursaries is Monday 29 January 2018.

Bursaries for 2013 and 2014 entrants

UK students who are assessed by Student Finance as having a household income of under £35,000 will automatically receive an Income Assessed Bursary from Falmouth University.

Assessed Household Income	Bursary
£0 to £24,999	£750
£25,000 to £35,000	£250
Over £35,000	No Award

Students do not need to apply for these bursaries, they are awarded automatically based on the information available from University and Student Finance records.

The payment date for 2013 and 2014 starters bursaries is Monday 29 January 2018

All entrants

Additional financial support is available to students from the groups below, in addition to any other bursaries and awards.

Award name	Conditions	Bursary
Care Leavers Bursary	Students who were in care at age 16	£1,000
Dependants Bursary	Students who are in receipt of either Childcare Grant or Adult Dependants Grant from Student Finance	£250

Students who think they should be in receipt of either a Care Leavers Bursary or Dependants Bursary, should contact the Student Funding Team.

Other Falmouth Funding



FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Falmouth University offers a range of other funding intended to help and support students to make the most of their studies and the opportunities available to them.

Falmouth Travel Bursary

Open to UK and EU students who meet one of the eligibility criteria. Travel Bursaries aim to support students who are looking to undertake a self-organised, extra-curricular, study-related trip in order to inform and support their academic studies. Travel Bursaries can help with the cost of travel and accommodation relating to qualifying trips within the UK, EU, EEA or Switzerland.

Please note: Travel Bursaries cannot help with the cost of course-organised or mandatory trips; courses, placements (see below) or Erasmus study.

For full information and application form, see the web page: www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-funding/private-awards/travel-bursary

Falmouth Placement Bursary

Open to UK and EU students who meet one of the eligibility criteria. Placement Bursaries aim to help students with the cost of undertaking an approved placement. Placements may be in the UK or abroad, but must with an appropriately established employer, and be fully approved via the Placement Proposal procedure.

For full information and application form, see the web page: www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-funding/private-awards/placement-bursary

EDGE Awards

Aiming to support creativity, innovation, courage and experimentation, Falmouth offers Edge Awards across each academic departments. Each Edge Award is tailored to the courses and cohorts of each department, so criteria and application times vary. All students will receive information about their Edge Award via their University email account and other departmental communication.

Information will also be available via the website: www.falmouth.ac.uk/student-funding/undergraduate/edge-awards

APPLYING FOR BURSARIES AND AWARDS

When applying for bursaries and awards, please ensure you read all the information provided carefully before completing and submitting an application. You must also ensure that your application is submitted by the given deadline or within the stated timeframe.

Please note that all email communication about funding, bursaries and awards will be addressed to students' University email accounts. Private email addresses will not be used.

HARDSHIP

We strongly advise that all students embark on a course of study only once they have a workable budget in place. However, even with the best laid plans, things can go wrong and it's at such times when you might need a little extra help. In such cases, the first thing you should do is you come in and talk to us - we're here to help.

The Falmouth University Hardship Fund

Open to all students who encounter an unforeseen financial problem whilst enrolled at Falmouth (not open before enrolment to the course). The fund can't be used to pay tuition fees. Applications are assessed on an individual basis and usually take three to four weeks to complete. For further details please speak to an adviser at the FXU (Student Union) on (01326) 255861 or via fxu.org.uk

Short-term Loans

Loans can be offered to first year students during the autumn term, who are experiencing delays in their Student Finance application. For further details please speak to a member of the Student Funding Team or an adviser at the FXU (Student Union) on (01326) 255861 or via fxu.org.uk

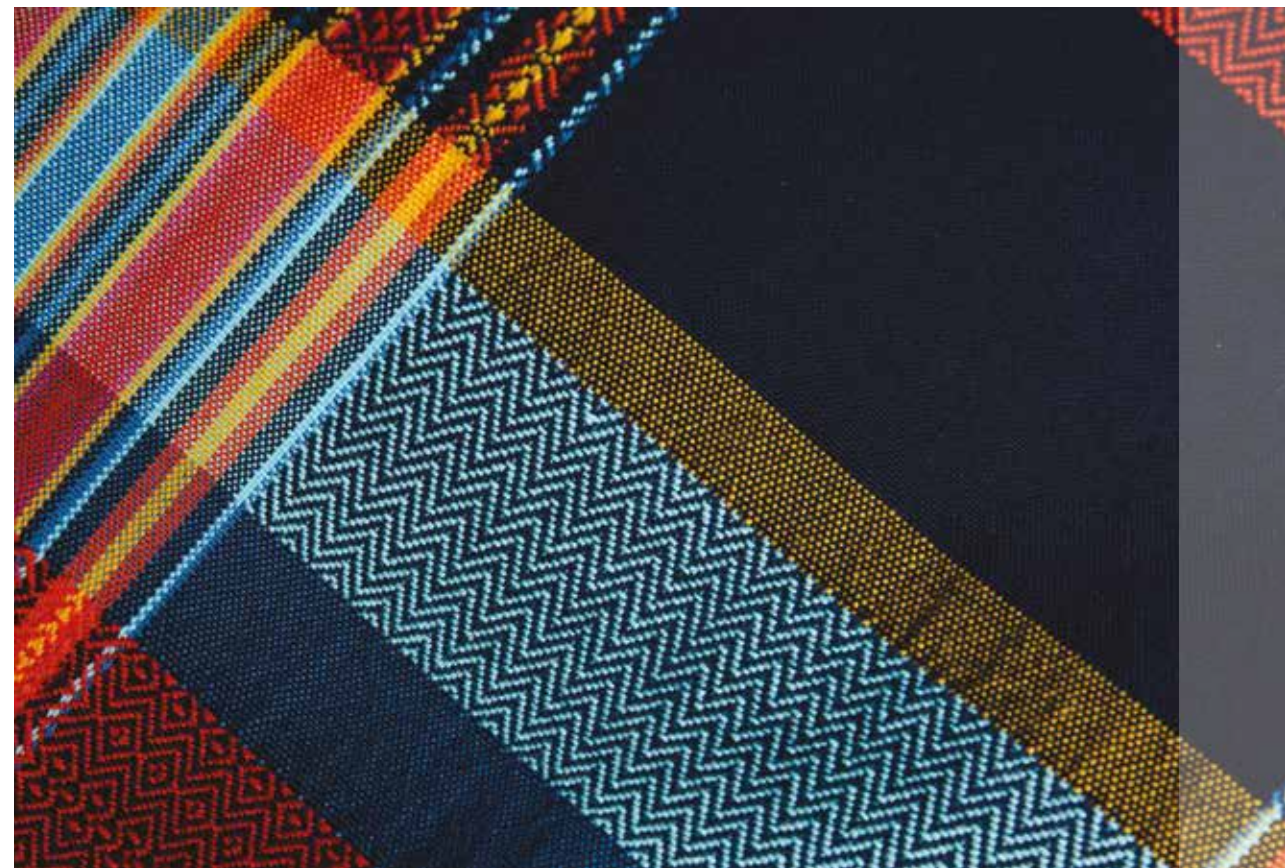
PRIVATELY FUNDED AWARDS

There are a number of private awards available specifically to Falmouth University students and we will inform eligible applicants of these via university email accounts during the course of the year. Information will also be available on the website at: falmouth.ac.uk/funding

There is also a wide range of private trusts, charities and organisations that offer funding opportunities to students. Eligibility criteria will vary hugely, and students will need to conduct their own research to identify those to which they may be eligible to apply. As starting points, the following are suggested:

- **Turn2Us** is an independent organisation which can advise on benefits and funding support for students with additional commitments (children, dependents, disabilities etc). Their website includes a number of useful tools and can be found at turn2us.org.uk

- **The Directory of Grant Making Trusts** is published by the Charities Aid Foundation and enables grant seekers to search for trusts that might aid them in funding study. Available in Falmouth's HE Career Hub.
- **The Education Grants Directory** provides information on almost 1,400 sources of financial help for students in need. Its listing section includes national and general sources of funds, local sources, statutory funds and student grants, company sponsorship, and career development loans. There is also guidance on selecting the right source of funds for your needs, and advice on how to make an application. Available in Falmouth's HE Career Hub.
- **Crowdfunder** is an online fundraising platform. Go to the website at www.crowdfunder.co.uk



Useful contacts

Falmouth University funding and bursary pages

falmouth.ac.uk/funding

Falmouth University tuition fees pages

falmouth.ac.uk/tuition-fees
student.fees@falmouth.ac.uk

Student Finance England: Introduction to student finance and application portal

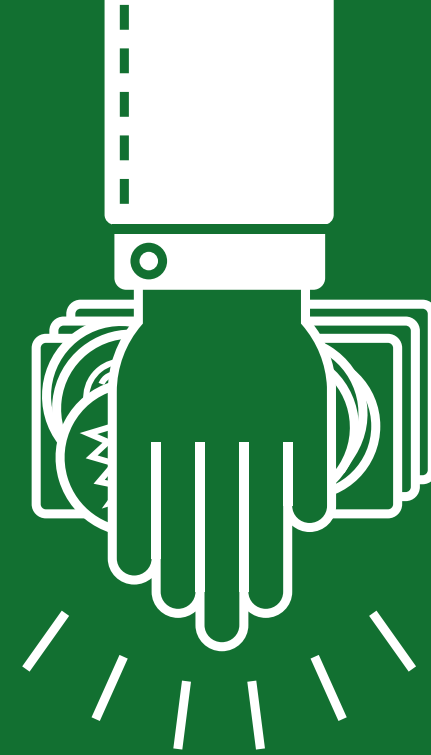
gov.uk/student-finance

Search for private funding; budget planner; loan repayment and wage predictor

scholarship-search.org.uk

Independent advice on Student Finance

moneysavingexpert.com/students



Information was believed to be correct at the time of printing (August 2017), and Falmouth University cannot be held liable for the effects of any changes in the regulations or the interpretation of them.

Get in touch

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