



FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

There's a lot to consider about when thinking about how you're going to finance your Higher Education experience.

That's why we've put together this guide to help you understand the cost of studying as well as the range of finance and support that's available to you at undergraduate level.

Although it might seem complicated, student finance is nothing to be worried about.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can speak to our Student Funding Team. Just call us on +44 (0)1326 213744 / 255159 or send us an email at studentfunding@falmouth.ac.uk

How much does it cost?

It's important to consider the costs of going to university at an early stage. For some students this might include equipment, food, books, trips and maybe moving away from home, so some of the figures can be quite large. However, don't let this alarm you as later in this guide we'll look at what support is available to help cover these costs.

The main costs will include your **tuition fees, living costs and course costs**. Let's look at each in a little more detail:

TUITION FEES

Tuition Fees vary dependent upon your country of residence and they may go up a little each year (in line with inflation). Most students who are from the UK currently pay £9,250 each year, but it costs more if you're a student from overseas. Most students UK/EU pay for their fees with a Tuition Fee Loan, which is looked at on page 5.

Please contact our Income Team for further information on tuition fees:

W: falmouth.ac.uk/fees

T: 01326 213778

E: student.fees@falmouth.ac.uk

LIVING COSTS

These costs will include all the other things you have to pay for in life. Common costs will likely include:

- **Accommodation.** Are you moving away from home? If so, you'll need to pay rent (usually either Halls of Residence or a private shared house).
- **Food.** Three meals a day; occasional meals out; snacks etc
- **Travel.** How far away from the university will you be living? Will you have to catch a bus each day? Also remember that if you're living away from home you may want to travel back at the end of each term.
- **Clothing & possessions.** Clothes, music, books etc
- **Leisure.** Do you want to join the gym or attend clubs/societies? Don't forget to budget for those nights out!
- **Bills.** Most Halls of Residences will include bills in the rent, but many private houses won't. Remember you'll need to pay your mobile bill, wherever you live.

COURSE COSTS

These will vary dependent upon your subject area, but it may include trips, books, materials, printing and equipment. This will vary from student to student and from course to course. For example, Fine Art students may need paints, canvases and brushes, whilst a Writing student might only need a laptop. Further details on these costs for Falmouth University courses are available at falmouth.ac.uk, under the individual course pages.

Before you start your course, be clear on what needs to be bought for the start of term and what can wait until later. Some items will be mandatory and whilst others are optional and the university has well stocked equipment stores for students looking to certain borrow items, free of charge.

Most students pay for their living and course costs with a combination of Maintenance Loan, parental contributions, part-time work and savings.



BUDGETING FOR UNIVERSITY

Before enrolling onto a university course, it's really important that you try to make a budget. This will help establish what you can afford and what funding you need to apply for. It will also give you an idea of how much money you have to spend each week. There are a number of useful websites out there which can help further with budgeting:

UCAS (Managing Money): ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/finance-and-support/managing-money

National Union of Students (NUS): nus.org.uk/en/Student-Life/Money-And-Funding/

Falmouth Student Union: fxu.org.uk/advice_welfare/money

MA – Money Advice Service: moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en



Funding from Student Finance England

Most UK students pay for university by accessing funding provided by the Government. Many also rely on a contribution from parents and/or part-time work, and some students may also qualify for a university bursary.

For students from England, funding which comes from the government is handled by an organisation called Student Finance England and in this section we look at the support they offer and how you apply.

AVAILABLE SUPPORT

Student Finance England (SFE) offers support to cover your tuition fees, and living costs (which will include your course costs). How much you will receive depends largely upon your level of household income. You only need to make one application (to SFE) to be considered for both loans, and if needed, additional support for students with specialist need (disabilities, dependants etc).

TUITION FEE LOAN

(COVERS YOUR TUITION FEES)

UK and EU students can take out this loan for the full cost of tuition fees. This money goes directly to the university. Students do not have to take out a Tuition Fee Loan; but most do. For more details on how to pay your own fees (if you don't wish to take a loan) contact our Income Team at: student.fees@falmouth.ac.uk

MAINTENANCE LOAN

UK students can take out this loan to help cover the cost of rent, food, materials, living costs etc, but the amount available will vary dependent upon your level of household income. This money is paid in three instalments; one at the start of each term. The amount you will receive depends upon your level of household income.

Also see 'Parental contribution' overleaf. The highest level of loan (currently £8,700) goes to those with a household income of under £25,000. The lowest level (currently £4,054) goes to those with an income of under £62,215. It's a sliding scale between the two.

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

If your household income is over £25,000, then you won't get the full Maintenance Loan amount. Instead, the government is expecting your household (Mum/Dad) to make a contribution towards your living costs. The higher your income level, the larger the expected contribution and the smaller the loan. At an early stage, discuss with your family how much assistance they will be able to offer you.

REPAYING YOUR STUDENT LOANS

It's important to remember that the Tuition Fee Loan and the Maintenance Loan will need to be repaid. Some people will have concerns about this, so it's important to understand how repayments will work.

When do I have to start repaying my loans? Currently, in the April after leaving university, those graduates earning over £25,000pa will start to make a contribution towards their loans. Those not earning £25,000pa at that point will be required to start making repayments.

Once I'm earning over £25,000, how much do I have to pay back?

9% of everything you earn over £25,000 will go towards your debt. For example:

- A graduate earning £24,000 per year would repay £0 a month.

- A graduate earning £30,000 per year would repay £37.50 a month (9% of £5,000, over 12 months).

How do I pay this money back?

If you work for an organisation, then it's paid automatically by your employer. If you're self-employed then you'll be prompted to do this as part of your tax return.

How long will repayments last?

This depends upon how much you owe and how much you repay each month/year. However, it's important to remember that the government will write off remaining debts 30 years after you leave your course.

HOW TO APPLY

In the spring before you start your course (usually from February), you will be able to apply for your funding either via your UCAS application portal, or at gov.uk/student-finance.



Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN DO I APPLY FOR MY FUNDING?

You should be able to apply from January/February in the year your course starts. Try to do your application as soon as you can after this point even if you're not sure which university/course you'll be attending (just put your 1st choice course).

WHAT IS AN 'INCOME ASSESSMENT'?

An income assessment means that Student Finance will consider your household income when handling your application. This will dictate how much Maintenance Loan you're eligible for and it's also the assessment which we use to assess your eligibility for some bursaries.

WHICH INCOME DO THEY ASSESS?

If you ask to be income assessed, they will look at the income which is coming into the address which you class as 'home' – probably the same as the address on your UCAS application. This will usually mean the income of your Mum, Dad, 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. However, they will assess a step-parent (or parents partner) if they reside at your home address.

WHAT IF MY 'HOUSEHOLD INCOME' CHANGES?

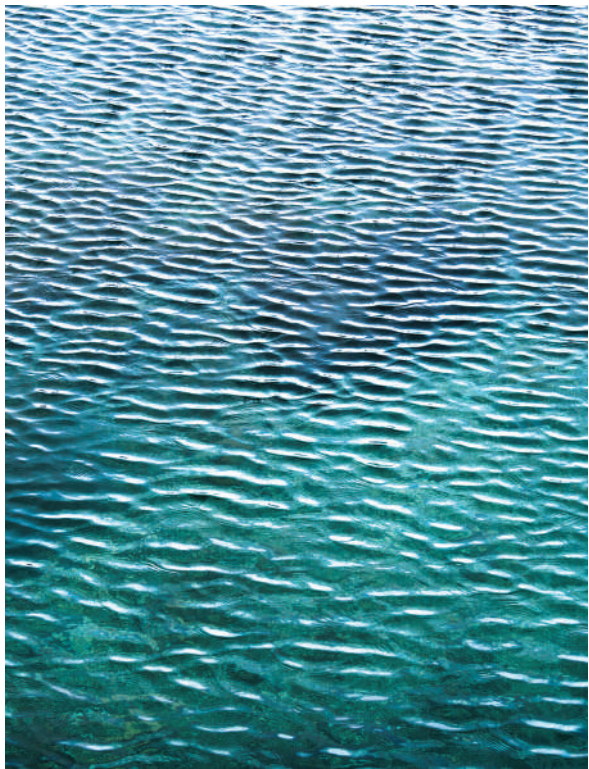
If you get assessed but then your household income changes, then you can ask Student Finance to reassess you, based on current figures.

SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT MY DEBT?

Unfortunately, accessing student loans is often the only way that most students can afford to attend university. 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.

MY MAINTENANCE LOAN DOESN'T COVER MY COSTS, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you're getting the full level of Maintenance Loan, then it should cover your costs. If you're not getting the full amount, then it suggests your household income is above £25,000pa – so the government is expecting your 'household' (Mum/Dad) to make a contribution. You might also want to consider part-time work and investigating support from private trusts and charities who might sponsor students.



Falmouth University

Bursaries and Awards

Universities offer a range of bursaries and awards which it's hoped will encourage applications from people who might not previously have considered university study. The awards will vary year to year, but at Falmouth they currently include the 'Cornwall Award', 'Materials Award', 'Dependants Bursary' and 'Care Leavers Bursary'. You don't have to pay these awards back as they're not loans.

CORNWALL AWARD

These are for students with a Cornish home address who also have an additional need (low income, a disability, or from an area with low university participation).

The award currently consists of an Equipment Award (£500) in year 1; a Placement Award (£500) in year 2 and an Exhibition Award (£500) in year 3.

MATERIALS AWARD

These are for UK/EU students who have a household income of under £25,000. The award is currently either £100 or £200pa, dependent upon the course. Recipients of a Cornwall Award automatically qualify for a Materials Award.

DEPENDANTS BURSARY

For those students who have either a child or adult dependant. The bursary is currently £250 each year.

CARE LEAVERS BURSARY

For Care Leavers or those without any family support (needs to be supported by a professional adviser or Social Worker), and is currently £1,000 each year and is paid towards accommodation deposits and summer rent.



Other Awards and Hardship

FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Falmouth University offers a number of smaller awards to assist our students. These are for specific purposes rather than just general living costs and are available once you have started studying with us. Information is circulated to students via university email accounts and may require you to complete an application form. See our separate funding pages at falmouth.ac.uk/funding for further details.

OFF CAMPUS ACTIVITY

Awards are designed to help students undertake a self-organised, extra-curricular, study-related trip in order to inform and support their academic studies. Awards can help with the cost of travel and accommodation relating to qualifying trips, including placements.

DEPARTMENTAL EDGE AWARDS

Each department have their own subject focused EDGE scholarships. These are open to all students and will help fund a range of activities which will vary dependent upon academic department.

SOURCING PRIVATE FUNDING

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 most HE Career Centres, including Falmouth.

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 most HE Career Centres, including Falmouth.

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

Finance Figures, for Falmouth University

falmouth.ac.uk/sites/default/files/download/falmouth_university_finance_figures_2016-2017.pdf

Student Finance England:

Introduction to student finance and application portal

gov.uk/student-finance

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

scholarship-search.org.uk

Independent advice on Student Finance

moneysavingexpert.com/students

Get in touch

Student Funding Team

Falmouth University, Woodlane Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4RH UK

Tel. +44 (0)1326 213744 / 255159 studentfunding@falmouth.ac.uk

Information was believed to be correct at the time of printing (August 2018), and Falmouth University cannot be held liable for the effects of any changes in the regulations or the interpretation of them.



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