

# **Student Finance**






Lois, Higher Education Adviser

# Agenda for today

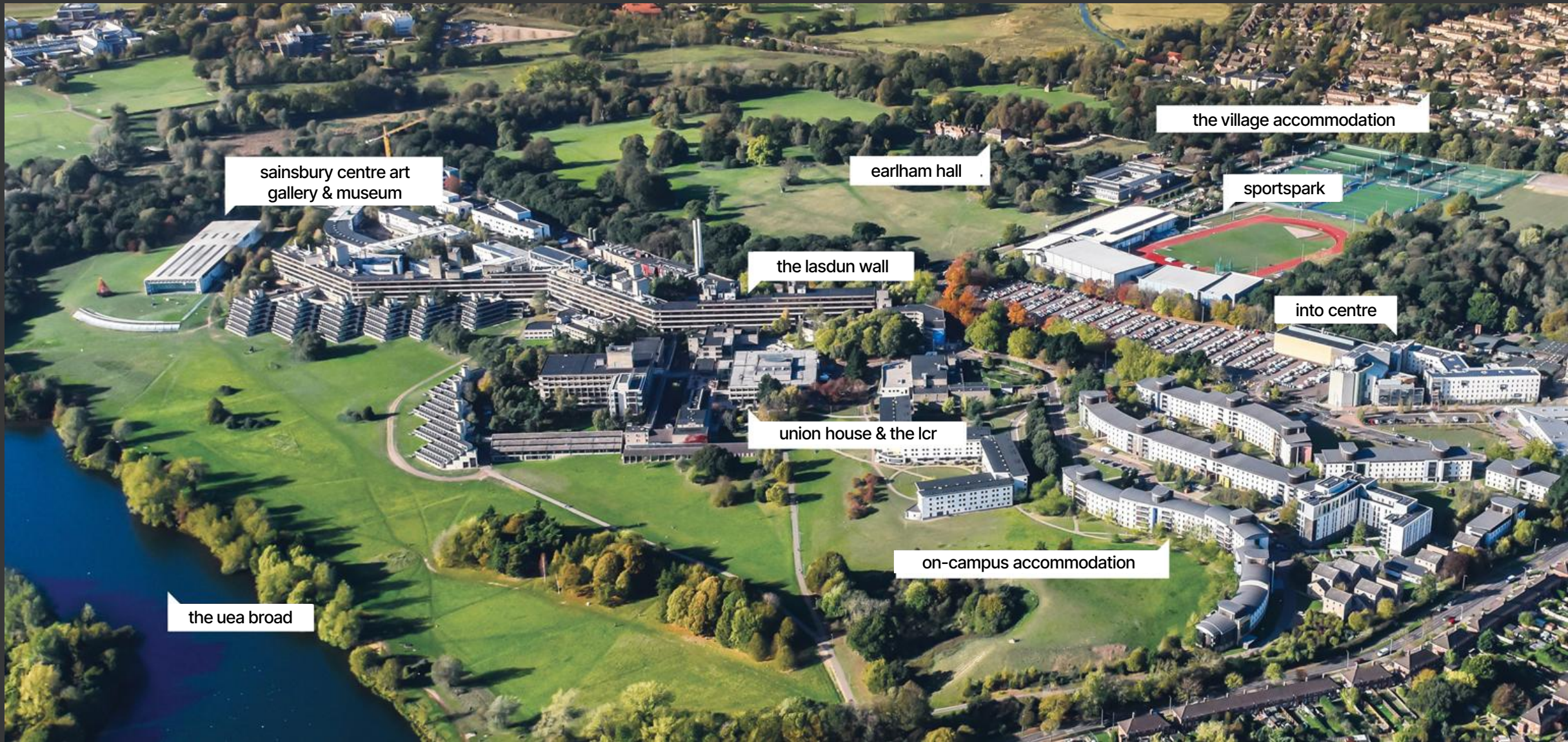
- What is student finance?
- How much could you receive?
- How do repayments work?
- Other non-repayable financial support you may be able to access
- Researching scholarships, grants and bursaries
- Making the most of your money whilst at university

# Who are UEA?



-  **26<sup>th</sup>** in the UK - The Complete Uni Guide 2026  
**250+** clubs and societies, something for everyone
-  **200+** study abroad partners  
**3500+** international students from over 100 countries
-  **96.3%** employability  
**Top 5** in the UK for Creative Writing, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Paramedic Science (2026)
-  **1 hr 45 mins** from London by train
-  Norwich: named The Best Place to Live in the UK 2026 – The Sunday Times  
**Guaranteed accommodation for firm choice**

# Our campus



sainsbury centre art gallery & museum

earlham hall

the village accommodation

sportspark

the lasdun wall

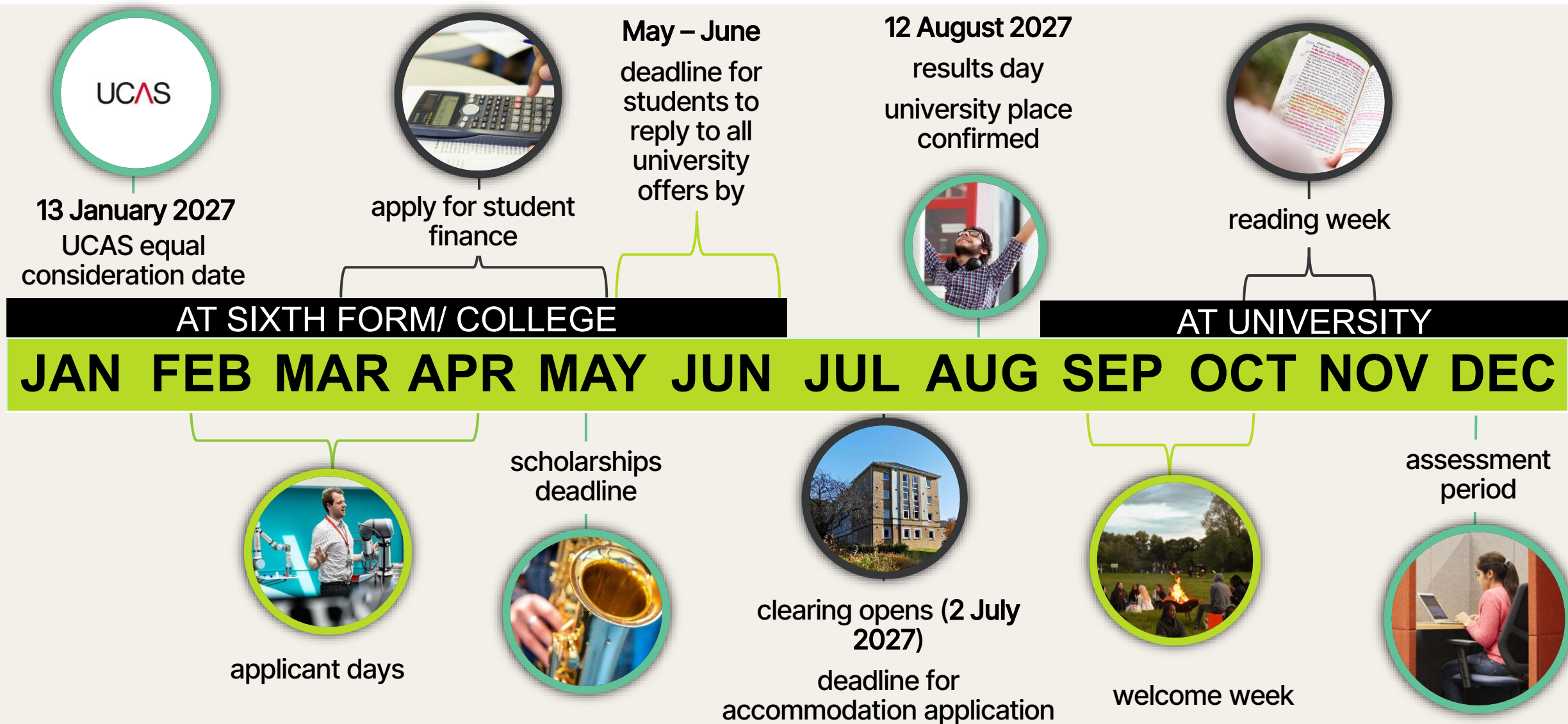
into centre

union house & the lcr

on-campus accommodation

the uea broad

# Next steps timeline 2027



# Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

- For those starting university in 2027
- A new system, but we don't anticipate many changes for most young people studying for 3-4 years
- Based on the idea that students could study shorter courses/modules and still access funding (for certain courses)
- You have a pot of £39,160 (this is set at current rates) and may change. This represents 4 years of full-time study.
- You may be able to get tuition fee loans for courses longer than 4 years (for certain courses)

[Student finance if your course starts on or after 1 January 2027:  
Overview - GOV.UK](#)

# What is student finance?



- SFE (Student Finance England) is a service provided by the SLC (Student Loans Company).
- SFE deal with the allocation of loans and your application.
- SLC deal with the repayments when you graduate.

# What is student finance?



- The most common way for students to cover university costs is by taking out a student finance loan, which can cover tuition fees and some living costs.
- You'll need to apply for these loans every year that you study, and you can use these loans for the duration of your course.
- These loans are paid in instalments, and so you will need to make sure you make it last!

# Who is eligible for student finance?



Whether you qualify for student finance depends on:

- your university or college
- your course
- if you've studied a higher education course before
- your age
- your nationality or residency status

[www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies)

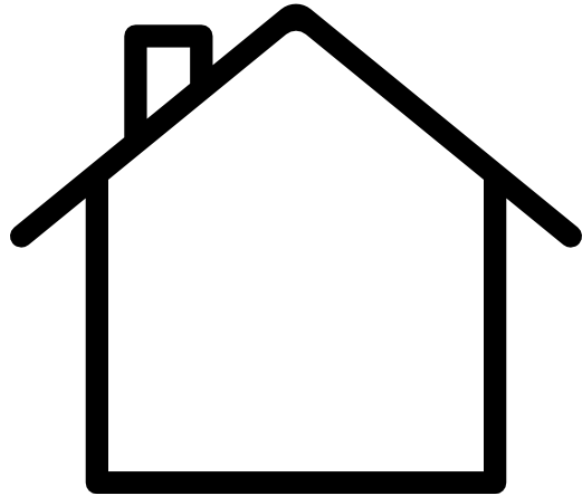
# Tuition fee loan

£10,050 per year



- Tuition fee loans are the loans to pay for the tuition of the course.
- The maximum amount a university can charge per year for a UK UG course for 2027 entry is £10,050 - a criteria needs to be met to charge this amount.
- Anyone who eligible for student finance is eligible for the full tuition fee loan.
- The money is transferred from the government to university – students will not receive this in their bank accounts.

# Maintenance loan



- Maintenance loans are to cover student living costs.
- This money is transferred to the student's account 3 times a year at the beginning of the new term.
- Maintenance is calculated by looking at where the student is living whilst studying and then household income.
- This will be different for each student.

**95% of UK students, who are eligible, take out tuition and maintenance loans (SLC, 2024)**

# How much could you receive?

## Maintenance loans – 2026 entry

full time students	maximum loan	everyone entitled to this
living at home	£9,118	£4,013
living away from home, studying outside of London	£10,830	£5,048
living away from home, studying in London	£14,135	£7,039

[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

# Repayments

# Repayments

- Repayments are currently set at 9% on earnings over £25k a year.
- So, you will only repay when your income is over £480 a week, £2,083 a month or £25,000 a year.



# Repayments based on salary

<b>salary (pa)</b>	£30,000	£35,000	£40,000
<b>approx. take home per month after tax</b>	£2,064	£2,355	£2,647
<b>approx. student loan payment per month</b>	£38	£75	£112

# Repayments on £30,000 salary

Payment Method: BACS		Tax Code: 1257L NI Number: UL134343445	
<u>Payments</u>			
Basic Salary	£2500.00	Tax	£266.74
		N.I.	£116.20
		Pension 6%	£118.80
		Student Loan	£37.50
Total Payments	£2500.00	Total Deductions	£539.24
		<b>NET PAYMENT</b>	<b>£1960.76</b>

# Interest Rate %

## RPI



- Your loan interest is set at RPI (Retail Price Index)
- The interest rate has no impact on your monthly repayments – these will always remain at 9% over £25k.

“Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £60,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay.” – Martin Lewis (2024)

# Apply for student finance online

You will need to know:

- Your course
- Bank Details
- Household Income
- National Insurance Number

Apply by May 2027

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)



# **Non-repayable financial support**

# Additional Support



- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependants
- Childcare
- NHS Learning Support Fund:  
Including the £5,000 NHS Training Grant

[NHS Learning Support Fund \(LSF\) | NHSBSA](#)

# University financial support

## UEA bursaries

<b>eligibility (2025/26 – 28/29)</b>	<b>value of UEA bursary</b>
<b>£0-£20,000 household income</b>	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>care leaver</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>estranged</b>	<b>£3,000</b>



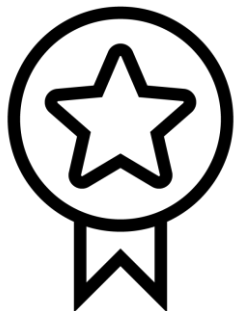
## **Sports scholarships**

Up to £1500 cash and specialist support for student athletes; team and individual scholarships available. Apply by May 2026.



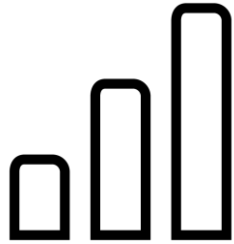
## **Music scholarships**

Up to £1000 per year for 3 years for students to nurture their musical ability whilst studying. Apply by May 2026.



## **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary scholarships**

30 x £1000 scholarships for students submitting a video or written work. Apply by May 2026.



## **T level scholarships**

£1000 per year, for 3 years for students who achieve a distinction or distinction\* overall in their T levels. Apply by June 2026.



## **The Difference scholarship**

£5000 per year, for 3 years for first generation students with a household income below £30,000. Apply by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.



## **The David & Jo Spinks scholarship**

£5000 per year, for 3 years for one student who enrolls on UEA BA Drama course. Apply by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

# Scholarships

The screenshot displays a scholarship finder interface with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes a search icon, 'Advanced filters', and several filter buttons: 'All types', 'University', 'Corporate', 'Scholarships' (which is highlighted), 'Hardship & support', and 'Other'. Below the navigation bar, there is a grid of nine scholarship listings. Each listing includes the scholarship name, a status indicator (a green dot and the text 'Accepting Applications'), the amount, and the provider's name with a logo and an external link icon.

Scholarship Name	Status	Amount	Provider
Townsend Scholarships	Accepting Applications	£9,000	Walcot Foundation
Vets Now BAME Scholarship	Accepting Applications		Vets Now
UK Study Online scholarship	Accepting Applications		UK Study Online
The Snowdon Trust Scholarship	Accepting Applications		The Snowdon Trust
President's Award Scheme – Accommodation Scholarships	Accepting Applications		The Royal British Legion Women's Section
Rothschild Scholarship Fund	Accepting Applications	up to £5,000	B'nai B'rith
BeArt Presets Scholarship	Accepting Applications	\$2,500	
The Geospatial Scholarship	Accepting Applications		
Big Give Bursary Fund	Accepting Applications	£1000 per award	

- Check university websites – e.g. UEA Scholarship Finder
- The Scholarship Hub - [www.thescholarship.org.uk](http://www.thescholarship.org.uk)

# **Making the most of your money at university**

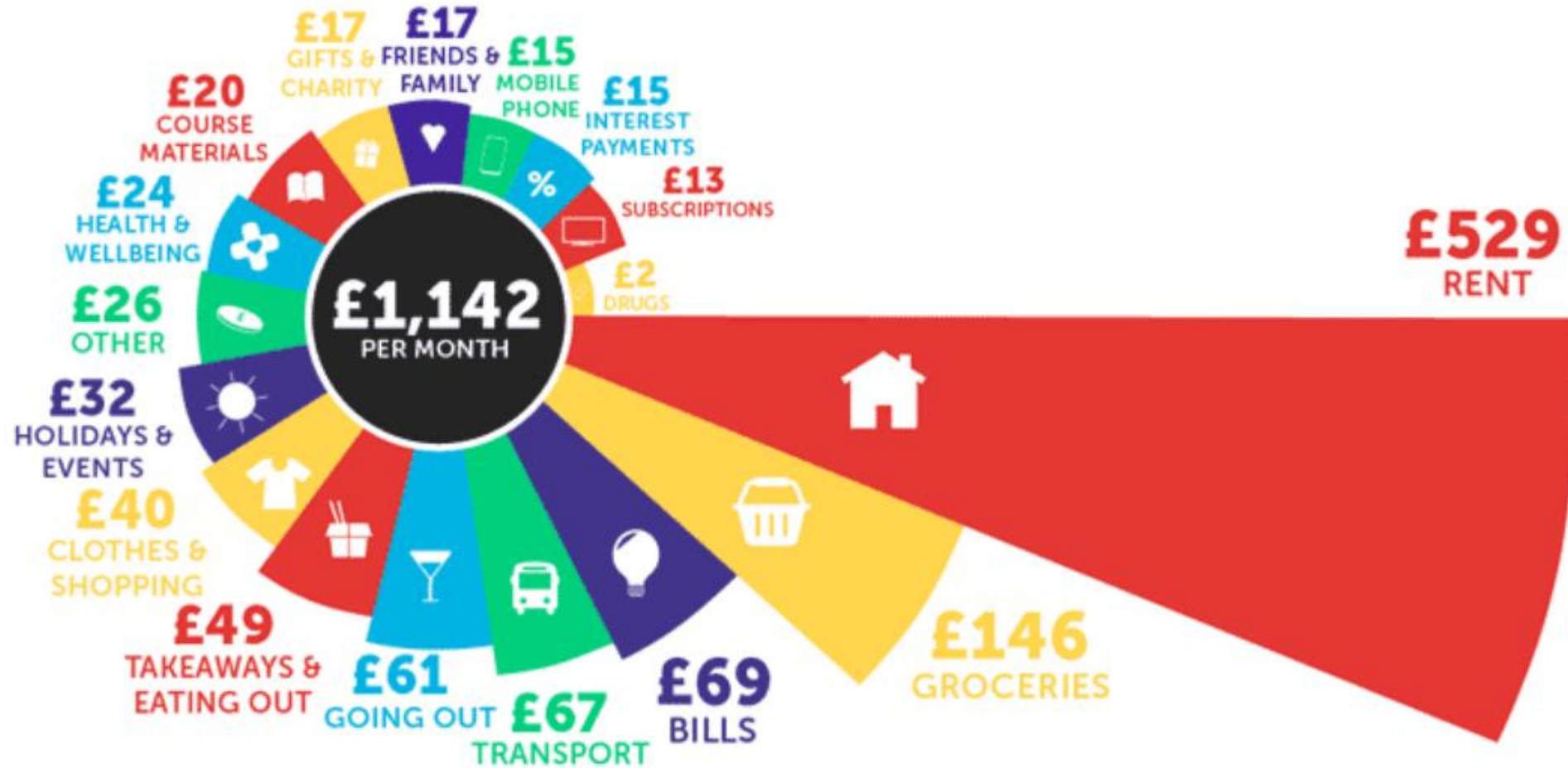
# Part time jobs

- The average student earns £547 per month from their part-time job. National Student Money Survey 2025
- '58% of students rely on part-time work for money'. National Student Money Survey 2025



# Student budgeting

Save the student – National Money Survey 2025



# En-suite: Village

## Example UEA accommodation

- Flats of 4-8 people
- Includes all bills, cleaner, WiFi, contents insurance
- 40-week licence (can be extended for certain courses)



**£178.50 PW**

*(Prices for 2026 entry)*



# Budgeting top tips



- Students can often treat their student loan like a lottery win in week 1 and by week 10 they're in crisis mode.
- Budgeting is key to stopping this cycle, particularly focusing on your essential and non-essential spending, and living within your means.

# Essentials

Rent

Food/ groceries

Bills and utilities

Course supplies

Toiletries and  
prescriptions

Transport

## Top Tips:

- Don't buy books brand new – there are plenty of second-hand, cheaper options
- Beware of extra essential costs, e.g. laundry can cost £5-10 a week
- Be savvy with your bills – TV License, Streaming services, Wi-Fi, Phone
- Upfront essential costs can save you money in the long term – bus passes, 16-25 rail card, whole year gym memberships

# Non - essentials

Going out

Takeaways

Online shopping







Subscriptions

'Convenience  
tax'

Events/ holidays

## Top Tips:

- You don't need to cut out all non-essentials and fun, you need to budget for it.
- Try to cut out the 'Ghost Spend'
- Audit your subscriptions regularly
- Plan ahead to avoid the 'convenience tax'
- 24-hour rule on spends
- Suggest budget friendly alternatives to prevent social pressure leading to overspending

Bank account	0% Overdraft	Incentive	Student score
 Santander Edge Student Current Account	Up to <b>£2,000</b>	4 year Railcard	85.2%
 Nationwide FlexStudent	Up to <b>£3,000</b>	£100 cash + £120 vouchers + £20 refer	84.8%
 NatWest Student Account	Up to <b>£3,250*</b>	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.8%
 RBS Student Account	Up to <b>£3,250*</b>	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.4%
 HSBC Student Bank Account	Up to <b>£3,000</b>	None	77.2%
 Lloyds Student Account	Up to <b>£2,000</b>	£100 cash + £90 Deliveroo vouchers	78.8%

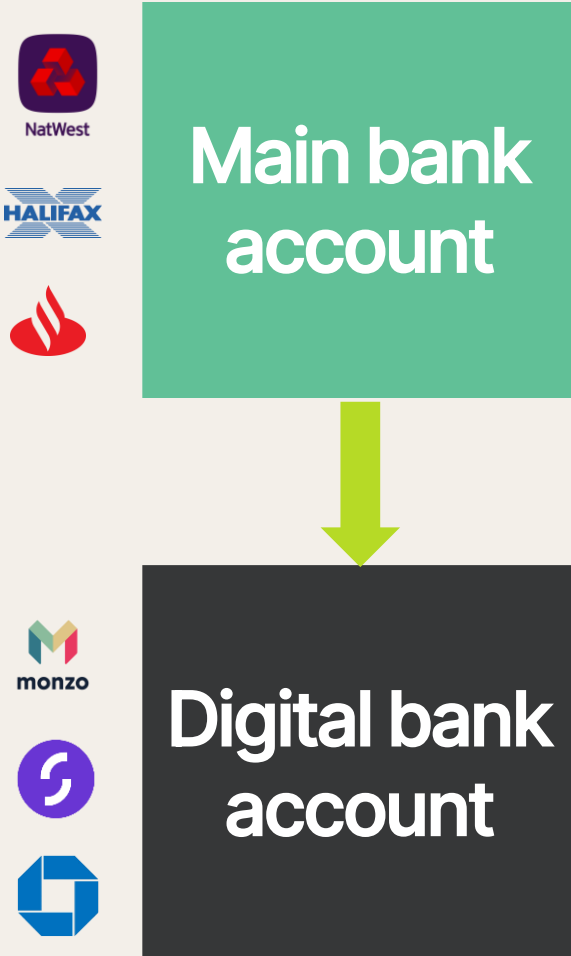
## Student bank accounts

- Student bank accounts can benefit students, many offer incentives and 0% overdraft fees.
- Compare the benefits of each before choosing.

### Top tips for overdrafts:

- Use it for emergencies only.
- Remember – it is the bank's money; you will have to pay it back!
- Avoid maxing out your overdraft – if you live at the limit of your overdraft, there will be no 'buffer' when a real emergency happens

# Student banking tips – paying yourself a salary

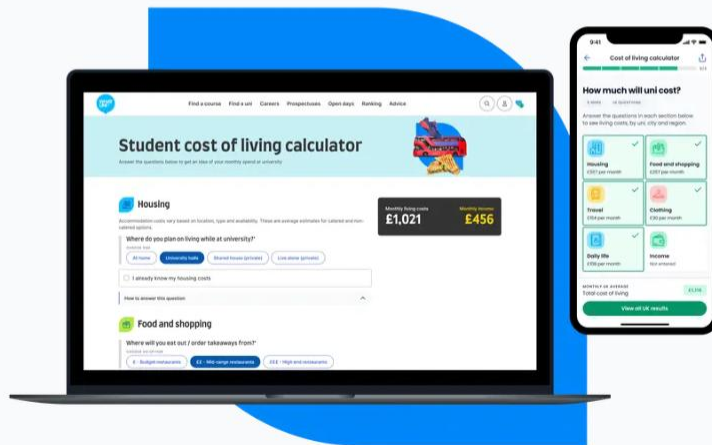


- Your student loan is paid in here.
- Do not use the card for this account (don't add to Apple/ Google Pay)
- Transfer money every Monday morning for your 'weekly budget'
- Only use this account to spend on food and fun – live within your means!

# What Uni – cost of living calculator

## Student cost of living calculator

Powered by Whatuni



### Daily life

#### How often do you go out to socialise?\*

CHOOSE AN OPTION

- Never
- Once a month
- Occasionally
- Once a week
- More than once a week

I already know how much I'll spend

How to answer this question

#### Which paid streaming services and apps would you use?\*

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE

- Amazon Prime
- Apple Music
- Apple TV+
- Audible
- BBC TV Licence
- Disney+
- Calm
- Headspace
- Hulu
- Netflix
- Peloton
- Spotify
- VPN service
- Youtube Premium
- I won't pay for streaming

+ Add option

Monthly living costs

£1,267

Monthly income

£1,000

**Any Questions?**



This building was opened  
by Sir Liam Donaldson  
Chief Medical Officer  
for England on  
3 October 2003

Medical  
Student



### **Student Finance calculator**

[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

### **The Money Charity – Student Money Manual**

[themoneycharity.org.uk/media/The-Student-Money-Manual-2025-26.pdf](http://themoneycharity.org.uk/media/The-Student-Money-Manual-2025-26.pdf)

### **Save the Student - How much does university cost?**

[www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/university-study-cost](http://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/university-study-cost)

### **What Uni – student cost of living calculator**

[www.whatuni.com/money/ug-student-budget-calculator/](http://www.whatuni.com/money/ug-student-budget-calculator/)

### **The Scholarship Hub**

[www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/](http://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/)

### **NHS Learning Support Fund**

[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf)

### **Disabled Students Allowance**

[www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)

### **Student Journey and Support Services**

[www.uea.ac.uk/uea-life/student-support](http://www.uea.ac.uk/uea-life/student-support)

# Further Information

## Ask Us

[uea.ac.uk/ask-us](https://uea.ac.uk/ask-us)

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## Tasters and Webinars

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# Book your **Open Day**



Saturday 4 July  
Saturday 26 September  
Saturday 24 October  
Saturday 28 November

