

The logo for UWE Bristol, featuring the text 'UWE Bristol' in white on a red background.

**UWE
Bristol**

University
of the
West of
England

Your guide to
full-time
undergraduate
student finance
Wales* for 2020/21

*Applies to Welsh students.

What you need to know about tuition fees

How much will I be charged for a full-time undergraduate course at UWE Bristol?

In 2020/21 tuition fees for full-time undergraduate courses are £9,250 a year for UK students.

Will I be eligible for student funding?

The Welsh Government offers a tuition fee loan that matches the £9,250 yearly tuition fee. If you're applying for a full-time undergraduate course with us in the 2020/2021 academic year, you'll have access to this funding. This is subject to meeting eligibility requirements, which is not affected by family income.

Am I eligible for student funding if I have previously started or completed a Higher Education (HE) course?

If you already have an honours degree, you will be charged the fees above and will usually not be eligible for a fee loan for your new course. If you have studied at HE level before but did not complete your course, you may find that this removes your entitlement to one or more years of funding for your new course. For advice, please contact sms@uwe.ac.uk or **Student Finance Wales** on **0300 200 4050**.



Funding your living costs

If you live in Wales, you can apply for living cost support (made up of a mix of grant and loans) of £9,810 if you plan to live away from home. If you choose to live at home while studying, you can apply for living cost support of up to £8,335. Both support options are subject to Student Finance Wales eligibility rules.

You'll be considered for a higher level of living cost support if you're a single parent responsible for a child or entitled to benefits such as Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance. This is called a Special Support Grant and means the first £5,161 of your living cost funding is disregarded for benefits assessment purposes.

The table below provides an indication of the financial support you may be entitled to if you're a full-time undergraduate student – either living away from home during your studies, or living at home based on household income.

Household income	Living at home during your studies		Living away from home, studying outside London	
	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan
£18,370 or less	£6,885	£1,450	£8,100	£1,710
£25,000	£5,930	£2,405	£6,947	£2,863
£35,000	£4,488	£3,847	£5,208	£4,602
£45,000	£3,047	£5,228	£3,469	£6,341
£59,200 or more	£1,000	£7,335	£1,000	£8,810

As most courses at UWE Bristol are longer than the standard course length, you may receive an additional £131 (if you live away from home), or £86 (if you live at home), for each extra week you study. UWE Bristol students living away from home will be considered for £655 on top of the £9,810 standard loan. If you plan to study Nursing or Midwifery, you may be entitled to up to an additional £1,965 on top of the £9,810 if you are living away from home, depending on individual course length.

Repayment of student loans

Although you may be taking out a tuition fee loan and living cost loan each year, they're added together to make one loan.

Repaying your loan

The repayment threshold for tax year 2020/21 is £26,575 (gross taxable income) and will be adjusted annually in line with average earnings. You'll only need to start repaying your loan the April after you complete or leave your course. And you won't need to start repaying anything until you earn more than the threshold. Once you're eligible for repayment, you'll repay 9% of your gross earnings over the threshold (£90 per year for every £1,000 earned above the threshold).

Your repayments will be made through the income tax system and your employer will take it off the payroll. This means you'll never see the money; it simply reduces the amount you receive in your pay packet. If you're self-employed then a calculation for repayment is factored into your self-assessment return.

You'll no longer need to make repayments when you've cleared your debt or 30 years have passed, whichever comes first. If you never get a job earning over the threshold, you'll never repay. The debt is also cleared in the event of your death.

Applied interest

During your studies and until the April after you graduate, the interest on your loans will be RPI (Retail Price Index) plus 3%. The interest rate is set in September each year. During the academic year 2019/20, the interest rate will be 5.4% (RPI level 2.4% + 3%). Once you graduate, the interest rate charged will depend on your earnings.

Impact on credit rating and mortgage applications

Student loans have no impact on your credit rating and are very unlikely to have an impact on your ability to get a mortgage, but the amount of mortgage available to you may depend on your net income (source: Mortgage Company Trade Association).

The cost of your degree

The table below shows how much of your student loan you will repay each year after graduating, based on your gross earnings and the repayment threshold of £26,575 (tax year 2020/21 threshold).

Gross taxable income	Net monthly income	Monthly repayments	Annual repayments
£26,000	£1,767	£0	£0
£31,000	£2,051	£33	£398
£36,000	£2,334	£70	£848
£41,000	£2,617	£108	£1,299
£46,000	£2,901	£145	£1,749
£56,000	£3,417	£220	£2,649

Additional funding you may be eligible for

If you have children or dependent adults you may be eligible for additional funding to support with registered childcare and living costs. How much you receive will depend on your costs and your household income.

If you experience extra course costs as a result of a disability or health condition you may qualify for Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs). For more information about additional funding visit: studentfinancewales.co.uk

Healthcare students

The government has announced the introduction of an annual non-repayable training grant payment of at least £5,000 (with up to an extra £3,000 for some students). This will be payable for new and continuing students on pre-registration healthcare courses such as nursing and midwifery.

The NHS also provides an additional £1,000 to students with children who are studying specific healthcare courses. This is for students who are eligible for a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan from Student Finance. We are waiting for confirmation if Paramedic Science students will receive this NHS support. The NHS also offers an Exceptional Support Fund to help students remain on their course. This is subject to eligibility and assessment. Details can be found at nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund/exceptional-support-fund.

How to apply for your funding

You can apply by visiting studentfinancewales.co.uk. Applications for September intakes are normally accepted from March.





The UWE Bristol Bursary

You may be eligible for the UWE Bristol Bursary. This provides financial support for students as detailed below.

A Low-Income Bursary of £500 will be paid in each year of study. These bursaries will be allocated to full-time or part-time students from low-income backgrounds.

The UWE Bristol Cares Bursary of £1,500 will be paid to low-income students who are either care leavers, estranged from their parents or caring for a disabled or an ill family member. The £1,500 is paid in each year of study.

The UWE Bristol Childcare Bursary of £1,500 will be paid to low-income students who are in receipt of childcare grant from Student Finance. The £1,500 is paid in each year of study.

Students can receive one of the above bursaries if criteria is met.

An Activity Bursary of £1,000 will be paid to 500 eligible students if they take part in one of the following activities:

- Sandwich placement or year abroad
- Summer internship with an employer or as a researcher
- Short international project activity

The Activity Bursary can be paid in addition to another UWE Bristol Bursary.

To qualify for a UWE Bristol Bursary, you must have household income below £25,000 which has been determined by Student Finance Wales and be obtaining the full tuition fee loan. You don't have to apply for the bursary, but you must apply for government funding (from SFW) and give consent to share your income with the University so that we can verify your income status. Bursaries will be allocated from September 2019 onwards. You'll be contacted by email regarding your eligibility.

If you think you qualify for a UWE Bristol Cares or UWE Bristol Childcare Bursary please email uwe.bursary@uwe.ac.uk as we are unable to fully identify these students from the funding application.

UWE Bristol Student Support Fund

UWE Bristol provides a Student Support Fund to support students who may need extra financial support to remain in higher education. Eligible students can apply in each academic year of study and will be means tested for the fund. Priority is given to students who are unable to work during their studies due to a disability or caring responsibilities.

Managing your money

If you're living away from home while you study, it's important to work out your budget accurately and realistically. We estimate that as a student living away from home you'll spend a minimum of £11,080 per year. This does not include unexpected costs such as car repairs or luxuries.

A typical budget for 40 weeks might be:

	Annual	Weekly
Rent	£5,720	£143
Food and household goods	£3,840	£96
Travel to university and home	£400	£10
Entertainment and socialising	£800	£20
Books and equipment	£320	£8
Total cost	£11,080	£277

Check this amount against the funding that you expect to receive. Even with maximum funding, you may need to find an extra £1,220 to cover your costs. You may need to think about working part-time while you study.

More support for you

Further information about student funding can be found on the following websites:

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

[uwe.ac.uk/money](https://www.uwe.ac.uk/money)

[moneysavingexpert.com/students](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students)

If you have any queries in the meantime please email sms@uwe.ac.uk

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information within this leaflet is as accurate as possible. The University cannot accept responsibility for errors or for changes affecting the contents that arise after May 2020.