

# Previous study and Student Finance funding

## Full-time SF (Student Finance) Undergraduates

If you have undertaken any previous Higher Education study it is important to be aware that this can sometimes have a financial impact on the student funding available to you at UWE Bristol. This guide is for full-time UK-resident ('home') and EU students who are funded by Student Finance England.

This is a complex area, and the information below is only an overview. If you are not sure of your entitlement to funding, do check it out with your funding body or with a UWE Bristol [Money Adviser](#).

## Standard entitlement calculation

The Student Finance eligibility rules on funding are that a student is entitled to receive tuition fee loans and maintenance grants for the standard length of a degree course plus one extra year: If you are on a three-year degree course, you will be entitled to 3+1=4 tuition fee loans. This '+1' is sometimes called a 'gift year'.

You will be entitled to the maintenance loan (DSAs and supplementary grants such as childcare) until you achieve an honours degree, however long that takes.

## Previous study calculation

Previous study on a part-time course does not count in this calculation unless you gained an HE qualification from that study (see below).

Any attendance on a previous full-time course, even for just one day will count as a year of study and will be deducted from the calculation above. Whether you received funding for your previous study has no impact on this calculation – so even if you paid for it yourself, it is still included in the calculation.

### One year of previous study

Jose studied for a week at Barcelona University eight years ago. He starts a three-year degree at UWE Bristol in 2014. The SF calculation is 3+1=4 minus 1 (the week at Barcelona) = 3 tuition fee loans remaining.

If your previous study is for more than one year, you may find that you have to self-fund one of your years of study on your UWE Bristol course.

### Two years of previous study

Jose studied for a year and one week of the second year at Barcelona University eight years ago. He starts a three-year degree at UWE Bristol in 2014. The SF calculation is  $3+1=4$  minus 2 (2 years at Barcelona) = 2 tuition fee loans remaining for Jose's UWE Bristol degree.

SF allocate the tuition fee loans to the final year of Jose's UWE Bristol degree, and then to the second year. Jose will have to pay the tuition fees himself for the first year of his UWE Bristol degree.

### Exception to the previous study calculation – CPR (compelling personal reasons)

If you left your previous study due to compelling personal reasons and you provide acceptable evidence to SF, they can ignore a year of your previous study. Even if your previous study was many years ago, if you have evidence of what happened to make you leave your studies, send it to SF.

### Two years of previous study and CPR

Jose studied for a year and then had a cycling accident one week into the second year at Barcelona University. He was unable to return to his studies due to lengthy recuperation. He provides medical evidence to SF. They decide that he has had CPR and ignore the second year of study at Barcelona. The SF calculation is  $3+1=4$  minus 1 = 3 tuition fee loans remaining for a three-year course.

### Previous study and higher education qualifications

#### HE qualification below honours degree

The years spent on a previous course/s where you achieved a qualification counts in the previous study calculation.

Didier studied for two years full-time for an HND and now wishes to 'top-up' to an honours degree.  $3 + 1 = 4$  minus 2 = 2 fee loans for the honours course.

If you hold a HNC in addition to an HND, or any other previous HE study alongside another HE qualification – contact a UWE Bristol Money Adviser.

#### Complex circumstances

If your qualification was achieved via part-time study, please contact a Money Adviser to discuss your entitlement for your new course.

If your qualification was awarded because you left your previous course early (ie you were awarded an 'exit' qualification rather than achieving the intended qualification), please contact a Money Adviser.

HE qualification: honours degree or above

If you already hold a qualification from anywhere in the world that is equivalent to a UK Honours degree or higher you are unlikely to be entitled to a fee loan for any years of your new course. In addition, unless you are studying social work or architecture, you will not receive any living cost funding either. (Please see our information about [Equivalent or Lower Qualifications](#).)

### More information

If you have a question about previous study, please contact a UWE Bristol Money Adviser.

If you are a current student, make an appointment by calling at any Infopoint (0117 32 85678). The appointments for the following week are released for booking on the Thursday before.

If you are a prospective student, please email [mafs@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:mafs@uwe.ac.uk)

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