

Previous study and Student Finance funding – Full Time students

UWE Bristol Student Money Service

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Full-time Undergraduates funded by Student Finance England or Student Finance Wales

If you are funded by SF England or SF Wales and 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. If you are funded from elsewhere in the UK i.e. Student Awards Agency Scotland or SF Northern Ireland the rules could differ. This is a complex area, and the information below is only an overview. If you are not sure of your entitlement to funding please contact a UWE Student Money Adviser.

Standard entitlement calculation

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

You will normally remain entitled to your maintenance loan (and any supplementary grants for dependents and DSA's if applicable) until you achieve an honours degree, however many years of study this takes.

(*If you receive a Maintenance/Special Support Grant then this will be affected too)

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 (studied anywhere in the world), 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.

Example: One year of previous study

Jose studied for a week at Barcelona University 8 years ago. He starts a 3-year degree at UWE in 2021. 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 or more of your years of study on your UWE course.

Example: Two years of previous study

Jose studied for a year and one week of the second year at Barcelona University 8 years ago. He starts a 3-year degree at UWE in 2021. The SF calculation is $3+1=4$ minus 2 (2 years at Barcelona) = 2 tuition fee loans remaining for Jose's UWE degree.

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

Example: 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 3-year course.

Previous study and higher education qualifications

HE qualifications below honours degree, ie. HNC, HND, Foundation degree

The years spent on previous courses where you achieved a qualification counts in the calculation to top-up to an honours degree.

The calculation differs from the previous study calculation (above) and you may only have enough years of standard funding to enable you to top-up to an honours degree and not to complete a full degree programme.

To check how your previous course will affect your funding please contact a UWE Student Money Adviser.

Complex circumstances

If your qualification was achieved via part-time study, please contact a UWE Student Money Adviser.

If your qualification was awarded because you left your previous course early (i.e. you were awarded an 'exit' qualification rather than achieving the intended qualification), please contact a UWE Student 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](#).)

Student Finance England and Healthcare courses

If you are considering one of the following courses:

Diagnostic Radiography, Midwifery, Nursing (adult, children's, learning disabilities, mental health), Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Radiotherapy and Oncology **started 2017/18 or later.**

See our information about [Equivalent or Lower Qualifications](#)

These courses are exempt from the ELQ/previous study rules if you are funded by Student Finance England.

More information

If you are not sure of your entitlement to funding for your new course please [contact a UWE Student Money Adviser](#).

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