

LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



Student Finance 2026

A GUIDE FOR UK UNDERGRADUATES

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2025**

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OF THE
YEAR**

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**GOOD
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GUIDE
2025**

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IN THE UNITED
KINGDOM

If you're thinking about going to university in 2026 you may be wondering about the cost of tuition, living costs and the availability of loans and bursaries. This booklet sets out the financial support which is on offer for new undergraduates at LSE and also what is available from the UK Government. You should read this information carefully to make sure that you don't miss out on money that

you're entitled to receive. There are also many other resources which provide information on student finance and a list of useful websites can be found at the back of this booklet.

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication in February 2025. Please visit lse.ac.uk/ug/fees-funding for the most up-to-date information.



LSE tuition fees

Undergraduate tuition fees

Every undergraduate student is charged a fee for their programme.

The fee covers registration and examination fees payable to LSE, lectures, classes and individual supervision, lectures given at other colleges under intercollegiate arrangements and, under current arrangements, membership of the Students' Union. It doesn't cover living costs or travel or fieldwork.

The amount of tuition fees you'll need to pay, and any financial support you're eligible for, will depend on whether you're classified as a Home or Overseas student, otherwise known as your fee status. LSE assesses your fee status based on guidelines provided by the Department for Education.

lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/international-students/fee-status-classification

Tuition fee loans

Students from England

Under the current arrangements, students ordinarily resident in England don't have to pay the tuition fee up front. You don't have to

start repaying the loan until you've graduated from your programme and you're earning over £25,000 per year (see [page 12](#)).

The tuition fee loan is administered by the Student Loans Company (SLC), the company also handles maintenance loans for students. You should apply for the tuition fee loan at the same time that you apply for your maintenance loan, which is usually in the spring before you start university.

Once the tuition fee loan is arranged, it's paid by the SLC directly to LSE after you've registered. The tuition fee loan isn't paid to the student.

Students can apply for a loan for the full fee or for any amount below the full fee (if you have other funds to pay the remainder of the tuition fee).

Interest charged on the tuition fee loan and the repayment terms are typically the same as those applied to the maintenance loan (see [page 12](#)).

More information about tuition fee loans can be found on the following websites:

GOV.UK

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

Money Saving Expert

moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-england-plan-5

Students from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

Students living in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, including those who study in England, receive their financial support from their "Home" devolved administration. It's a matter for the devolved administrations to decide how they wish to support their students.

In 2024, students living in Northern Ireland and Scotland received tuition fee loans to cover the full cost of the fee for the duration of their undergraduate programme.

In 2024, students from Wales were eligible for a non-means tested fee loan of up to £9,250 (payable to the university), covering the full cost of tuition fees.

Students should check the relevant website below for the latest information on fees and financial support available from their administration:

Northern Ireland

studentfinancenirni.co.uk

Scotland

saas.gov.uk

Wales

studentfinancewales.co.uk





LSE financial support

LSE Bursaries

LSE Bursaries are available to undergraduates with Home fee status.

In 2025/26, LSE Bursaries will range from £1,250 to £4,250 based on a household income assessment by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

You can use your LSE Bursary to help with your living costs or to help pay for your accommodation. It's up to you how you choose to use your bursary. Students don't have to apply separately for the LSE Bursary.

We'll use the financial information you provide to the SLC when applying for your maintenance loan to determine your eligibility for and the value of your bursary, provided you complete the income assessed application (see "Applying for loans" on [page 10](#)).

You'll be notified before the start of your degree programme of your bursary entitlement. The bursary will then be paid into your bank account by Student Finance on LSE's behalf in three termly instalments after you've enrolled on your programme at the start of the academic year.

Eligibility for the LSE Bursary is assessed annually (in line with annual assessments for maintenance loans).

There's no limit to the number of LSE Bursaries available. All students who are eligible for an LSE Bursary will receive one. The LSE Bursary doesn't have to be repaid.

lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/lse-bursaries

LSE Discretionary Bursaries

Discretionary Bursaries are available for LSE students who face exceptional financial need. This might include, for example, caring responsibilities, financial need related to disability or reduced support available from the household. The value of the Discretionary Bursary may vary according to circumstances, but from 2025/26 won't exceed a total of £4,250 when combined with the LSE Bursary. These bursaries don't have to be repaid.

You can be considered for a Discretionary Bursary by completing the LSE Undergraduate Scholarship application form.

lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/lse-bursaries

Care Experienced and Estranged Student Bursary

LSE acknowledges that care-experienced and estranged students may encounter obstacles when accessing and pursuing higher education. The Care Experienced and Estranged Student Bursary is accessible to offer supplementary financial assistance to eligible students.

lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/care-experienced-and-estranged-student-bursary

LSE scholarships

LSE has a range of scholarships for new undergraduates. These scholarships are funded by LSE, philanthropic donations, external organisations and alumni of the School.

Eligibility may be limited by, for example, ethnic background or programme of study.

However, all scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial circumstances, to identify candidates who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend LSE without financial support.

In 2025/26, the following scholarships will be available for students from the UK. Available scholarships vary each year; you should check lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/lse-scholarships-home-students to see what is available for students starting in 2026.

For 2026/27, the deadline for applications will be **1 June 2026**.

LSE scholarships and eligibility for UK students (2025/26)

Scholarship name	Eligibility criteria
Golden Scholarship	Residents in the UK, with Home UK fee status, preference for female students, first in their family to attend university
Nehru Shanker Patel Scholarship	Residents in the UK, with Home UK fee status, on any programme
New Futures Fund	Residents in the UK, with Home UK fee status, on any programme, from low income backgrounds
Peter Bence Scholarship	Residents in the UK, with Home UK fee status, preference for mature students (25 years or older)
Uggla Family Scholars Programme	Residents in the UK, with Home UK fee status, preference for underrepresented ethnic groups and care-leavers

LSE Access to Education Scholarships

LSE is offering scholarships, made up of support for the tuition fee and living costs, for:

- an asylum-seeker
- a forced migrant
- a refugee
- a person with humanitarian protection
- a person who is resident in the UK and has been granted Discretionary/Limited Leave to Remain in the UK.

Priority will be given to those who are unable to access funding from Student Finance England (or its national equivalent in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales); each case will be assessed individually on need.

Full and partial awards will be granted to cover tuition fees as well as living expenses for the duration of the undergraduate programme.

lse.ac.uk/access-to-education-undergraduate-scholarships





Uggle Family Scholars Programme

The Uggle Family Scholars Programme is for students from underrepresented groups within higher education who have the greatest financial need.

The Programme offers a generous financial package, academic and professional guidance, personal support and opportunities to network with the Uggle family and other professionals. The values of the programme are listed below:

- Having a global perspective
- Academic excellence
- Inclusion
- Peer support
- Civic engagement.

The programme will work with Scholars to discuss and embody these values in their time at LSE and beyond.

Typically, seven scholarships are available for LSE undergraduate students from the UK and three for Overseas students (classified with an Overseas fee status) for a total cohort of up to 10 Scholars each year.

The Programme encourages, but doesn't only accept, applications from students who are care-experienced, LGBTQ+, students with disabilities, from underrepresented BME backgrounds, eligible for free school meals and those living in areas of low progression to higher education.

This Programme also celebrates all gender identities and looks to create gender diversity within the cohort.

Scholarship amount

The scholarships are worth over £22,000 per academic year for UK students, which includes partial tuition payments and full maintenance stipends.

The Programme is reviewed annually and every Scholar will receive the package offered to them at their acceptance for their entire duration at LSE. Please note scholarship amounts may be adjusted to inflation and tuition fee increases.

For updated information, please visit our website at lse.ac.uk/uggle

Eligibility

To be considered applicants must have accepted a conditional or unconditional offer of admission on any undergraduate programme at LSE. Candidates must be from low-income households and be able to demonstrate financial need.

How to apply

You can apply for this scholarship by completing the LSE Undergraduate Scholarship Application form.

By completing this form, we'll ensure that you receive consideration for the Uggle Family Scholars Programme and any other LSE scholarship(s) for which you meet the eligibility criteria.

The deadline for applications for UK applicants is **1 June 2026**.

For more information on the Uggle Family Scholars Programme, please visit our website at lse.ac.uk/uggle



Being an Uggle Family Scholar isn't just about the monetary aid – it's like discovering a whole new society that instantly becomes your family. The Uggle Family Scholars Programme provided me with a network of people that I can resonate with. The Programme plans time for us to come together to have sessions about how to budget effectively (which is vital in the heart of London) and even have sessions with different professors at LSE which is interesting as you get to think about different topics beyond your degree.

Being an Uggle Family Scholar has helped me massively with my plans for after I graduate. The Uggle family are very supportive with helping us achieve our dreams. I've had heart to heart career chats with Will Meldrum (Director of the Uggle Family Foundation), who I can say for sure has transformed my interview game and has massively improved my industry knowledge. The Uggle family are genuinely there to give back and support us as students and I know from experience that they'll undoubtedly do anything they can to help you in your aspirations. The Programme, and its network, provides me with a place to feel at home in a university, like LSE. ☺



Sian Oti, London, UK
BSc Politics and Economics



The BA History programme at LSE is incredibly extensive.

There are courses about everything I could have possibly wanted to ever learn, from the Islamic Empires of the 15th and 19th centuries, to modern South Asia in the 20th century.

Seeing all these choices and the diversity of the content just made me excited to join the School. Especially as someone of Bangladeshi descent, it meant a lot to see there's much research being done on my home country. A combination of academic interest and seeing South Asian representation convinced me to apply.

The Programme has definitely helped me be able to support my parents more with day-to-day finances, whether it may be bills or groceries; a huge weight was definitely lifted from their shoulders.

The thing I like the most about the scholarship is how personal it is. In my mind, I initially expected a scholarship to just be a quick bank transfer to my account and never meeting the donors. But the Programme has turned this perception upside down. I've had the honour of meeting Lance Uggle himself, along with his family, and being able to form a relationship with them. I've been able to learn about the incredible work they do and have felt inspired to venture out on my own to reach their heights. This personal aspect has made me more excited for what's to come. ☺



Arifuzzaman (Arif) Choudhury, London, UK
BA History

UK Government financial support

The following information sets out what was available for the 2024/25 academic year for new undergraduate students. Please check the gov.uk/student-finance website for the most up-to-date information.

Maintenance loan

All eligible students from England are able to take out a maintenance loan to help with living costs. In 2024/25 the maximum loan available for students studying in London (ie, at LSE) and living away from home was **£13,348**. If you studied outside London or if you lived at home while you studied, the maximum loan value was lower – a maximum of £10,227 or £8,610, respectively.

There are two elements to the maintenance loan: a guaranteed loan and an income assessed loan.

Guaranteed loan: Part of the maintenance loan is available to everyone regardless of their parental income. This amounts to £6,647 to study in London, living away from home.

Income assessed loan: The remainder of the amount you can borrow is means-tested (ie, it depends on your own or your household income).

The maintenance loan does have to be repaid.

Applying for loans

You should apply for both your loans (maintenance and tuition fee) in the spring before you start university (Spring 2026). The Student Loans Company (SLC) usually announces a date in February when applications open and a deadline in May by which you should submit your application. You should check gov.uk/student-finance for further details.

You'll need to submit information online on a range of financial information about yourself and the household in which you live. It's this financial information which the SLC uses to assess your eligibility for an income assessed maintenance loan which is additional to the basic loan of £6,647. The information submitted allows the SLC to calculate the "household residual income" (see [page 11](#)). You can also allow your chosen university to access this financial information so that they can assess your eligibility for their own bursaries and scholarships. In the case of LSE, this means that you won't have to apply separately for our bursaries (see LSE financial support section on [pages 4-5](#)).

You can estimate your loan entitlement here: gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Financial Support by Household Income table for 2024

Household income	Income assessed living cost loan (maximum London rate £13,348)
£25,000 or less	£13,348
£30,000	£12,606
£35,000	£11,863
£40,000	£11,120
£45,000	£10,377
£50,000	£9,634
£55,000	£8,891
£60,000	£8,148
£65,000	£7,405
Over £70k	£6,647

Household residual income

This is effectively the household income BEFORE tax and AFTER any pension contributions or allowances for dependent children.

For all those dependent students (ie, not independent) then the income assessment is based on your combined parents' income – though if you have substantial savings/ investments of your own generating income they will be taken into account.

If your parents don't live together then the SLC will assess the income of the parent you live with most of the time. If that parent remarries or has a cohabiting partner, their joint income will then be assessed.

Students from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

In 2024 there were grants and loans for living costs available for students from the UK devolved administrations. Please see their websites for information on 2026 support.

Northern Ireland

studentfinancenir.co.uk

Scotland

saas.gov.uk

Wales

studentfinancewales.co.uk

Repayment of loans and rates of inflation

If you take out a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan they're bundled together to make one combined loan. Interest starts to accrue on the loan from the day you receive the money.

You only start to repay your student loan after you graduate and once you're earning over a certain threshold.

Rates of interest vary throughout the life of the loan.

The loan is repaid through the income tax system if you work in the UK. Student loans don't go on credit files.

Please visit [gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan](https://www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan) for further information.

Other support

Childcare Grant (CCG)

You can apply for a Childcare Grant if you're a full-time undergraduate student living and studying in England and you:

- have at least one dependent child who's under 15 and in registered or approved childcare; or
- have at least one dependent child who's under 17, is registered as having special educational needs, and in registered or approved childcare.



Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Disabled students from the UK can access DSAs which are grants to help with study-related costs you might face as a result of a disability, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty, like dyslexia.

Parents' Learning Allowance (PLA)

You can apply for a Parents' Learning Allowance if you're a full-time undergraduate student with dependent children. This helps with the extra costs associated with being a parent and a student. You don't need to be paying for childcare to be eligible.

Adult Dependents' Grant (ADG)

You can apply for the Adult Dependents' Grant if you're a full-time UK undergraduate student and you have an adult who depends on you financially. The adult can be a partner or another adult who depends on you financially, but you can't count grown-up children as adult dependants.

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



During my time here, I've taken part in hosting the Alternative Investments Conference (AIC), which brings together over 300 students from across the world to engage and speak with renowned global hedge fund managers and private equity fund managers.

The resources at LSE help you grow and learn, not only in your field of study, but also individually as a person. I feel comfortable that LSE will help me to achieve what I really want in life.

Receiving a scholarship has allowed me to feel financially stable. The funding has also allowed me to broaden my horizons both academically and socially; I'm able to purchase new books, buy into societies at LSE and go out and meet new people! 🐾

Jackson Read, Southend, UK
BSc Politics



Living costs

The perceived cost of living and studying in London is a concern for many students. But if you plan carefully and budget efficiently then it certainly is possible to take advantage of the amazing opportunities the capital has to offer, whilst living within your means.

Useful budgeting tools

UCAS budget calculator

ucas.com/money-and-student-life/money/budgeting

GOV.UK calculator

gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Accommodation

LSE provides a range of accommodation for first year students, with varying costs depending on location, room type and facilities.

- This includes utility bills, internet access and contents insurance.
- Pay up front or in three termly instalments.
- In catered halls, one or two of your daily meals will be included. In self-catered halls, you'll need to buy your own groceries.

- You can also choose to live in private housing in London in your first year; in second and third year, most students will live in private housing.

lse.ac.uk/accommodation

Travel

LSE halls are all within walking distance of our campus, but London is a large city and you'll need to factor travel costs into your budget.

The main forms of public transport are the London Underground (the "Tube"), trains and buses. The transport system uses "zones" to determine how much you pay – central London is Zone 1, with higher zones the further out you travel. LSE, our accommodation and most cultural attractions are within Zone 1 and 2.

Many second and third year students choose to live further from campus which may mean travelling outside of Zone 1.

As a student, you're entitled to receive 30 per cent off standard Tube and bus fares if you purchase an **18+ Student Oyster photocard**.

You might also choose to save money by cycling – there's a public cycle hire scheme in London, or you can use your own bicycle.

Useful travel links

Transport for London

Find out about fares and payment methods, and access maps for London Underground and buses at tfl.gov.uk

How to get to LSE

LSE is easily reached on public transport. Find out the quickest ways to get to campus at lse.ac.uk/lse-information/travelling-to-lse

Food

Food costs will account for a significant part of your budget. However, costs will vary, depending on whether you live in catered or self-catered halls. There are steps you can take to reduce your food expenditure; for example, shopping at local markets, cooking in bulk, and bringing a packed lunch to university.

Study costs

Study costs include books, stationery and any other equipment to assist you with your studies. Although some students prefer to buy books new, you can save a lot of money buying them second-hand from other students or recent graduates. You don't necessarily need to buy even your core texts – the library stocks multiple copies of core and recommended readings (as well as single copies of more specialist books). A large amount of reading material is also available online for free.

Personal expenses

You'll need to consider how you'll budget for things like clothing, gym memberships, nights out, mobile phone bills, or anything else that you'll want to buy.

Remember that students are often entitled to discounts. The TOTUM, Student Beans and UNiDAYS student discount cards and apps will give you access to discounts across clothing, food and socialising. The LSE Students' Union provides a wide range of societies, activities and social events at cheap rates. London also boasts an array of free activities for students, many of which are featured in *Time Out* magazine. For instance, most museums in the city offer free admission.

Finally, get some tips from our current students on the [students@LSE blog](#) on how to enjoy all that London has to offer while living on a student budget.

Useful links for saving money

TOTUM

totum.com

Student Beans

studentbeans.com

UNiDAYS

myunidays.com

LSE Students' Union

lsesu.com

Time Out magazine

timeout.com

Students@LSE

blogs.lse.ac.uk/studentsatlse

Further information

The following websites provide more information for prospective university students:

moneysavingexpert.com

LSE alumnus Martin Lewis has also published a number of YouTube videos about student funding and money matters.

moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes

LSE undergraduate fees and funding

lse.ac.uk/ug/fees-funding

GOV.UK

gov.uk/student-finance

Students from Northern Ireland

studentfinancenir.co.uk

Students from Scotland

saas.gov.uk

Students from Wales

studentfinancewales.co.uk





“

The scholarship and funding I received enabled me to take up my place to study law at LSE.

I've always been interested in studying law. LSE is an amazing university with great alumni, but I also chose it because of its impressive debate agenda, public events schedule, and ideal location in central London; a melting pot of law firms, Parliament and government offices. I love the diversity of the city, it's a great place to study law and it's a great place to socialise and have fun.

My programme is both enjoyable and challenging. I feel like my opinion really counts; in classes I'm able to channel my views and engage with and debate the material from lectures.

The support from my teachers and peers at LSE and the skills I've gained have also helped me to advance my equal access campaign.

I study not only to gain knowledge but to decide how I'll use this knowledge to change injustices within and around my community. I'm now a Pathways to Law mentor here at LSE and this opportunity is invaluable; it's a pleasure to guide my mentees by offering support as they complete their A-levels. ”

Chrisann Jarrett, London, UK
LLB



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[@studylse](https://twitter.com/studylse)



[@theLondonSchoolofEconomics](https://www.youtube.com/@theLondonSchoolofEconomics)



[facebook.com/lseps](https://www.facebook.com/lseps)



[linkedin.com/school/london-school-of-economics](https://www.linkedin.com/school/london-school-of-economics)



lse.ac.uk/ask-lse



lse.ac.uk/meet-lse



blogs.lse.ac.uk/studentsatlse

This information can be made available in
alternative formats, on request. Please contact,

prospectuses@lse.ac.uk

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Please note that while care has been taken to ensure that the information
contained in this guide was accurate at the time of it being printed, circumstances
might have arisen since that time that have caused certain pieces of information
to no longer be relevant.

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of
age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual
orientation or personal circumstances.

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