

## Part-time Postgraduates:

All of the information on the document for New Full-Time Postgraduate students is relevant for students who want to study a Masters part-time. However, please also note:

- Part-time courses are eligible for the new Postgraduate Loan (PGL) but there is a 50% intensity requirement (e.g. if the full-time equivalent is one year, the part-time student must complete it within two years and if the full-time equivalent is two years, the part-time student must complete the course within four years).
- Even if the course is three or four years, the payments will be made over the first two years.
- The loan will become due for repayment the April after the second year of the course (even if the part-time course is three or four years).

## Plan 1 Student Loans and the PGL:

Which borrowers make Plan 1 repayments on their student loans?

- Students who received funding from Student Finance **England** or Student Finance **Wales** and who started their undergraduate degree after September 1998 and **before September 2012** make **Plan 1** repayments.
- Students who received funding from the Student Awards Agency for **Scotland** or **Northern Ireland** Student Finance at **any time** make **Plan 1** repayments.
- **EU students** who received funding in **England** or **Wales** prior to **September 2012** and EU students who received EU funding in **Scotland** or **Northern Ireland** at **any time** make **Plan 1** repayments.

Plan 1 students repay 9% of their income above **£17,495** (this is the threshold in the 2016/17 tax year). The Postgraduate Loan repayments will be 6% of income above **£21,000**. This table shows the repayments on a Plan 1 undergraduate loan and the new Postgraduate Loan (to the nearest pound).

Your annual salary (before deductions)	Plan 1 undergraduate loan repayment per month	Postgraduate Loan repayment per month	TOTAL repayment per month
£20,000	£19	£0	£19
£25,000	£56	£20	£76
£30,000	£94	£45	£139
£35,000	£131	£70	£201
£40,000	£169	£95	£264
£50,000	£244	£145	£389

## Plan 1 and Plan 2 Student Loans and the PGL:

The Student Loans Company recently disclosed that there are about 100,000 people in the UK who are on both Plan 1 and Plan 2. A person could be on both repayment plans if he/she:

- started an undergraduate course prior to September 2012 but withdrew and then returned to Higher Education after September 2012; or
- started a Foundation Degree before September 2012 and then ‘topped-up’ to degree level since September 2012; or
- started an undergraduate degree before September 2012 and then did a PGCE teaching qualification after September 2012.

A person in this situation would repay the same amount as somebody with a Plan 1 loan. However, if you earn between £17,495 and £21,000, the repayment will only go towards your Plan 1 loan. If you earn over £21,000 the repayment will go towards both your Plan 1 and your Plan 2 loan. Taking out a Postgraduate Loan does not change the repayment of your earlier student loans, it just means that you will also pay 6% of your income above £21,000 to repay your PGL (like other Plan 1 only students).

## Rest of the UK:

### Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland’s Department for Employment and Learning is currently considering postgraduate funding options and has just finished the initial consultation stage. It is unlikely that funding will be available until September 2017 at the earliest.

### Scotland

Students who are ordinarily resident in Scotland may be able to get a Postgraduate Loan of up to £9,000 to study a Masters course. This funding has not been confirmed yet but the proposal is to make the Loan available from September 2016 so it is important to get up-to-date information (see ‘Further information’ below).

### Wales

The Welsh government is reviewing postgraduate funding provisions but has not made any information available yet.

## Further information

Student Finance England (SFE) helpline: **0300 100 0607**; website: [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

Contact a Student Funding Adviser at: Southampton Solent University, East Park Terrace, Student Hub, RM050; available Monday - Friday. Tel: 023 820 13427 or Email: [student.funding@solent.ac.uk](mailto:student.funding@solent.ac.uk) or visit our webpages: <http://www.solent.ac.uk/studying/fees/financial-support/postgraduate-funding/postgraduate-funding.aspx>

<https://www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-northern-ireland.aspx>

<https://www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-scotland.aspx>

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