



Southampton
SOLENT
University

PART TIME FUNDING

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Student Funding Team

Students 1st Support (RM011 - opposite the Student Hub)

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Last updated: Aug 2016

Review date: Aug 2017

Part-time courses must run for *at least* one academic year in order to qualify for student funding. You must complete the part-time course in not more than four times the period ordinarily required to complete the full-time equivalent where the course begins *on or after* 1st September 2012.

Students who started after 2012:

Part-time Tuition Fee Loans

If you started a part-time course *on or after* 1st September 2012 you may be eligible for a non-means tested Tuition Fee Loan each year. The Loan is then paid directly to the University.

Intensity Of Course	Maximum Fee Loan*
Equivalent to 50% - 59% of full-time study	£5,310
Equivalent to 60% - 74% of full-time study	£6,660
Equivalent to 75% or more of full-time study	£6,750

Repaying your loan

- You only start to repay the Tuition Fee Loan once you are earning over £21,000.
- Part-time students become liable to repay their loans from the April *after the fourth anniversary of the start date of their course*, even if they continue to study.
- If the part-time course lasts **less** than three years, then graduates will become liable to repay from the April *after* they leave higher education.
- For more information on repaying student loans please go to: www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

Students who started before 2012

Part-time Fee and Course Grants

In 2016/17 eligible part-time students who are continuing on a part-time course which they started **before** 1st September 2012 and who meet the qualifying conditions* may be entitled to receive the following two statutory **non-repayable** grants:

- a) A Tuition Fee Grant
- b) A Course Grant (to help with the cost of books, travel and course expenditure). The maximum amount of the grant will be **£280** in 2016/17.

Eligibility*:

- You must be studying the equivalent of at least 50% of a full time course (25% if disabled)
- The maximum income threshold is up to **£28,065** in 2016/17 in order to receive any support.

The following table shows the maximum grants available for the year:

Intensity of the Course	Max. Fee grant	Course grant	Total
Equivalent to 50% -59% of full-time study	£855	£280	£1135
Equivalent to 60% - 74% of full-time study	£1,025	£280	£1305
Equivalent to 75% or more of full-time study	£1,285	£280	£1565

To find out how much your fees are in 2016/17 for part-time study please check the university fees guidance:

www.solent.ac.uk/finance/documents/fees-table-2016-17.pdf

Previous study in higher education

Usually you won't be able to get funding if you already hold a qualification equal to or higher than the one you are going to study for. However, if you have previously studied in higher education but did **not complete** your course, you may be eligible to get up to a maximum of 16 years support (minus any years of previous study) based on a course intensity of 25%.

If you already hold an honours degree or higher level and started a part-time honours degree from academic year 2015/16 onward exclusively in engineering, technology or computer science, you will be exempt from the previous study rules.

If you transfer to a part-time course in 2016/17 from a part-time course which started *before* September 2012 or start a part-time 'top-up' course *immediately after* completing a 'lower level' part-time course (e.g. HND) which started before September 2012, you will remain on the existing (pre-2012) student finance arrangements (i.e. eligible for the grants).

However, if you change your 'mode of study' (e.g. part-time to full-time) you will change to the new fee regime. **Always check with Student Finance England before starting a course to see if you can get funding.**

Solent Access to Learning Fund - Non-repayable grant

Part-time students who have applied to Student Finance for their Tuition Fee Grant or Loan can apply for extra help towards living costs. Please contact the Student Funding Team or go to our webpage for more information: www.solent.ac.uk/finance/grants-bursaries-scholarships/university-grants

If you have a disability

Part-time students (including distance learners) with disabilities can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). Information on DSA is available from: www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

Child Tax Credit (CTC)

You can claim if you have a child who usually lives with you. You do not have to be working to claim CTC. The money you get depends on your circumstances and income. More information is available on the HMRC site: www.gov.uk/child-tax-credit

Working Tax Credit (WTC)

This is for people who are in paid work. You don't have to have children to be able to claim WTC. The amount you receive will depend on your annual income. More information is on the HMRC site: www.gov.uk/working-tax-credit

State Benefits

As a part-time student, you can claim means-tested benefits if you are unemployed. Any help you receive for tuition fees and course grant will be ignored in the assessment. You may also be able to claim:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Income support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing benefit

Part-time employment

The University has an Employability and Enterprise Team offering a wide range of information, advice and guidance regarding careers and vacancies: www.solent.ac.uk/studying/student-support/careers-advice/careers-advice.aspx

EU students

If you are a European Union (EU) national, or a child of an EU national, you may be entitled to support for your tuition fees only: http://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/1617/pt/sfe_part_time_loans_guide_1617_d.pdf

How to apply for your funding

- Preferably try and apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance
- Paper forms are available: www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms
- If you need to, you can call Student Finance England on **0300 100 0607** for advice/help
- Return your form to Student Finance England once completed.
- http://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/1617/pt/sfe_part_time_loans_guide_1617_d.pdf