# Student Finance Talk – Stephen Jones

## Contents

### Indicative of what the figures are likely to be for next year, although they will probably raise by a small amount for ‘24 entry.

## Maintenance Loans – NMT, MT and Maximum

### The income assessment for full year and final year rates of loans for living costs is calculated as follows:

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### Parental Home Rate: £1 reduction in loan for every complete £7.08 increase in income above £25,000.

### London Rate: £1 reduction in loan for every complete £6.89 increase in income above £25,000.

### Elsewhere Rate: £1 reduction in loan for every complete £7.01 increase in income above £25,000.

### Overseas Rate: £1 reduction in loan for every complete £6.94 increase in income above £25,000.

### The income threshold for the minimum non-income assessed full rate of overseas loan is: £65,967.

### The income thresholds for the minimum non-income assessed final year rates of loans are: £56,910 (Home), £67,422 (London), £60,836 (Elsewhere), and £62,678 (Overseas).

## Maintenance Loans – Household Contribution

### Students on household incomes of £25,000 or less qualify for the maximum loan for living costs at the respective Home, Elsewhere or London rate of loan. Includes estranged students and students in care.

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### The income threshold for the minimum non-income assessed full rate of overseas loan is: £65,967.

### The income thresholds for the minimum non-income assessed final year rates of loans are: £56,910 (Home), £67,422 (London), £60,836 (Elsewhere), and £62,678 (Overseas).

### Based on last full tax year; retirement, redundance, reduction in salary etc can be reassessed via estimated earnings, with confirmation required at the end of the tax year.

## Support For Caring Responsibilities

### Targeted support for full-time undergraduate students with dependants and undergraduate students with disabilities.

### Dependants’ Grants. Maximum dependants’ grants (adult dependants’ grant, childcare grant and parents’ learning allowance) will be increased by forecast inflation (2.3%) in 2022/23 for all new and continuing full-time undergraduate students. The maximum adult dependants’ grant will be increased to £3,263 in 2022/23.

### The maximum childcare grant payable in 2022/23, which covers 85% of actual childcare costs up to a specified limit, will be increased to £183.75 per week for one child only and £315.03 per week for two or more children.

### The maximum parents’ learning allowance payable in 2022/23 will be increased to £1,863. Disabled Students’ Allowance.

### The maximum Disabled Students’ Allowance for full-time and part-time undergraduate students will be increased by forecast inflation (2.3%) to £25,575 in 2022/23.

## Dependants Grants

### Where dependants’ incomes are from £18,640 to £18,739.98 students qualify for a minimum £50 PLA.

### Weekly maximum CCG for one child is £188.90.

### Weekly maximum CCG for two or more children is £323.85.

### Childcare grant is paid directly to childcare provider

## Disabled Students Allowance

### DISABLED STUDENTS ALLOWANCE FOR FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (Not means-tested).

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### The undergraduate DSA allowance was simplified into one allowance for 2021/22. The same maximum allowance - £26,291 - will apply to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate DSA recipients in 2023/24.

### This will apply for both new and continuing students. An exception for travel costs will be made to this maximum cap, which means that travel costs will in effect be uncapped.

### Students have to apply, provided medical evidence, have a discussion with an assessor, try some of the adaptive technology and equipment. Support can come in the form of equipment, supporters/assistance, finance for use for travel. Based on specific need of a student, not household income.

### Postgraduate Loans

### Loans for students undertaking postgraduate master’s degree courses.

### Maximum loans for new students starting postgraduate master’s degree courses in 2023/24 will be increased by 2.8% to £12,167.

### Loans for students undertaking postgraduate doctoral degree courses.

### Maximum loans for new students starting postgraduate doctoral degree courses in 2023/24 will be increased by 1.8% to £28,673.

### Disabled Students’ Allowance.

### The maximum Disabled Students’ Allowance for postgraduate students will be increased by 2.8% to £26,291 in 2022/23, in line with the changes to the undergraduate Disabled Students’ Allowance.

## Additional NHS Support

Apply through the NHS, not SLA.

## Long Course Loan (usually NHS related courses)

### This is calculated automatically using UCAS course codes.

## Support for Independent Students

### When a customer creates their account and applies for the first time, they will go through the Customer Portal journey as normal.

### Once they have created their account, they will be presented with the self service options screen any time they log in.

### Evidence can be accepted from tutors and teachers for estranged students.

## Repayment Academic Year 2023/24

### https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/24/get-the-facts-about-student-loan-reform/

### New borrowers commencing study from academic year 2023-24 onwards

### There will be a new loan plan type for students who start courses from academic year 2023/24. The new loans will have:

### o In-and-post-study interest rates of RPI+0%.

### o A repayment threshold of £25,000, maintained at this level up to and including financial year 2026-27, and uprated by inflation (RPI) from April 2027 onwards.

### o A repayment term length of 40 years.

### Key messages

### The new loan plan does ask graduates to repay for longer and from an income threshold of £25,000, but it also increases certainty for borrowers by reducing interest rates to match inflation only.

### This ensures that, under these new terms, borrowers will not have to repay more than they have borrowed in real terms.

### A student who completes their degree in summer 2026 with a loan on the new terms, and who commences a job with a salary of £28,000 a year, would expect to repay around £17 per month towards the cost of their higher education over financial year 2027-28.

### Compared with borrowers on Plan 2 loan terms, borrowers with a loan on the new terms will repay – at most – up to £30 per month more in financial year 2027-28.

### The Government will be keeping these new loan terms under review.

### Repayment Academic Year 2023/24

### Plan 2

### The thresholds are £524 a week or £2,274 a month (before tax and other deductions). They change on 6 April every year.

### Example

### You’re paid weekly and your income changes each week. This week your income was £600, which is over the Plan 2 weekly threshold of £524.

### Your income was £76 over the threshold (£600 minus £524). You will pay back £6 (9% of £76) this week.

### Example

### Your annual income is £28,800 and you are paid a regular monthly wage. This means that each month your income is £2,400 (£28,800 divided by 12). This is over the Plan 2 monthly threshold of £2,274.

### Your income is £126 over the threshold (£2,400 minus £2,274). You will pay back £11 (9% of £126) each month.

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## Ukrainian Conflict

### As events unfold in Ukraine, we appreciate many of you may be looking for guidance on how to support students during this period of conflict.

### We're taking steps to help SLC customers affected by the situation. Our Customer Experience team is working closely with colleagues in Operations and Repayments to respond to their individual circumstances.

### If you've agreed with any students to suspend or withdraw them, please see our updated guidance on the HEP Services website.

### https://www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/

### https://www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/resources/guidance/student-information-service-user-guide/change-of-circumstances/coc-due-to-ukrainian-conflict/

### https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/534/contents/made

### Those who have leave under one of the Ukraine Schemes must meet the below residency requirements as standard for Higher Education, Postgraduate funding without being subject to a three year ordinary residence requirement;

### are ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the first AY of the course,

### are ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands and have not ceased to be so resident since being granted such leave, and

### meet all other personal and course eligibility requirements.

### Those who have leave under one of the Ukraine Schemes must meet the below residency requirements as standard for FE and HESC funding without being subject to a three year ordinary residence requirement;

### They are ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the course

### They have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands since their latest leave was granted

### And they meet other personal and course eligibility requirements.

### It is expected that students will be provided with a form of leave which allows them to finish their course, and it is the intent that funding will be provided for the whole course, including where the course end date falls after the end of the initial three-year leave period.

## Key Messages

### When a customer creates their account and applies for the first time, they will go through the Customer Portal journey as normal.

### Once they have created their account, they will be presented with the self service options screen any time they log in:

### Deadline is 31st May.

### Student Finance communications are via letter, texts and emails, (and also to their sponsor). The SLC portal logs all communications and messages sent.

## Timeline – Remind your Students

### When a customer creates their account and applies for the first time, they will go through the Customer Portal journey as normal.

### Once they have created their account, they will be presented with the self service options screen any time they log in.

## Customer Self-Service Enhancements

### The Customer Engagement Management (CEM) Self Service & Notifications Project has developed a digital service for our customers that will allow them to effectively track their student finance application from Apply to Pay. The service includes notifications that provide updates and prompts to customers. Providing this enhanced end-to-end digital service should reduce the need for customers to call SLC.

### SLC Self Service is now live and available to all SFE and SFW undergraduate customers. When customers log in, they will select which application they want to view. Undergraduate customers will be automatically taken into the new service and all other SFE and SFW customers will automatically be taken into the existing Customer Portal.

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### IMPORTANT: The Customer Portal and SLC Self Service are running alongside each other in the background. Regardless of what product type an SFE or SFW customer has applied for (e.g., UG, PGL, DSA), their account will be called ‘your account’ from their perspective.

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### Customer accounts will be branded to the domicile of their most recent application. When a customer logs into their account they will be able to see all applications from the 2018/19 academic year onwards. If they click an application card that is a different domicile the banding of the service will change to mirror the domicile of the application. When the customer returns to their ‘Your account’ screen the domicile will return to that of their most recent application. This will affect student account only.

### Customers applying to SFNI & SAAS will continue to use the existing relevant portals for those domiciles. No changes have been made for these customers at this time.

## Application Enhancement – “How To”

### Links in pictures

### https://www.gov.uk/guidance/student-finance-england-how-to-guide

### https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-students-parents-and-partners-providing-evidence-to-support-a-student-finance-application

## Cost of Living Consideration – Student Spending

### https://www.savethestudent.org/money/surveys/student-money-survey-2022-results.html

### In last year's survey, the average student spent £810 per month. This has increased by around 14% this year, with students now spending an average of £924 each month.

### Rent is by far the biggest monthly expense, accounting for about 45% of the monthly living costs.

### Despite students generally spending much more this year than last year, rent is actually relatively consistent with the previous two years. In 2020, the average student spent £418 per month on rent, and in 2021, it went up slightly to £421. This year, the average has returned to £418 per month.

## Cost Of Living Consideration – Budgeting and Saving

### 66% of students in the survey saved up money to go to university.

### We mentioned earlier that more students are using their savings as a source of money at uni. But, the proportion that saved up ahead of their degrees has actually decreased over the last couple of years.

### In 2021, 69% said they had saved up to go to uni, and in 2020, 70% said the same.

## Cost of Living Consideration – Financial Hardship

### The process for students applying for Financial Hardship has been updated, to ensure an improvement on the overall processing times.

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### We have replaced the 3 Financial Hardship forms with a new Financial Hardship Confirmation PDF, this is sent direct to students and can be uploaded via digital upload.

### We’ve made it easier for students to apply for financial hardship

### Students can now apply for financial hardship by uploading the application form and their evidence via their online account.

### Financial hardship form

### We’ve updated the financial hardship form to make it easier for students to complete. The updates also allow our staff to process the forms faster so that students can receive an answer sooner. The form and evidence can also be uploaded to their online account, so there’s no need to post anything to us.

### Who qualifies for financial hardship?

### Before issuing a financial hardship form to a student, advisers will make sure their circumstances fall into one of the set categories for consideration.

### We can only accept applications from students who:

### • have an overpayment on their account, and their entitlement has been reduced to recover the overpayment

### • have suspended from their studies and want their funding extended to cover the suspension period

### • need a payment brought forward due to being in financial hardship

### • have withdrawn from their studies, have been awarded grants (such as Childcare Grant) and want their funding extended beyond the point they left their studies (due to the student finance regulations, we cannot accept applications from withdrawn students who have not been awarded grants) We can only award grants, no maintenance loan, to the end of the term in which the student withdrew.

### The FHC form can now be sent by email, this option will be offered to students in the first instance as this is the quickest way for the to receive the form.

### Advisors should issue an explanatory email to students which contains a link to the FHC form and advises them of the next steps to take.

### Students can send Financial Hardship Confirmation form and any accompanying evidence via Digital Evidence upload.

### How to issue a financial hardship form

### Once it has been confirmed that a student is eligible to apply for financial hardship, advisers can provide them with the financial hardship form to complete.

### The form will be sent to the student via email, unless they specifically ask for a paper copy.

### When issuing the form to students, advisers will inform them how they should send us their completed form and evidence.

### Essential steps for students to be aware of and to follow when completing and returning their Hardship Form include:

### 1. Complete the financial hardship form and save the file to their device.

### 2. Gather their evidence to support their application, the form will explain what they need. The evidence will ideally be in a digital format such as a downloaded bank statement, we can also accept clear photographs.

### 3. Sign in to their online account and select ‘Upload supporting evidence’ under the heading ‘Manage your student finance’.

### 4. Upload the financial hardship form and supporting evidence together, uploading them separately can slow down the application process

## Repayment Policy – Plan 5 Information And Resources

### https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/16/get-the-facts-on-student-loans/

### https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/understanding-undergraduate-student-loans

### In February 2022, the government announced that English students starting an undergraduate course from August 2023, would have new repayment terms and conditions, known as Plan 5 student loans.

### The Department for Education has produced a set of resources that explain how student loans work in general and what having a Plan 5 loan means in terms of repayments.

### These resources are aimed at helping prospective students and those thinking about applying for a student loan.

### Please download and use these resources with your pupils and young people.

### The explanatory video is an especially useful information product that clearly explains student finance in just a few minutes.

### This could be played in a classroom or assembly for example, or sent directly to those who may find it useful, including the parents of young people.

## Student Resources - SFE Information Online

### To help students as they plan to go to university, we’ve launched a new space on the [**UCAS website**](http://www.ucas.com/sfe/). It has all the student finance information they need, including: what they can get,

### how to apply, and

### how and when to repay.

### There’s also student finance information for continuing students and for anyone thinking about doing a postgraduate course. For the most up-to-date information, encourage your students to visit [**www.ucas.com/sfe**](http://www.ucas.com/sfe/)

## Student Resources - SFE Information Online

### https://twitter.com/SF\_England

### https://www.facebook.com/SFEngland

### https://www.instagram.com/studentfinance\_england/

### https://www.youtube.com/SFEFilm

## SFW Practitioner Resources

### NEW SFW website – accessibility and usability refresh

### We’ve been working on this for several months as part of the accessibility project but today is the day the new site has gone live. Much easier to navigate, based on user feedback and design. Take a look for yourselves - [https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.studentfinancewales.co.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7CBen_Rutter%40slc.co.uk%7Cb7089a700cb145d131f408d9355f81aa%7C4c6898a98fca42f9aa9282cb3e252bc6%7C0%7C0%7C637599506581585832%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QJgyb6DilUURRewH2T6cMZ9SL2zyVEJosb2DxUMbe3s%3D&reserved=0)

## SFNI Practitioner Resources

### NEW SFW website – accessibility and usability refresh

### We’ve been working on this for several months as part of the accessibility project but today is the day the new site has gone live. Much easier to navigate, based on user feedback and design. Take a look for yourselves - [https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.studentfinancewales.co.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7CBen_Rutter%40slc.co.uk%7Cb7089a700cb145d131f408d9355f81aa%7C4c6898a98fca42f9aa9282cb3e252bc6%7C0%7C0%7C637599506581585832%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QJgyb6DilUURRewH2T6cMZ9SL2zyVEJosb2DxUMbe3s%3D&reserved=0)