Pete Offord
University of Exeter



DISCOVER UNIVERSITY

Introduction to student finance

Degree Apprenticeships

Pete Offord
School and College Engagement

University of Exeter

Two main costs associated with university

- Tuition fees
- Living expenses



Tuition Fees 2027/28 entry

- £7,530 - £10,050 per year (expected to rise)

- Exceptions;
  - BMBS Medicine
  - Courses with a year abroad or a year in industry
  - Foundation year courses

- Fees do not need to be paid up front



Student living costs

- Accommodation
- Books and equipment
- Food and drink
- Clubs, societies, and sports
- Clothes, toiletries, and haircuts
- TV and music subscriptions
- Travelling home
- Phone and internet
- Social life
- House deposits



Typical student living costs (per year)

Self-catered accommodation (40 weeks)	£6,590.75
Entertainment, going out, travel, food	£999.60
Supermarket spend	£1761.12
Clothing and fashion	£1479.60
Socialising	£1268.40
Household bills	£1488.96
Total	**£13,588.43**

Accommodation cost based on the University of Exeter average (Exeter campuses), Sept 2026. Other costs based on the NatWest Student Living Index, August 2025.



Sources of Income/Support

Government support	Student Loans Grants
Universities	Bursaries Scholarships
Other Sources	Scholarships Part time work

Sources of income: government 2027/28 entry

Type of funding	Amount (per year)	Repayable	Non-repayable	Means-tested	Non-means-tested
Tuition fee loan	Up to £10,050	✓			✓
Maintenance Loan	Up to £15,415*	✓		✓	

*The amount is variable depending on your household income and where you are studying. You could receive less than the £15,415 but no more than this.

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Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

- You may apply for a tuition fee loan (LLE) to cover the full costs of your tuition fees.
- **This amount is based on current rates (£10,050 per annum) and may change over time.**
- The maximum number of tuition fee years you can apply for is 4 (i.e., £40,200).
- Your total allowance is 4 years of full-time study or 480 credits.



LLE – Tuition Fees

- The number of credits you take out will affect how much money you take out of your allowance.

Example based on 2027 entry fees

- A 360 credit course over 3 years (120 credits per year) costs £10,050 per year.

- If you apply for the maximum Tuition Fee Loan, you'll use £30,150 of the £40,200 total. This will leave £10,050 for any future study.



LLE - Maintenance Loan

- You can receive up to £15,415 per year (for courses up to 30 weeks), depending on your university location and living situation
- Loans are reduced if you are studying under 120 credits (e.g. 60 credits = up to £7,707.50)
- You may need extra financial support (e.g. part-time work, bursaries and scholarships, or family help)



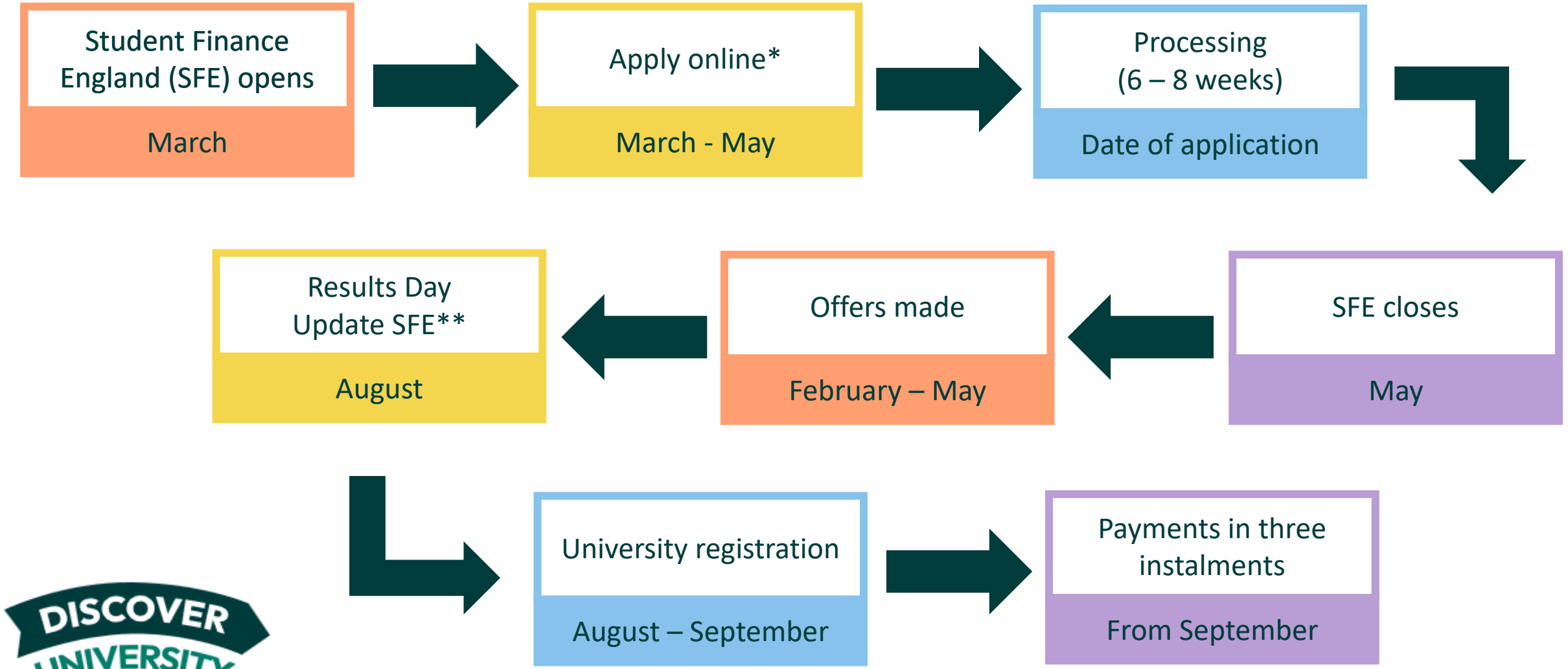
Maintenance loan and household income

Household income	Living at home while studying	Living away from home while studying	Living and studying in London
£25,000 or less	£9,118	£10,830	£14,135
£40,000	£6,825	£8,512	£11,777
£65,000	£4,013	£5,048	£7,846

2026/27 full-time students, not eligible for those on benefits or aged over 60.
*Note, this is a **sliding scale** and provides only an estimate of what you may be entitled to.*

The application process

*you do not need to know your university destination when applying
**if you have made a change of institution, you must report this to SFE



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Student Finance England (SFE) opens

March

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SFE closes

May

YOU MUST APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE EVERY YEAR OF STUDY

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August – September

Payments in three instalments

From September

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Paying back your government loans

- April, after graduation
- Repay 9% of income over **£25,000** (subject to change)
- Like a 'graduate tax' - deducted from your monthly salary
- Accumulate interest in line with inflation (**Retail Price Index** , currently 3.4%)
- Loan is written off after 40 years



Sources of information

- Student finance login - GOV.UK
  Student finance calculator - GOV.UK
- Prepare For University & Your Studies - How to Get Ready
- Home | Blackbullion **(Search for bursaries and scholarships)**

- Funding University – MoneySavingExpert **(Parental Contribution Calculator)**

- Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: Disabled Students' Allowance - GOV.UK
- www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/studentfinance/article-1633418/Student-budget-calculator-spend-fund-it.html
- www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html

  Undergraduate Funding and Scholarships | University of Exeter

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Sources of income: universities

Type of funding	Amount (per year)	Repayable	Non-repayable	Means-tested	Non-means-tested
Fee waivers and bursaries	Varies		✓	✓	
Scholarships/ awards	Varies		✓		✓

Examples
Bursaries – Access to Exeter (up to £2,300 p/a), Penryn Bus Transport (£200)
Scholarships – Devon Scholarship (up to £250 p/a), Horwill Memorial Scholarships (up to £125 p/a)

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Other sources of income

Source	Where to find it
Charities and Trusts	Scholarship Hub | Find Student Bursaries & Grants
Employer Scholarships	Scholarship Hub | Find Student Bursaries & Grants
Specific Subject support (NHS)	NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF) | NHSBSA
Part-time work	University job boards, local employers
Savings/help from home	Start talking about it at home!

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Key things to remember

- You can take out a **student loan for all your tuition fees**, and to cover costs **towards your living expenses**, which do not need to be paid upfront

- Applications take on average 6-8 weeks to process, but can take longer – **get your application in as soon as possible**

- You must **apply for student loans every year** you are studying

- Universities can offer **bursaries**, **scholarships**, **grants** and **fee waivers** to support with costs

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Degree Apprenticeships

University of Exeter

What are **degree** apprenticeships?

- **Jobs** with **training**
- An **alternative** way to access university
- **Funded**, no tuition fees
- **Salaried**, paid a wage by your employer
- **Focused** on job role or industry



Apprenticeship salaries*

Age 16-18	£8 per hour (Apprentice rate)
Aged 19 or over and in your first year	£8 per hour (Apprentice rate)
Aged 19 or 20 and have completed your first year	£10.85 per hour (National Minimum Wage)
Aged 21+	£12.71 per hour (National Living Wage)

Many of our apprentices start on much higher than this, e.g. £28,000 per year in London

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*As of April 2026

Apprenticeships: how do they work?



On-the-job training with an employer - competitive salaries



Off-the-job training with a training provider – minimum 20% of normal working hours



End Point Assessment on relevant skills, knowledge, and behaviours

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Employers we work with

We partner with over 400 employers across England, from micro businesses to huge multinational organisations.









































University of Exeter degree apprenticeships

Programmes suitable for school/college leavers:

- Engineering (BEng)
  - Civil
  - Electro-Mechanical
  - Electrical and Electronic
  - Manufacturing
  - Mine
- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
- Digital Marketer (BSc)

Financial Services Professional (BSc) (Investment or Retail)
Accounting Finance Manager (BSc)

Operations Manager (CertHE)
People Professional (CertHE)
Project Management (BSc)

Adult Nursing (BSc)
Diagnostic Radiographer (BSc)

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Degree Apprenticeships with University of Exeter

Supporting **3,000+** apprentices and **450** employers across 20 apprenticeship programmes.

Gold award at the QS Reimagine Education Awards 2024. Winning the Power of Partnerships category, which recognises institutions that use partnerships to enhance the learning experience, inspire others to collaborate and influence the educational landscape.

Multicultural Apprenticeship Award for University of the Year 2024. This award recognises the deep commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in its apprenticeship programmes.

Highly commended in the Education Practice Award (Experienced Category) at the British Academy of Management Awards 2024. This award was in recognition of our ability to co-create curriculum with employers for degree apprentices and providing access and success for all.

Outstanding Higher Education Partner of the Year. Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Awards 2023.

The University of Exeter Business School was named Business School of the Year in the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards.

At the Apprenticeship and Training Awards 2025 The University of Exeter were awarded the Diversity and Inclusion award and received Highly Commended for Sustainability in Apprenticeship training

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University apprentice achievement rate:

80.7%

National average apprentice achievement rate:

60.4%

University apprentice retention rate:

83.0%

University overall pass rate:

97.2%

How to apply – Degree Apprenticeships

Training providers

- Often promote apprenticeship vacancies they teach
- Vacancies webpage
- Main university programme
- web pages

Gov.uk and other search engines

- Search vacancies across country and filter by location, level, sector etc.
- No one comprehensive search engine, so best to combine
- Check whether apprenticeships available for different jobs

Employer websites

- If you know the company you want to work with
- Apply directly through their website

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Links and resources

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships
- www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk
- https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/



Find out more



Open days
Virtual tour
Live chat



Online events
Academic Competitions
Research resources



Newsletter
Online events
Guides and support

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Visit the University of Exeter

Open Days

Saturday 3 October – Exeter Campuses
Saturday 10 October – **Penryn** Campus, Cornwall
Saturday 24 October – Exeter Campuses



For Supporters

We encourage parents and supporters to engage through our regular communications and webinars, which will keep you informed about the latest developments, opportunities, and resources at the university.

Sessions include; student finance, degree apprenticeships, supporting your student, preparing for results day and more.

More information for supporters and all sessions can be found at exeter.ac.uk/supporter



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