Nursing Qualifications and Full-Time Loans

Blended Learning Nursing Degree Fees and Funding guidance note

The Open University BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) Blended Learning degree, offered in partnership with the University of the West England and Middlesex University has been confirmed by the Department for Education, Health Education England as an ‘in attendance’ course, meaning that it attracts the full student support package.

What support is available?

Tuition Fee Loans

For many people, a Tuition Fee Loan is the best way to fund study, regardless of age or income. Tuition Fee Loans are provided by Student Finance England and are the most popular payment method for undergraduate students.

Tuition Fee Loans in a nutshell

- Nothing at all to pay up front.
- Nothing to pay for up to four years.
- Repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe, and are deducted automatically by your employer through the UK tax system.
- You only start making repayments when your salary exceeds the income threshold, currently £27,295. If your salary stops or drops below £27,295 your payments stop too.
- Interest is applied to your balance at the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus up to three per cent, once the University confirms that you are participating on your qualification.
- You’re not committed to borrowing the cost of a full degree – you only borrow what you need to cover the coming year’s fees.
- You can pay a Tuition Fee Loan off early if you want to.
- After 30 years, any remaining balance you owe is written off, no matter how much is left.
- If you already hold a degree, you are still able to access a tuition fee loan for a nursing qualification under a relaxation of rules for certain subject areas regarding previous study.

This means that if you earn £30,000 a year, you’ll only need to pay back 9% of your income above £27,295 which works out at £20 a month. Not insignificant, but achievable for many people.

Example repayment amounts (for illustrative purposes only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income each year before tax</th>
<th>Monthly repayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to £27,295</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£35,000</td>
<td>£58.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£49,000</td>
<td>£163.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligibility

For further information on Full Time Loans and to review the eligibility criteria please go to: Student finance: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-)

Blended Nursing and Full-Time Loans May 2022
Our Student Recruitment Team can answer any queries you may have. They are available by phone on 0300 303 5303.

**Applying for your loan**

As a student on the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) Blended Learning degree, which is unlike other Open University qualifications, you will need to apply for a **Full-Time Loan** of £9,000 per year, rather than the Part Time Tuition Fee Loan that Open University students usually use to fund their study.

Applications for Full-Time Loans usually open in February each year and can take up to 10 weeks to process so it is essential that you apply as early as possible. You will need to apply online through [Student Finance England](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/how-youre-assessed-and-paid-2022-to-2023) and may need to have details at hand to help them verify your identity, such as your passport number. You will need to provide proof that your loan has been approved before we can register you, should you be accepted onto the programme.

Tuition Fee Loans are administered under ‘Seasonal Academic Years’ – where the standard academic year is adjusted depending on when your modules start in your first year. This means you will only be required to apply for a loan three times, for each of the three parts of the programme.

**Selecting your course on the SLC database**

When you make your application on the Student Finance England website, you will be asked to select your qualification. It is crucial that you select the correct version of your course with the start date that applies to you. You can enter the relevant code for your course listed below into the search box, then choose the correct one from the drop-down list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLC Course Name</th>
<th>SLC Course Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Honours) Nursing (Adult) in partnership with The University of the West of England R39</td>
<td>SLC course code: 918676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Honours) Nursing (Adult) in partnership with Middlesex University R39</td>
<td>SLC course code: 918677</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuition Fee Loan applications for the 2022-2023 academic year are now open.

**Maintenance Loan for living costs**

You may also request additional support towards your living costs through a maintenance loan from SLC. You may be asked to submit details of your household income as part of your application and awards will vary according to your personal circumstances. You will have to repay this loan.

Further information on the support that may be available to you from SLC can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students)
You can apply for this additional support when you apply for a Tuition Fee Loan. Alternatively, if you have already applied for your Tuition Fee Loan you can amend your application in your student finance account https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login.

If you are awarded a maintenance loan from SLC, payment will be made directly to you once the Open University have confirmed that you are registered and in attendance on the course. The OU can confirm registration after Day 15 of your module. Once this confirmation has been provided to SLC, payments are scheduled to be made in each ‘term’. This means that for a course that starts in February 2023, you would be likely to receive payments in the following months (providing that you meet the eligibility criteria for confirming registration):

- Late February 2023
- April 2023
- August 2023

**NHS Learning Support Fund**

The NHS Learning Support fund provides additional funding for eligible healthcare students. The support available for eligible students includes Training Grant, Parental Support and Travel and Dual Accommodation Travel Expenses (TDAE)

For further information about the support and eligibility criteria for the different funds and to apply, please visit:

https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund

You must apply for these funds within six months of the start of the academic year. Details of when you can apply for this, will be included on their website using the link above.

Payment for this support is made in three instalments over the academic year. You must be in attendance on your course to receive these payments and the OU must notify NHSBSA that you are in attendance before the payments can be released to you.

If you course starts in February 2023, you must be in attendance on your course on 1st March 2023 in order for us to notify NHSBSA that you are attending the course.

Payment dates for the Learning Support Fund differ depending on the date that your Academic Year commences. For courses starting in February 2023, guide payment dates are as follows:

- Payment 1 – Late March 2023
- Payment 2 – Late July 2023
- Payment 3 – Late November 2023

If you withdraw from your course, you must inform SFE, NHSBSA and the Open University as soon as possible in order that any relevant / outstanding support payments are stopped to avoid you being in an overpayment position with SFE and/or NHSBSA.
# Useful contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact Telephone / Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course advice</td>
<td>SST</td>
<td>01908 541070 or on 0300 303 0529 Opening hours 8am-5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General fees and funding advice from the Open University</td>
<td>Student Fees, Open University</td>
<td>01908 653411 Opening hours 9am-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queries about Tuition Fee Loan and / or Maintenance Loan application</td>
<td>Student Finance England</td>
<td>0300 100 0607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queries about NHS Learning Support Fund</td>
<td>NHS Learning Support Fund</td>
<td>0300 330 0521</td>
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