

Postgraduate Guide to Student Finance Northern Ireland

Student Finance Northern Ireland (SFNI): The Basics

SFNI offers a Tuition Fee loan for students studying postgraduate degrees. This loan is for anyone studying a Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate, Certificate (PgCert), or Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip).

The Tuition Fee Loan is paid directly to the University, and is intended to help cover the Tuition Fee costs.

The amount of Tuition Fee Loan you will receive is dependent on how long your course is, and how much it costs. SFNI can provide up to £10,000 of course costs.

To be eligible for this loan, you must:

- Be a UK, Irish or EU national (unless you have settled status in the UK)
- Be a UK National or family members of a UK national who has been living in the EEA or Switzerland
- Have an eligible exception residency type (i.e. Refugee status)
- Be studying in the UK or specific providers in The Republic of Ireland
- Have never received postgraduate funding before

It is recommended that you apply online at studentfinancenir.co.uk, however you can also get a form to fill in from the SFNI website. The final deadline for applying is 9 months after the first day of your academic year. You can still make changes to your loan request up to 1 month before the end of the academic year.

Further Support

SFNI also offers Disabled Students Allowance (DSA). DSA is a non-repayable grant which can help with the extra costs you may have in relation to your course as a direct result of your disability, long-term health, mental-health condition or specific learning difference. The specific support you receive is determined by a Study Needs Assessment.

Students can apply for DSA alongside a tuition fee loan, or just DSA. Please visit studentfinancenir.co.uk to access the relevant DSA application forms.

Repayments

You will begin repaying your postgraduate loan from the April after you finish studying. The amount you repay on your student loan will depend on your income. For the 2026/27 academic year, you will repay 9% of your income over £26,900. Please note that if you already have an undergraduate loan, there will be a single repayment of this 9%, rather than two separate. Repayments are taken directly from your salary.

Choosing your Course

The deadline for applying to SFNI is nine months before your course begins, however you can update your application up to one month before starting your course. You can apply on the SFNI website, or using a form if you do not require the tuition fee loan.

Please note that when entering the university institute name and course details on your student finance application form, **you need to use the institute name "University of East London", not UCFB.**

Need Further Guidance?

If you have any further questions that you need answers to, please scan the QR code opposite which will take you to the UCFB website where you can find more information and advice and contact details for other teams within UCFB.



If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at StudentFinance@ucfb.ac.uk or via 0333 241 7333 - Option 2 then Option 2 again



SFNI also have their own useful guide on the Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan that you can access using the QR code.

Alternatively, for further information, you can visit studentfinanceni.co.uk, or call on 0300 100 0493 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 - 18:00)