

Undergraduate Guide to Student Finance Northern Ireland

Student Finance Northern Ireland (SFNI): The Basics

SFNI provides Northern Irish students with funding for undergraduate, postgraduate, and other Higher Education courses.

For undergraduate students, there is a loan available to help you pay your tuition fee, if you are studying outside of the Republic of Ireland:

1. **A Tuition Fee Loan**

The Tuition Fee Loan covers the fee for your course. If you are studying in England, you can claim up to £9790 per year. This is a loan you need to repay with interest - there is more information on this below.

To help with living costs, there are three main parts to the SFNI package:

1. **A Maintenance Loan**

The Maintenance Loan helps cover everyday costs. The amount you receive is means-tested and depends on where you live during your studies.

2. **A Maintenance Grant**

The Maintenance Grant is a non-repayable grant that is also means-tested. This is intended to reduce the amount you would take as a loan, if you earn below a certain household income.

3. **A Special Support Grant**

The Special Support Grant is another non-repayable means-tested grant for students in circumstances that may impact their studies.

Loan Entitlement

SFNI suggest that students submit an application to see what they may be eligible for. SFNI work out your loan entitlement for you when you submit evidence.

Further Support

SFNI offers additional funding for students, such as **Disabled Students Allowance**, a **Childcare Grant**, an **Adult Dependents' Grant**, a **Parents' Learning Allowance**, and a **Travel Grant**. Please check their website for further information.

Repayments

You will start to make repayments on your Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan the April after your graduate, and if you earn above the threshold, which is currently £26065 in Northern Ireland. You will pay 9% of whatever you earn above this.

The payments will be made automatically and your balance can be checked on the SFNI Website.

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 have a useful guide on their website for undergraduate students, which details what you may be eligible for, how to apply, and further useful information and contacts. Scan the QR code to see this guide. Alternatively, you can visit SFNI's website at <http://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk> or call them on 0300 100 0077