

### High Level Messages For 2012 Entrants

1. Eligible students will not have to pay up front for their tuition. The cost of tuition will be paid by a loan which students will only start to repay once they have left their course and are earning over £21,000.
2. From Autumn 2012, universities will be able to charge up to £6,000 a year for university courses.
3. Some will be able to charge up to £ 9,000 a year for their courses but will need to meet strict criteria to make sure that students from all income groups can access those courses.

### Supporting Messages for 2012 Entrants

4. Eligible students will not have to pay up front for their tuition. The cost will be covered by a loan which students will only start to repay once they have left their course and are earning over £21,000.
5. Full time students may be entitled to a grant of up to £3,250 towards living costs such as food, accommodation and travel. Students from families with incomes up to £42,000 will be entitled to a partial grant.
6. Loans for living costs are available for all eligible full-time students.
7. From 2012, loans for tuition will be extended to eligible part-time first-degree students who complete a minimum of 25% of the full time course load per year. Part-time students are not eligible for maintenance loans or grants.
8. Students from lower income families will be able to benefit from a new £150m National Scholarships Programme. The details are yet to be finalised – universities will be able to provide further information once they are known.
9. Universities charging above £6,000 a year for any course will need to meet tough conditions to ensure that students from all income groups can access those courses. They will be monitored by the Office for Fair Access, which can take action against universities that fail to deliver on their access commitments [www.offa.org.uk](http://www.offa.org.uk)
10. Many universities offer scholarships to help students cover tuition and living costs. Contact the university to find out what is available.
11. The changes do not apply to 2011 entrants except for those who want to defer entry until 2012. For further information go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

### For 2011 deferred entry students

12. Students who defer entry from 2011 to 2012 will come under the new arrangements in place from September 2012.
13. Individual universities will set their own tuition charges up to a maximum of £9,000 per year. There could be different costs for different courses. Details will be provided in university websites and prospectuses.

14. For information further information go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

#### Repayment for 2012 Entrants (full-time students)

15. You will only start to repay your tuition and maintenance loan after you have left higher education and are earning at least £21,000 (up from £15,000 currently).
16. You will only start repaying in the April after you leave higher education, even if you already earn over £21,000.
17. If for any reason your income falls below £21,000 your repayments will be suspended.
18. Repayments will be 9% of income above £21,000, so the amount repaid each month will depend on earnings. Someone earning £21,500, for example – currently the salary of a newly-qualified teacher – would initially make repayments of just £4 per month. The monthly repayment would increase to £23 for someone earning £24,000 per year; £30 on a salary of £25,000; £45 on £27,000; and £68 on £30,000.
19. The £21,000 threshold will increase in line with earnings from 2016 onwards.
20. All outstanding repayments will be written off after 30 years.
21. The repayment process is simple as it will be deducted automatically from your pay packet through the tax system.
22. Interest on your loan will be charged at inflation plus 3% while you are studying, and up until the April after you leave university.
23. From the April after you leave university if you are earning below £21,000, interest will be applied at the rate of inflation.
24. Graduates earning between £21,000 and £41,000 will be charged interest on a sliding scale up to a maximum of inflation plus 3%.
25. Graduates earning above £41,000, will be charged interest at the full rate of inflation plus 3%.
26. For information further information go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

#### Generic Messages

27. These proposed changes only apply to English universities and colleges.