

# NASMA Student Finance Update for Academic Year 2025/26

# Student Finance England Student Finance Wales

By Stacey-May Fox & Stephen Jones Funding Information Services Team Student Loans Company



### Contents



#### What has been confirmed for AY 2025/26? SFE & SFW

**Tuition Fee Loans** 

Maintenance Loans

Household income

Postgraduate Loans

**Foundation Years** 

Disabled Students Allowance

**Grants for Dependants** 

**NHS** Funding

#### Repayments

Plan 5

Plan 2

#### **Applications**

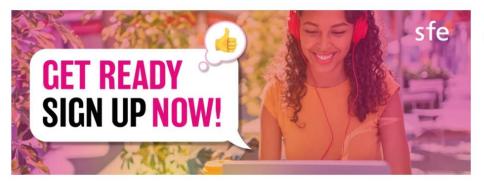
#### **Student Messages**

How to Apply

Resources

My TSR > SFE Student Finance Zone

#### Get ready! Find out when to apply for student finance



Brought to you by The Student Room & Student Finance England (SFE)

Sign up to find out when applications for 2025 to 2026 open!



# Updates for Student Finance England AY 25/26

### **Tuition Fee Loans**



Maximum tuition fees for 2025/26 in England have now been confirmed by the Government:

Maximum tuition fee for standard full-time courses offered will be £9,535 Maximum tuition fee for standard part-time courses offered will be £7,145

#### **Key Points to Note:**

- Tuition Fee Loans are non means tested (we don't need parent's income for this bit!)
- Loans are paid directly to the university on behalf of the student
- Most of the 1.6m students every year apply for the maximum loan available
- It is the easy part of the application just tell us which university you are going to and how much you want to borrow (usually students tick 'max')

### Maintenance Loans – Which Tier?



Maximum (Maintenance) loan for living costs for new **full-time** students and eligible continuing **full time** 2016 cohort students:

Loan Rate	2016 Cohort Full-Time Students	Entitled to Benefits	Aged Over 60 First Day of First AY
Parental Home	£8,877	£10,473	
Elsewhere	£10,544	£12,019	C4 461
London £13,762		£15,008	£4,461
Overseas	£12,076	£13,442	

# Maintenance Loans - NMT, MT and Maximum



2016 cohort FT students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60 (AY 2025/26 Rates TBC):

Full Year Student*	Maximum Loan	Non-Income Assessed	Income Assessed
Parental Home	£8,877	£3,907	£4,970
Elsewhere	£10,544	£4,915	£5,629
London	£13,762	£6,853	£6,909
Overseas	£12,076	£5,838	£6,238

<sup>\*</sup>Lower amounts available for final year students

### Maintenance Loans – Household Contribution



2016 cohort FT students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60:

Household Income	Home (£58,349)	Elsewhere (£62,377)	London (£70,116)
£25,000 & under	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£30,000	£8,132	£9,791	£12,997
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£40,000	£6,642	£8,285	£11,465
£45,000	£5,897	£7,532	£10,700
£50,000	£5,152	£6,779	£9,934
£55,000	£4,407	£6,026	£9,168
£60,000	£3,907	£5,273	£8,403
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£70,116 & over	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853

### Postgraduate Loans



Maximum loans for new students starting postgraduate master's or doctoral degree courses in AY 2025/26 will be to:

Maximum	Postarad	uate IV	laster's l	Loan
Tries and an in	. ootgiaa	GIGHTO IV		

£12,858

#### Maximum Postgraduate Doctoral Loan

£30,301

Maximum Postgraduate Disabled Students' Allowance

£27,783

### Foundation Years AY 25/26



#### DFE ANNOUNCEMENT AY 25/26

The maximum tuition fees for classroom-based foundation years will be reduced from the start of academic year 2025/26:

This will ensure courses are delivered more efficiently and at lower costs to students

These changes will:

Reduce maximum tuition fees and loans for foundation years in **classroom-based** subjects (such as business and social sciences) **to £5,760** 

The maximum fees and loans for foundation years in other (higher cost) subjects will:

Remain at the fee cap applicable to the relevant academic year at Approved (fee cap) Providers (due to rise **to £9,535** in AY 2025/26)

### Disabled Students Allowance (SFE)



The maximum allowance (£27,783) will apply to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate DSA recipients in 2025/26. This replaced the four DSA allowances available in previous years

- Work on DSA Reforms
- Work on DSA Assessment Improvements

Previous Allowance Categories	Single DSA Rate 25/26
Non-Medical Helper	£27,783
Specialist Equipment	+
General Allowance	Further DSA support above the regulated maximum to pay for additional
Travel Allowance	disability related travel costs

### Disabled Students Allowance Process



#### 1. APPLY

Apply online at the same time / after you apply for core support. You will need to apply via the paper form if:

- You are not applying for core support
- You are a Part Time student
- You are a Postgraduate student

#### 2. DISABILITY EVIDENCE

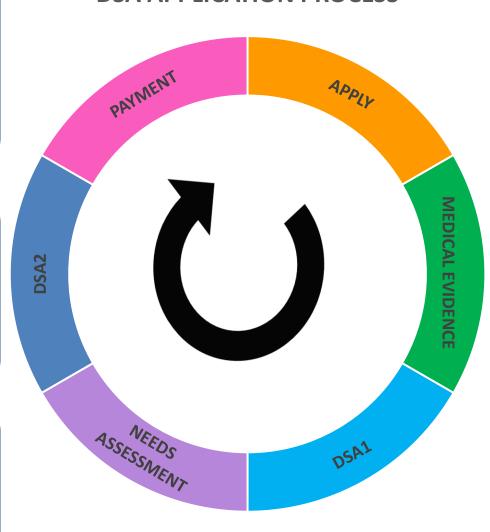
Supply your Disability Evidence in one of these three formats:,

- Diagnostic Report (learning difficulties)
- Letter from a GP or other Medical Professional
- SFE Disability Evidence Form

#### 3. DSA1 LETTER

SLC will send you a DSA1 letter, confirming your eligibility for DSA and confirming your supplier who will help book your needs assessment

#### **DSA APPLICATION PROCESS**



#### 4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The assessment is not a test of any sort, but an opportunity to discuss the most appropriate support options for you. The assessment can take up to two hours and you can choose to have the needs assessment in-person or online, via a video call

#### 5. DSA2 LETTER

This letter confirms your package of support and instructions for ordering specialist equipment / arranging other support

#### 6. PAYMENT

Suppliers invoice DSA Team directly for the support they have provided.
Some students are also agreed a General Allowance and are able to send receipts (student claims) to claim back these costs

### Dependants Grants - SFE



OFD AV 05/00			CCG (*52 Week Rate)		
GFD AY 25/26 Income Assessments	PLA	ADG	1 Child	2+ Children	
Maximum entitlement	£2,024	£3,545	£10,380.24*	£17,796.48*	
Minimum payable	£50	£0.01	£0.01	£0.01	
Lower income threshold for <b>maximum</b> grant	£14,910	£8,746	£9,727	£11,118	
Upper income threshold for <b>minimum</b> grant	£18,957.98	£15,835.98	£20,107.23	£28,914.47	



\*Weekly maximum CCG amount for one child: £199.62

\*Weekly maximum CCG amount for two or more children: £342.24

### NHS Learning Support Fund



From AY 2020/21, new and continuing UK domiciled nursing, midwifery and many allied health students undertaking pre-registration courses at **English** universities will receive a £5,000 Training Grant each year:

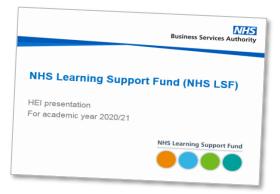
Dietetics	Occupational Therapy		
Dental Hygiene or Dental Therapy (Level 5 and Level 6 courses)	Operating Department Practitioner (Level 5 and Level 6 courses)		
Orthoptics	Orthotics and Prosthetics		
Physiotherapy	Podiatry or Chiropody		
Radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)	Speech and Language Therapy		
Paramedicine	Midwifery		
Nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing/social work)			

Extra payments worth up to £3,000 per academic year will be available for eligible student's and they could receive;

- £2,000 towards childcare costs (Parental Support)
- £1,000 if they're a new student studying a shortage specialism\*

Areas which will attract 'specialist subject payments' have been confirmed:

Mental Health Nursing	Learning Disability Nursing			
Prosthetics and Orthotics	Orthoptics and Podiatry			
Radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)				









# Updates for Student Finance Wales AY 25/26

### SFW Fee and Funding AY 25/26



#### AY 2025/26 Welsh Government Announcement – Fee and Funding Changes

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the **Minister for Further and Higher** Education announced **changes to the undergraduate tuition fees** and other student support arrangements for academic year (AY) 2025/26 in Wales:

 Written Statement: Financial support for higher education students in the 2025/26 academic year and tuition fee limits (4 December 2024) | GOV.WALES

These announced changes will apply to:

- Undergraduate tuition fees increase from £9,250 to £9,535
- Loans for support with living costs increase by 1.6%
- Grants for Dependants & Disabled Students Allowance increase by 1.6%

The Welsh government intends to lay regulations implementing these changes in early 2025:

These regulations will be subject to Senedd approval

### SFW AY 2025/26 UG Maintenance Support Rates



Income	Liv	ing with	parents	nts		Living away from home, outside of London		Living away from home, studying in London	
	Grant	Loan	Total	Grant	Loan	Total	Grant	Loan	Total
£18,370 or less	£6,885	£3,595		£8,100	£4,245		£10,124	£5,291	
£20,000	£6,651	£3,829		£7,817	£4,528		£9,760	£5,655	
£25,000	£5,930	£4,550		£6,947	£5,398		£8,643	£6,772	
£30,000	£5,209	£5,271		£6,078	£6,267		£7,526	£7,889	
£35,000	£4,488	£5,992	C40 400	£5,208	£7,137	C40 04E	£6,408	£9,007	C4E 44E
£40,000	£3,767	£6,713	£10,480	£4,339	£8,006	£12,345	£5,291	£10,124	£15,415
£45,000	£3,047	£7,433		£3,469	£8,876		£4,174	£11,241	
£50,000	£2,326	£8,154		£2,600	£9,745		£3,056	£12,359	
£55,000	£1,605	£8,875		£1,730	£10,615		£1,939	£13,476	
£59,200 or more	£1,000	£9,480		£1,000	£11,345		£1,000	£14,415	

All numbers have been rounded to the nearest £1 and therefore grants and loan amounts displayed in tables may not always add to the total support

### SFW AY 25/26 Postgraduate Funding



#### **Postgraduate Masters Loan**

Eligible students may be entitled to a loan, as a contribution to costs, if studying a designated postgraduate Master's degree course. The total amount of support available is non-means-tested and paid directly to the student.

The support available for courses commencing on or after 01 August 2024 is a non-means-tested loan up to £19,255. Courses can be full or part-time and between one and four years in length. Payments are made in tranches across the number of years of the postgraduate Master's degree course.

Existing arrangements will continue for continuing postgraduate students who started their courses in previous years.

#### **Postgraduate Doctoral Loan**

Support is available to eligible students. Students can borrow up to a maximum of £29,130, as a contribution to costs, over the period of the doctoral programme. Courses can be full or part-time and between three and eight years in length.

### Disabled Students Allowance (SFW)



The maximum allowance £34,000 applies to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate DSA recipients in 2025/26.

Disabled Students' Allowances provide help towards the additional costs a student may face as result of their disability, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty:

#### **DSA Support:**

- Is available in addition to the standard student finance package,
- Does not have to be repaid,
- Is not affected by household income,
- Looks at the specific needs of the individual student

### Support For Caring Responsibilities



The maximum Adult Dependants' Grant - £3,407

An Adult Dependant's Grant may be payable to a student who has a dependent partner or other adult dependant. Where the student does not have a partner, a student may be eligible for this grant in respect of one adult dependant whose net income does not exceed £3,923.

The maximum Parents' Learning Allowance - £1,945

Parents' Learning Allowance is additional funding to help students who are also parents. This can be used for everyday costs of study, such as books, study materials and travel.

The maximum Childcare Grant payable which covers 85% of actual childcare costs up to a set limit, £192
per week for one child or £329 per week for two or more children

Childcare Grant is additional income assessed funding to help students with children pay the costs of childcare during study.

### SFW NHS Courses



#### **Students Taking NHS Courses in Wales**

The Welsh government has confirmed that it will continue to provide NHS Bursary support for students who elect to study an eligible health related programme in Wales

- From 2024/25 all full time SFW funded students on healthcare courses (including medicine and dentistry) will be able to apply for a full rate of maintenance loan during their bursary years
- All student Wales and are UK domiciled can apply for NHS Bursary support, based upon individuals
  committing in advance to take up the opportunity to work in Wales post qualification for a period of two years
- Otherwise, Welsh domiciled students will have access to the standard student support package available from Student Finance Wales. Standard UG Package of support also available from SFE/SFNI/SAAS for rUK students studying healthcare courses in Wales
- For SFW students studying in Wales who are receiving the bursary will still have their previous study disregarded. Those not in receipt of the bursary will have all previous study taken into account when being assessed for funding

### SFW Policy Enhancements - AY 2025/26



#### **Settled as an Event**

From AY 25/26, students who are granted settled status for any reason during the course, not just under the EUSS, can become eligible for funding as an event (subject to satisfying other eligibility requirements)

Students who acquire a settled status after the first day of the first academic year of their course (or course start date where applicable) will qualify for support:

- as applicable to the category they are eligible under, and
- provided they apply within the relevant regulatory deadlines for applying for support when eligible as an event

#### Examples of settled status:

- British citizen
- Irish citizen
- Exempt from immigration control under the Immigration Act 1971
- Indefinite leave to enter (ILE)
- Indefinite leave to remain (ILR)

### SFW Policy Enhancements - AY 2025/26



#### **Settled as an Event**

Where a student is granted settled status and thereby becomes eligible as an event, they will be eligible for the following funding:

Tuition fee loan in the academic year in which the grant of leave (i.e. 'the event') occurs **provided that the event occurred within the first three months of the academic year**, and in subsequent course years;

Loans for living costs, adult dependants' grant, parents' learning allowance, childcare grant, maintenance grant, special support grant and travel grant in any subsequent years of the course, and, in the year of the event.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) from the date of the event and in subsequent course years.



# Repayments

### Plan 5 Repayment AY 25/26 (SFE)



From academic year 2023/24, loan repayment policies for undergraduate students in England undertook a change.

Key facts about how repayments now work, include;

- Students won't have to make repayments until their income is over a set threshold, which will be £25,000 a
  year until April 2027
- From April 2027 the threshold is set to **rise annually** with inflation (RPI)
- If students study a full-time course, they will be due to **start repaying** from the April after completing their course or leaving/withdrawing from higher education
- A 2026 graduate who starts a job with a salary of £28,000 a year, would expect to repay around £17 per month over financial year 2027-28
- If a student's **income drops below the threshold**, their repayments will stop, and any outstanding balance will be written-off **40 years** after entering repayment

Information: educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/24/get-the-facts-about-student-loan-reform

### Plan 5 Repayment AY 25/26 – Monthly



#### **Government Rationale for £25,000 Threshold:**

How much per month? (projected figures)

Gross Annual Income	Approx Monthly (2023/24) @ £25,000	Approx Monthly (2027/28) @ £25,710
£25,000	£0	£0
£28,000	£22	£17
£30,000	£37	£32
£35,000	£75	£69
£40,000	£112	£107
£45,000	£150	£144
£50,000	£187	£182

### Plan 2 Repayment AY 25/26 (SFW)



- On the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the Welsh Government confirmed that the repayment threshold for SFW students will remain at £27,295 until April 2025 <a href="www.gov.wales/written-statement-student-loan-repayment-threshold-borrowers-who-began-undergraduate-course-or">www.gov.wales/written-statement-student-loan-repayment-threshold-borrowers-who-began-undergraduate-course-or</a>
- The income threshold for repayment of loans will rise to £28,470 from 6 April 2025 to 5 April 2026.
- Students won't make repayments until their future income is over the repayment threshold.
- If they study full-time, students will be due to start repaying in the April after completing or leaving/withdrawing from their course\*
- They'll repay 9% of any income earned over the threshold and if employed, deductions will be made from their pay through the HMRC tax system
- If their income falls below the threshold, their repayments will stop



\*Any outstanding loan balance will be written off **30 years** after entering repayment

### Student Loan Repayment SFW - Monthly



Estimated monthly repayments based on increased £28,470 threshold:

Gross Annual Income	Approximate Monthly Income	Monthly Repayment (Approx)
£28,470	£2,372	£0
£30,000	£2,500	£11
£35,000	£2,916	£48
£40,000	£3,333	£86
£45,000	£3,750	£123
£50,000	£4,166	£161
£60,000	£5,000	£236



# AY 25/26 APPLICATIONS

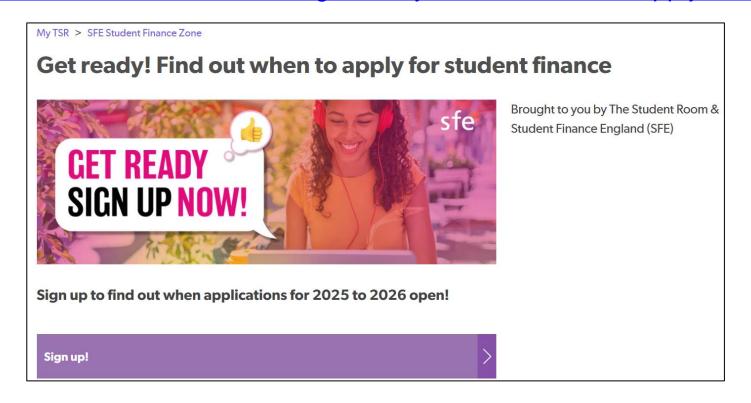
### SFE Mailing List



SFE Mailing List is now open!

We encourage students to sign up to our Mailing List to find out when UG applications launch for AY 25/26.

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/get-ready-find-out-when-to-apply-for-student-finance

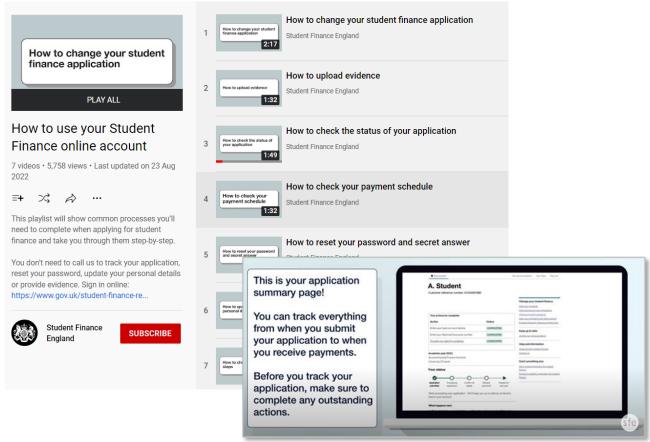


### Application Enhancement – "How To"



A guidance page has been added to GOV.UK providing an answer to some of the most common questions asked on student finance and applications. Essential messages are provided for each subject along with a <u>selection of short films</u> and links to additional information or resources





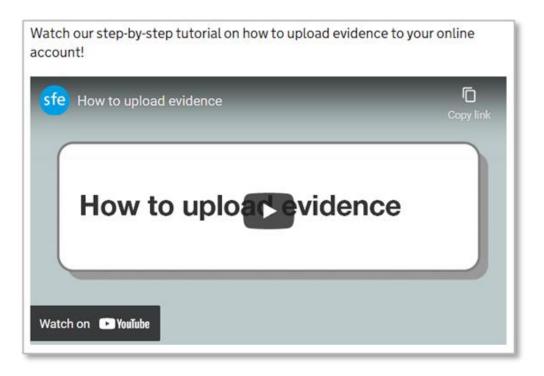
### Application Enhancement – Digital Evidence Upload



Providing SFE and SFW with the right evidence in the right way at the right time can seem confusing for many students and their parents or partners:

 To address this, we have created <u>guidance and a short film</u> to explain evidence requirements and submission, including digital upload





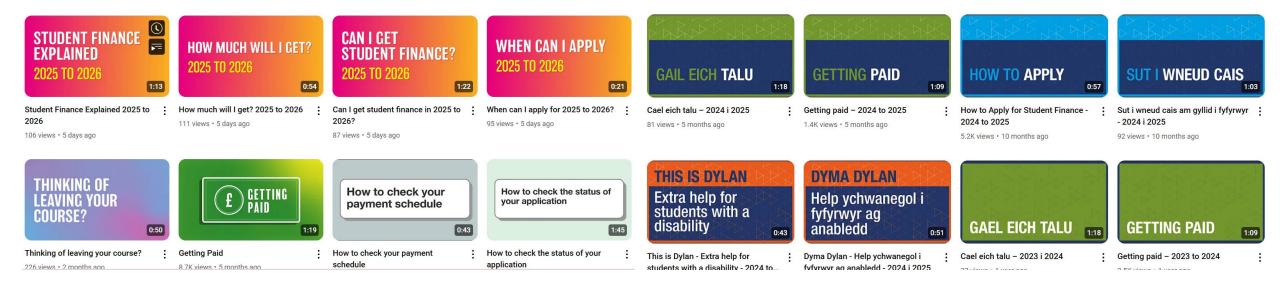
### Resources - videos



You can access the suite of videos available on our SFE & SFW YouTube channels which you can signpost your students to. You are also able to embed these to your websites:

www.youtube.com/@SFEFILM/videos

www.youtube.com/@SFWFILM/videos





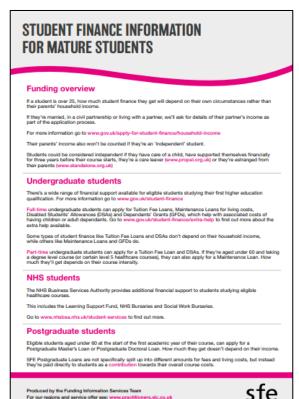
# Student Messages

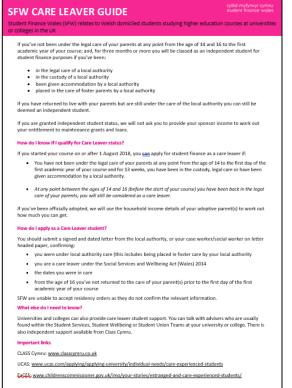
### Resources - Factsheets

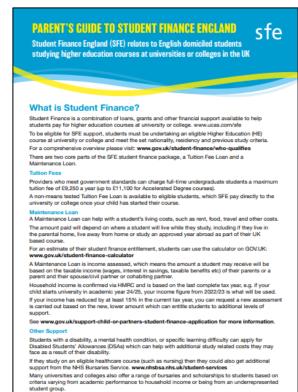


We have recently updated our resources, some examples of the leaflets we have produced:









See university/college websites and www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk for more information.

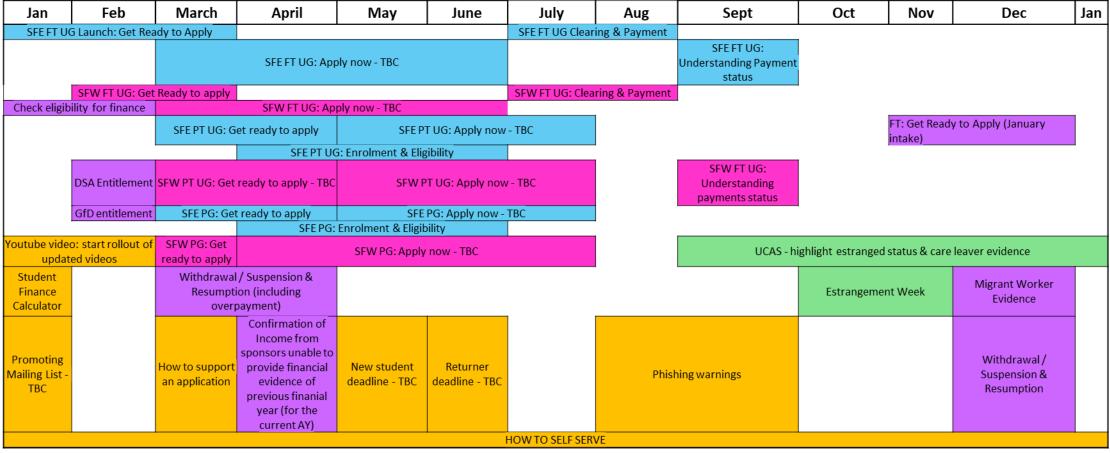
These resources are available via our SFE & SFW Practitioner Websites and can be found in 'Supporting Materials':

SFE: www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/supporting-materials/

SFW: <u>www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/practitioners/supporting-materials/</u>

### Comms Timeline: Delivering the right message, at the right time





SFE
SFW
Both SFE & SFW
External
General comms

This timeline is intended to assist Practitioners with planning student facing comms to ensure the delivery of the right messages, at the right times.

It has been created using previous campaign timelines and general insight, gathered by the FIS Team. Please be aware that there may be some variation, due to our service being dependent on government instruction and global or national events / circumstances, beyond our control eg COVID.

### Key Messages



#### THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER

There is a lot of information available on student finance, from applying to repayment, but it is vital to understand what it will mean to students and remind them of the three key points:



- Research ALL the SUPPORT available to you
- Make THE RIGHT university or college choice

#2 APPLY

- Apply ONLINE & ON TIME
- You DON'T need to WAIT for confirmed offers

#3 REPAY

- Not until you EARN OVER the set threshold
- Based on WHAT YOU EARN not what you owe



This now concludes today's session. Many thanks for attending.

If you want to discuss any Student Finance issues, ask questions or arrange a visit, please don't hesitate to contact me using the details below.

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