



**DISCOVER  
DOWNING**



**DOWNING  
COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE**

# UK Student Finance Explained

Loans (Student Finance England)  
Bursaries and Financial Support

# Information Covered

- Is Cambridge more expensive than other UK universities?
- Overview of how Student Finance UK works
- Bursaries available at Cambridge

*This presentation is not made by Student Finance England.*

*The information in this presentation is publicly available on their website, please check their website for the most up to date facts.*

**[Student finance login - GOV.UK](#)**



# Is Cambridge More Expensive?

- Small city - able to walk or cycle everywhere (or if you want to get the unibus for £1)
- 8-week terms – only pay 29 weeks accommodation in first year (other universities have 40+ weeks contracts)
- Catered and self-catered available in College
- Food subsidised by the College
- Free laundry at Downing



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# What is Student Finance England?

Student Finance England provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.

They offer two types of loans:

## Tuition fee loan

- Every home student is eligible
- Non-means tested
- Up to £9,535
- No upfront fees for UG courses
- Paid directly to the university

## Maintenance loan

- Every home student is eligible
- Means tested
- A contribution towards living costs
- Paid into students bank account in three instalments:

September/October, January, and

March/April



# Student Finance Across the UK

- Student Finance Wales is responsible for student loans for Welsh students  
[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)
- Student Awards Agency Scotland is responsible for student loans for Scottish students  
[myportal.saas.gov.uk/saas/register](http://myportal.saas.gov.uk/saas/register)
- Student Finance Northern Ireland is responsible for student loans for Northern Irish students  
[www.studentfinancenir.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

# SFE Maintenance Loans

Maintenance loans, to assist with living costs, vary in amount provided. The amount is calculated with these 3 criteria in mind:

1. Where the student will be studying (location)
2. Where the student will be living (home or live out)
3. Household income



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# Loans Depending on Location

<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount for 2025 - 2026</b>
Living at home	Up to £8,877
Living away from home (anywhere UK, besides London)	Up to £10,544
Living in London	Up to £13,762
Overseas year	Up to £12,076

*Figures subject to change each year*

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>



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# Loans Depending on Household Income

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (outside of London)	Tuition Loan	Total
£25,000 or less	£10,544	£9,535	£20,079
£30,000	£9,791	£9,535	£19,326
£35,000	£9,038	£9,535	£18,573
£40,000	£8,285	£9,535	£17,820
£45,000	£7,532	£9,535	£17,067
£50,000	£6,779	£9,535	£16,314
£55,000	£6,026	£9,535	£15,561
£60,000	£5,273	£9,535	£14,808
£62,377 or more	£4,915	£9,535	£14,450

# What is Household Income?

**Household income includes any of the following that apply:**

- Your parents' income, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.
- The combined income of one of your parents and their partner, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.
- Your partner's income, if you're over 25 and live with them (even if they spend most of their time abroad).
- Income you get from your own savings, investments or property, for example dividends or rent.

# Student Finance Calculator

## Student finance calculator

This calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new undergraduate course in academic years:

- 2021 to 2022
- 2022 to 2023

Use the student finance calculator to estimate:

- student loans
- extra student funding, for example if you're disabled or have children

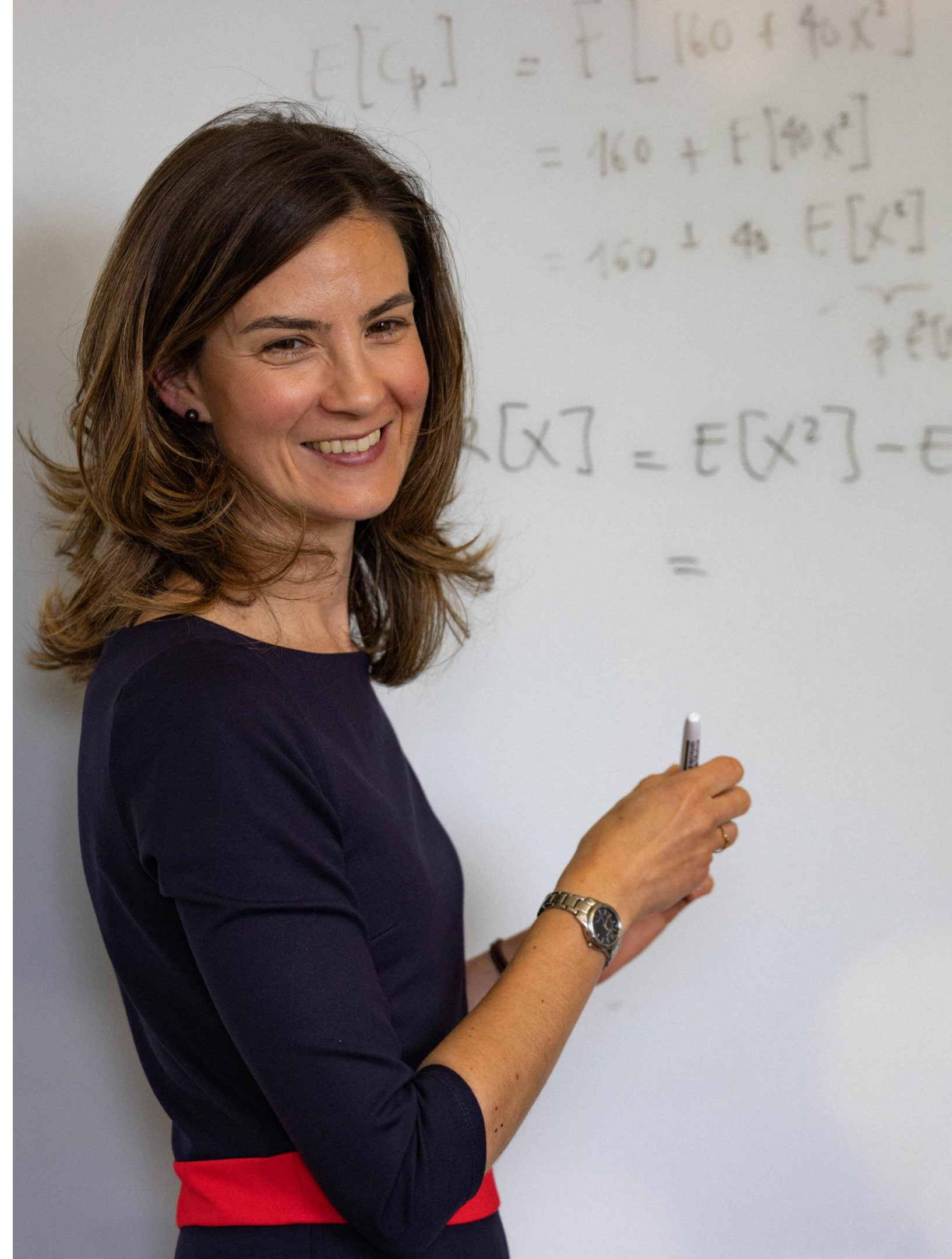
Your result will be more accurate if you know your annual household income (your parents' or partner's income plus your own).

[Start now >](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>



Explore your subject at: [www.dow.cam.ac.uk](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk)



# Good Tips and Things To Know

Keep your  
Student Finance  
log in details safe

Have your passport,  
university and bank  
details to hand

Apply early as  
it can take  
up to 6 weeks

Send anything  
recorded  
directly to  
Student Finance

Agree to share  
info with  
universities

Sign and return  
the declaration as  
soon as possible

If household income  
drops by 15% your  
application can be  
reassessed

# The Cambridge Bursary

- The Cambridge Bursary is an annual gift, it is not a loan, and it does not need to be repaid.
- If you are a UK undergraduate student with a household income of below **£62,215** then you are likely to be eligible for a Cambridge Bursary of **up to £3,500** per year.
- Provided your eligibility does not change, you could receive it for **every year** of your course, whatever its length.
- This also applies to students who are taking longer to complete their course due to disability or for medical reasons.

[www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary](http://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary)



Explore your subject at: [www.dow.cam.ac.uk](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk)

Household income	Cambridge Bursary amount
£0	£3,500
£20,000	£3,500
£25,000	£3,500
£30,000	£3,040
£35,000	£2,580
£40,000	£2,130
£45,000	£1,670
£50,000	£1,210
£55,000	£760
£60,000	£300
£62,215	£100

# The Cambridge Bursary

- Students who are classed as independent by their regional funding body are eligible for an extra 60% on top of their award (taking the maximum up to £5,600 for independent students, or £6,600 including the Educational Premium for those who were eligible for free school meals).
- Colleges also have their own bursaries on top of The Cambridge Bursary – these vary College to College.

[www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary](http://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/cambridgebursary)



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# Making up the Difference

- Please be aware that the College cannot bridge the gap between the maintenance funds agreed by Student Finance and what is required to cover the costs of University.
- It is expected by Student Finance that the rest of the living costs (the difference between the maximum loan available and the loan awarded, and the Cambridge Bursary received if eligible) is to be made up via a household contribution.
- If your financial circumstances change during your studies, you can be reassessed via Student Finance, and then the Cambridge Bursary.



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# Downing College Support

Examples of financial support Downing students can receive:

- Course materials reimbursement: Up to £300 per registered course.
- Help with unexpected financial difficulties: Up to £500 per term.
- BAME Solidarity Fund (to assist undergraduate students of colour with their welfare, by contributing towards the cost of mental health support): Up to £50 per application.
- The LGBT+ Fund (to support the wellbeing of LGBT+ students at Downing): Up to £50 per individual applicant.

A full list is of the financial support available on our website:

[www.dow.cam.ac.uk/current-students/finances-bursaries-and-awards](http://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/current-students/finances-bursaries-and-awards)



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