STUDENT FINANCE WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY TUITION FEES FOR UK & EU STUDENTS FROM 2012: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
What are the fees for Plymouth University in 2012?

Plymouth University has set the level at £9,000 per year of study for all undergraduate degree courses starting in September 2012. This will enable the University to continue to expand its investment in the highest quality teaching and learning opportunities for our students and the best possible facilities. The University of Plymouth Students’ Union, on behalf of our students, has supported the University in setting this fee level – with an explicit expectation that we will sustain and further enhance the student experience, investing more in our students’ future.

The exception to this will be a fee of £7,500 for the University’s two Foundation Year programmes (Extended Science and Foundation Pathways in Technology) which are part of the University’s targeted access measures. Students undertaking a placement year as part of their course will have a fee of £700 for that year (2014/15).

Will students have to pay the tuition fees at the start of the course?

As is the case now, undergraduate students will not have to pay their tuition fees up front. The Government will provide UK and EU students with a tuition fee loan which students will only start to repay after graduation and once they are earning over £21,000 per year. This threshold has been raised from the previous figure of £15,000.

How much will students have to pay back and when?

Students will be expected to contribute as graduates – but only once they are earning over £21,000 per year. The repayment structure for the tuition fees loan & living cost loan will mean that students in work will be required to pay 9% of their annual income above the £21,000 threshold. Any outstanding repayments being written off after 30 years. So someone earning a salary of £25,000 would be repaying around £30 per month – less than a graduate has to repay under the old system.

The process for repayment is simple and payments will be deducted automatically from pay through the tax system. Repayments will start in the April after a student graduates, and when they are earning over £21,000 per year.

Graduates will pay less per month than they do under the old system when “starting out”.

More information about the amount of student support and funding can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Monthly repayment</th>
<th>Weekly repayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£21,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£23,000</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
<td>£6.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£67.50</td>
<td>£15.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£40,000</td>
<td>£142.50</td>
<td>£33.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What rate of interest will be applied to these loans?

Interest on the loans will be applied at inflation (RPI – Retail Price Index) + 3% whilst studying and up until the April after graduating. From the April after graduating and if earning below £21,000, interest will be applied at RPI.

For graduates earning between £21,000 a year and £41,000 a year, interest will be applied between RPI and RPI + 3% on a gradual scale depending upon income. For graduates earning above £41,000, interest will be applied at RPI + 3%.

What financial support will be available for students?

A degree from the University represents an excellent investment in our students’ long-term future. Fees should not be a barrier to our students; we have a generous support package to help before, whilst here, and also after graduation.

We are fully supporting the National Scholarship Programme and we’ve also established a new Retention Fund to help students during their studies. We also work with a network of colleges across the South West who offer higher education programmes so that people local to them can access a Plymouth experience.

Each of these colleges set their own fees and more information can be found at www.plymouth.ac.uk/upc.

Why are tuition fees being increased?

The public funding that universities receive from the Government for teaching has been cut significantly. Before September 2012, universities received between £3,670 and £14,680 per full-time student, depending upon the nature of their degree. Under the new system from 2012, funding for teaching university courses will come directly from the students through payment of tuition fees; this will replace government funding.

When will the proposed rise in undergraduate tuition fees take effect?

The increase of tuition fees will take effect for all new students starting their undergraduate course from autumn 2012 onwards; this will include students who have deferred their entry to University from 2011 to 2012.

What will be the funding arrangements for part-time students from 2012?

For the first time, part-time students will be entitled to a loan for their tuition fees on the same basis as full-time students. This support will be available to those who complete a minimum of 25% of the full-time course load per year, unlike the present tuition fee support package which requires students to be studying for over half of their time. Part-time students will not be eligible for living cost support. (We are waiting for further advice from the Government, but anticipate fees will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.)
How will this affect international students?

The proposed Government changes to UK and EU undergraduate tuition fees will not apply to international student fees. Our international fees are available at www.plymouth.ac.uk/money

How can I find out more about tuition fees and the University’s support packages?

We want to enable those with the potential to benefit from the Plymouth experience to be able to access University and are introducing a new Retention Fund to support students through their studies. We are also fully supporting the National Scholarship Programme. Visit the University and Government websites for the full information.

www.plymouth.ac.uk/money
www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
www.offa.org.uk

There is other support available dependent on individual needs. Please visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/money for more information.

STUDENT FINANCE WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

The University is committed to providing information in accessible formats. If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact Admissions and Course Information on +44 (0)1752 585 858