



Your guide to student finance

Postgraduate Master's Degree



BATH SPA
UNIVERSITY

If you are thinking of studying for a postgraduate Master's degree and are wondering how you'll afford it, use this guide to help you understand the financial support available.

A lifetime of benefits

The Student loan system is there to help support your journey through University.

There are lots of reasons to study at postgraduate level. They can help you develop your expertise, dive deeper into your chosen subject, stand out in your career, and boost your earning potential. With more and more students completing tertiary study each year, competition for graduate employment is increasingly tough, so a postgraduate qualification could make all the difference to prospective employers.

This guide will help you understand what financial support is available and the postgraduate loan application process. There are lots of flexible options that mean you can study alongside work, family and your other commitments.

What do I have to pay for?

The cost of a full-time Master's degree for a UK student studying at Bath Spa University ranges from £8,595 -£9,520 (MBA) and international fees range from £15,905 - £17,760. You will also need to cover living costs, travel costs and other study expenses.

Tuition fees

Postgraduate courses are usually one-year long, or two years part-time. The tuition fee for Master's taught courses vary depending on the price band. Fees for 2024/25 year are:

Band 1	Classroom based	£8,595
Band 2	Laboratory/ studio based	£8,825
Band 3	Art and Design based	£9,520

There are other Master's programmes (such as MBA Leadership and Management) that attract a premium fee and it is advised that you check tuition fees on the course pages of the website.

Refer to the website for [International Tuition Fees](#).

Postgraduate Scholarship for Bath Spa University Alumni

If you've studied your undergraduate degree here at Bath Spa – even if it was a long time ago – you may be eligible for a **Postgraduate Alumni Scholarship** of £2,000 towards the cost of tuition fees.

The scholarship is available to any Bath Spa graduate (Undergraduate or PGCE/PGDE) progressing onto a Taught Master's Degree (eg MA.MSc.MRes) and is received as a tuition fee waiver.

The scholarship amount is for full-time fees 2024/25. If you're a part-time student, you'll receive the scholarship on a pro-rated basis according to the module weighting

Postgraduate Master's Loan

If you're a UK resident you can apply for a Master's loan to help with course fees and living costs.

You can apply for a postgraduate loan if:

- you're studying your first taught or research Master's course
- it is a full Master's course: This technically means a level 7 qualification worth 180 credits
- you're studying at a university or college, or by distance learning
- you're under the age of 60 on the first day of your course

Please note, you can't get a postgraduate loan for postgraduate level courses, such as PgCert (Postgraduate Certificate), PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma), or where the postgraduate course is funded by undergraduate student finance, such as:

- **Initial Teacher Training** (ITT)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or an integrated Master's

You're allowed to borrow up to £12,471 for your Master's, even if your course costs less

Student Finance England students starting your course on or after 1 Aug 2024 can get up to £12,471.

- You can get the maximum loan amount regardless of whether your course is part-time or full-time. If your course is full-time it cannot exceed 2 years, but if it is part-time then it may not last longer than twice the equivalent full-time course (unless no equivalent full-time course exists). The loan is divided equally across each year.

- If your course costs more than the maximum loan amount, you'll have to fund the rest yourself.
- You can choose how much you want to borrow. It's not dependent on your course fees. If you don't want a loan then you don't have to take it.

Funding for postgraduate loans is different if you normally live in:

Scotland

🔗 www.saas.gov.uk

Wales

🔗 www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-students.aspx

Northern Ireland

🔗 www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/types-of-finance/postgraduate/

Moving somewhere to study does not count as normally living there.

Disabled students

You may be able to get extra support if you have a disability.

You can contact [Student Wellbeing](#) for further information.

You may also qualify for [disability related benefits](#).

You will not be eligible for an Adult Dependants' Grant, a Childcare Grant or Parents' Learning Allowance from Student Finance if you're studying a Master's course.

How to apply

You only need to apply once for the Postgraduate Master's Loan, even if your course is longer than one year. Student Finance England will write to you in the summer to tell you how much you'll get in the next academic year. Check whether you're eligible:

🔗 www.gov.uk/masters-loan/eligibility before you apply.

If you've taken out a loan with Student Finance England before, use your account to apply:

🔗 <https://logon.slc.co.uk/cas/login>

If you do not already have one, set up an account:

🔗 www.student-finance.service.gov.uk/customer/registration/

Before you start your application, you should have the following to hand:

- valid UK passport details (if you have one)
- preferred university and course details.

Further information

You can learn more about the Postgraduate Master's Loan on the Student Room website:

🔗 www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/postgraduate/

or via UCAS 🔗 www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/student-finance-postgraduate-loans

Student Finance England Postgraduate Loan team

Telephone: 0300 100 0031

Textphone: 0300 100 0622

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm



The Student Loans Company will pay the loan directly to you, not to the University

Please note that unlike undergraduate loans where the Student Loans Company (SLC) pays the University the tuition fees directly, for Master's courses the money is paid directly to the student. If you change course during the year to one that is not eligible for the loan, or you leave during the year, you won't receive the final loan payments. You will still need to repay what you have received.

Payment of your loan is divided equally across each year of your course, so if you apply for the full £12,471 and you're on a two-year course, you'll get £6,235 per year.

The timing of the payments varies depending on course length:

- **One year Master's:** It's paid in three instalments. You'll get the first payment when the University confirms your placement to the SLC, and you'll get the other two payments during the year.
- **Two year+ Master's:** The money will be divided equally across each year of your course, so if you apply for the full £12,471 and you're on a two-year course, you'll get £6,235 per year. It will be paid in three instalments every year.

This means that you are responsible for paying the tuition fee directly to the University. For further information.

Please see [how to pay](#) on the website.

Postgraduate Doctoral Loan

If you're starting a doctoral degree, you could get a Postgraduate Doctoral Loan to help with course fees and living costs. You can get up to £29,390 (2024/25 figures) maximum for the duration of your course.

International Students

If you are an international student you may also be able to apply for a loan or funding from your Government. For example, if you are from the United States, Bath Spa participates in the [US Federal Loan](#) scheme.

Charities and trusts

Charities and trusts sometimes provide grants, often for students from poorer backgrounds or those who've achieved academic excellence. Find out more at your local library in these publications:

- the Educational Grants Directory
- the Charities Digest
- the Grants Register
- the Directory of Grant Making Trusts

Other help

You might be able to get funding from:

- your employer - they might sponsor you if the course is relevant to your job
- the alternative guide to [postgraduate funding](#) – you can register using the Bath Spa PIN 2631
- you can also use the [Family Action grant](#) search
- other Scholarships and Bursaries may be available to you, please see the [website](#).

How to pay

The University offer several instalment options to help students budget and this is arranged via online registration.

Master's students are required to register online, via our online enrolment tool (you will be sent a link at the appropriate time) and in order to complete your enrolment, you are required to enter card details to secure your fees. Card data is entered onto the University encrypted server and you will be given the option to select an instalment plan.

If you are in receipt of a postgraduate loan to pay your fees, please select the three instalment option as these dates are set to coincide with your loan payment date.

Instalment payment dates are available on the [website](#).

If you wish to make payment of your fees prior to arrival please visit the website where [payment methods](#) accepted by Bath Spa University are outlined.

Fees to be paid by sponsor/employer

If your fees are due to be paid by a private sponsor/employer, please email scanned evidence as soon as possible to [✉ slc_sponsor@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:slc_sponsor@bathspa.ac.uk) to avoid entering your card details. You will need to complete this section before your enrolment deadline.

Loan Repayment

You'll only repay your student loan when your income is over the threshold amount for your repayment plan. The threshold amounts change on 6 April every year.

The earliest you'll start repaying is either:

- the April after you leave your course
- the April four years after the course started, if you're studying part-time.

Your repayments automatically stop if either:

- you stop working
- your income goes below the threshold.

Further information on repayment is available on the [website](#).

You can make a voluntary repayment towards your postgraduate loan at any time.

Useful information

University Access Fund (UAF)

Bath Spa University may provide assistance to postgraduate students who have started their study with adequate funds (full tuition fees plus minimum required provision for living and study expenses) but still find themselves in financial hardship. The Access Fund is not a source of funding and awards cannot be guaranteed. You cannot apply for help with tuition fees and Part-time students may only be considered for course related costs if also considered to be in hardship.

More information about the application process is available online the [Student Funding](#) web pages.

Student Wellbeing

Bath Spa University's Student Wellbeing Services can provide professional advice and guidance to applicants and students on:

- Money
- The University's medical service
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Accessibility and disability
- Young adult carers
- Estranged students
- Care leavers
- Budgeting

- 🌐 www.bathspa.ac.uk/wellbeing
- ✉ studentwellbeing@bathspa.ac.uk
- ☎ +44 (0)1225 876543

Managing your finances

Student Funding

- ✉ studentawards@bathspa.ac.uk
- ☎ 01225 875319

Student Fees

- ✉ fees@bathspa.ac.uk
- ☎ 01225 875870



Don't forget to check in to your lectures using the app





All information is correct
at the time of publication
March 2024. For the most
up-to-date facts and figures,
please check our website.
www.bathspa.ac.uk

