

Is your teenager thinking about uni? Not sure? Read on!

Benefits of uni

Key facts:

- ✓ Around half of **all jobs in London** will need a **degree** (or equivalent)
- ✓ Graduates are more likely to **earn more money** and avoid being unemployed
- ✓ Your teenager doesn't have to pay money upfront to study at university.
- ✓ Grants (money that doesn't need to be repaid) will still be available for some people to support their studies
- ✓ Anyone can go on to higher education. Over half of those accepted have studied qualifications other than A levels
- ✓ Your teenager could choose to **study whilst working** and **earn at the same time**, e.g part-time, distance learning or higher apprenticeship (visit: www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
- ✓ It may be possible to study at the **local further education college**.

What should my teenager do now?

Year 12:

Spring

- Find out when university open days are and make plans to visit!
- Get a taster of university: book onto the **London Taster Course** Programme at www.london.ac.uk/tasters. There are parent/carer events too.
- Check if **work experience** is a requirement. If so, help them arrange this (e.g they could speak to their personal/careers adviser)
- Start to **research institutions** and **courses**, ready for your teenager to **apply** in the first term of **year 13**

Year 13

Autumn

- Get applying. Deadlines for some courses are as early as mid October, others by mid January (or after). Make sure your teenager knows which deadlines apply to them; visit www.ucas.com/students/importantdates

Spring

- Make applications for higher education financial support. For when and how, visit: www.direct.gov.uk, student finance pages

Summer

- If your teenager applies late there is less chance of getting onto their preferred course/institution, but they can enter the 'clearing' process where institutions look to fill spare places.

MYTH: My teenager will be still be paying off their loan in old age

From September 2012 universities will be able to charge up to £9,000 per year for tuition fees. To help students, tuition loans will be available.

Key facts:

- **Graduates** have to be earning over **£21,000** before they have to **start to repay** their tuition loan
- They repay this gradually, paying 9% of their earnings that are above £21,000. So a graduate earning **£24,000** would repay **approx £5 per week**
- If your teenager can't pay your loan back after the 30 year repayment period, the amount left to pay will be cancelled
- Students from families with **lower incomes** will be entitled to more **generous maintenance grants** than before
- Your teenager may be eligible for **other financial** help, such as **bursaries**. Visit: direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.
- **Scholarships or sponsorship** may be available, especially for subjects like science, engineering and business. Visit: www.scholarship-search.org.uk.

Top tips

There's quite a lot to think about, so make sure your teenager:

- Knows **how** and **when** to apply to **higher education** and **financial help**
 - Researches the **subjects** they want to **study** and **where**
 - Thinks how **they'd like to learn** (full or part time, apprenticeship, etc)
 - Works out whether they can **afford the tuition and living costs**, and checks out grants and other financial help. Don't forget to **consider other ways they could study**
 - Discusses all this with **key people** that can help – their personal/careers adviser, student finance officers
- To speak to a personal/careers adviser, visit your **local Connexions centre** or www.centrallondonconnexions.org.uk
- Also recommended: www.ucas.com – for everything about going to higher education, especially the 'course search' and 'student' pages
- If your teenager has a **disability**, check out the **SKILL HE funding** guide at: www.skill.org.uk/uploads/media/HE_Funding.doc
 - 'Informed Choices' booklet www.russellgroup.ac.uk to support post-16 choices re university
- Your teenager also has non uni options:
- Advanced Apprenticeship
 - Degree at local FE college (lower fees)
 - Sponsored Degree Programmes
 - Take a look at www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
 - National Scholarship Programme
 - Or options abroad
 - go to uni in Europe, ie Belgium, courses available in English

Wondering how a tuition loan might look in your future?

Graduates on salary of £21,000

Student starting University in 2011	Student starting University in 2012
Under the CURRENT Fees arrangements	Under the NEW Fees arrangements
Tuition Fees: £3,375 per year	Tuition Fees: £9,000 per year
Total loan for 3 year course: £10,125	Total loan for 3 year course: £27,000
Student finishes degree in June 2014 (takes a Gap year, travelling the world).	Student finishes degree in June 2015
Student starts working in Sept 2015	Student starts working in Sept 2015
Both students on a starting salary of £21,000	
Student pays 9% of earnings above £15k = £10 per week (approx)	Student pays 9% of earnings above £21k = £00.00 per week (Nothing)
Take home pay after tax and NI would be £322 per week (estimate)	Take home pay after tax and NI would be £322 per week (estimate)
<i>Note: the £10,125 does not include any maintenance loan. However, even with maintenance loan added, the amount repaid per week remains the same.</i>	<i>Note: the £27,000 does not include any maintenance loan. However, even with maintenance loan added, the amount repaid per week remains the same.</i>

Graduates on salary of £24,000

Student starting University in 2011	Student starting University in 2012
Under the CURRENT Fees arrangements	Under the NEW Fees arrangements
Tuition Fees: £3,375 per year	Tuition Fees: £9,000 per year
Total loan for 3 year course: £10,125	Total loan for 3 year course: £27,000
Student finishes degree in June 2014 (takes a Gap year, travelling the world).	Student finishes degree in June 2015
Student starts working in Sept 2015	Student starts working in Sept 2015
Both students on a starting salary of £24,000	
Student pays 9% of earnings above £15k = £16 per week (approx)	Student pays 9% of earnings above £21k = £5 per week (approx)
Take home pay after tax and NI would be £365 per week (estimate)	Take home pay after tax and NI would be £365 per week (estimate)
<i>Note: the £10,125 does not include any maintenance loan. However, even with maintenance loan added, the amount repaid per week remains the same.</i>	<i>Note: the £27,000 does not include any maintenance loan. However, even with maintenance loan added, the amount repaid per week remains the same.</i>