

# Thinking about uni? Not sure? Read on!

## Why go to 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
- No upfront payment
- Grants available that you don't have to repay (low income households)
- **Anyone** can go onto Higher Education. Over half of those accepted have studied qualifications other than A levels
- You may choose to **earn while you learn**, distance learning or higher apprenticeship (visit: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk))
- It may be possible to study at your local **further education college**.

## MYTH: I'll still be paying off my loan in my 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:

- You have to be earning over £21,000 before you have to start to repay your tuition loan
- You repay this gradually, paying 9% of your earnings that are above £21,000. So a graduate earning £24,000 would repay approx £5 per week
- More part-time students will get support than before
- Your loan will be written off after 30 years, if you can't pay it back
- You may be eligible for other financial help, such as bursaries, which cover a range of circumstances. Visit: [direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)
- Scholarships or sponsorship may be available, especially for subjects like science, engineering and business. Visit: [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk).

## What should I do now?

### Year 12:

#### Spring

- Start to research now, prepare for courses that are best for you
- Get a taste of what university is like: book onto the **London Taster Course Programme** at [www.london.ac.uk/tasters](http://www.london.ac.uk/tasters)
- Will you need some **work experience** relevant to the university course you're interested in? If so, you need to **arrange this** (speak to your careers co-ordinator or personal/careers adviser)

### Year 13

#### Autumn

- Apply by mid October for deadlines, visit [www.ucas.com/students/importantdates](http://www.ucas.com/students/importantdates)

#### Spring

- Visit: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk), student finance pages

#### Summer

- Get **busy after results day**, for those applying late you have less chance of getting onto your preferred course/institution, but you can enter the 'clearing' process where institutions look to fill spare places.

## Top tips

### There's quite a lot to think about, so make sure you:

- Know **how** and **when** to apply to **higher education** for **financial help**
  - Check out the **subjects** you want to **study**
  - Think how **you'd like to learn** (full or part-time, apprenticeship, etc)
  - Work out whether you **can afford** the **tuition and living costs**, and check out grants and other financial help. Don't forget to **consider other ways you could study**
  - **Discuss** all this with **key people** that can help – those you live with, your personal/careers adviser, student finance officers where you are studying now and where you hope to go
  - Speak to a **personal/careers** adviser, visit your **local Connexions centre** or [www.centrallondonconnexions.org.uk](http://www.centrallondonconnexions.org.uk)
- Also recommended: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – for everything to do with going to higher education, especially the 'course search' and 'student' pages
- If you have a **disability** check out the **SKILL HE funding guide** at: [www.skill.org.uk/uploads/media/HE\\_Funding.doc](http://www.skill.org.uk/uploads/media/HE_Funding.doc)
- You also have **non uni options**:
- Advanced Apprenticeship
  - Degree at local FE college (lower fees)
  - Sponsored Degree Programmes
  - Take a look at [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://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: <b>£3,375</b> per year	Tuition Fees: <b>£9,000</b> per year
Total loan for 3 year course: <b>£10,125</b>	Total loan for 3 year course: <b>£27,000</b>
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
<b>Both students on a starting salary of £21,000</b>	
Student pays 9% of earnings above £15k = <b>£10 per week (approx)</b>	Student pays 9% of earnings above £21k = <b>£00.00 per week (Nothing)</b>
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: <b>£3,375</b> per year	Tuition Fees: <b>£9,000</b> per year
Total loan for 3 year course: <b>£10,125</b>	Total loan for 3 year course: <b>£27,000</b>
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
<b>Both students on a starting salary of £24,000</b>	
Student pays 9% of earnings above £15k = <b>£16 per week (approx)</b>	Student pays 9% of earnings above £21k = <b>£5 per week (approx)</b>
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>