

2024/25 – STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND (SFE) Funding for Students on a British Council Language Assistantship (BCLA) who commenced their course after August 2016

For guidance on completing your loan application, please see the SES webpages:

http://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/21518/study_abroad_and_work_placements/787/applying_for_your_student_loan

BCLA Salary

BCLA students receive a teaching assistant salary. However, you should calculate a budget for your placement very carefully before making your decision and you may need to consider the level of student loan you'll be eligible for. The assistants' salaries are paid directly to them each month by the local authority or school, and students must set up a bank account in their destination country in order to receive this. A comprehensive list of countries and salaries can be found on the British Council website:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/outside-uk/english-language-assistants/countries>

Leeds Bursary

You **don't** receive the Leeds Bursary when on a placement year.

Tuition Fee Loan

You pay a reduced tuition fee to the University of Leeds, and you can apply for the SFE tuition fee loan to cover this. **When you apply for your loan, your tuition fee loan will default to the reduced amount.**

Maintenance Loan

You can apply for a maintenance loan, but the amount of loan will depend on whether the placement is under the Turing Scheme or not. **The maintenance loan can be significantly less than for a study year.** Please see the tables below.

Placement Types

- Not Turing (paid or unpaid)
- Turing (paid or unpaid)

Funding Level

reduced funding only – no income assessment (see Table 1)
full funding – eligible for means-tested loan (see Table 2)

Turing Scheme

The Turing scheme pays a monthly amount to assist with living costs abroad. Students who meet the Turing Underrepresented Background criteria may also be eligible for an additional monthly amount and a contribution to travel costs (see *Funding to Assist with Travel Costs* below). For more information on the Turing Scheme, see:

https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10300/study_abroad/1521/the_turing_scheme

Table 1: SFE Maintenance Loan – Reduced Funding for a paid or unpaid work placement that's not under the Turing scheme

- Total amount of reduced loan is

It's the same rate whether the placement is paid or unpaid, regardless of household income, and is based on you living and working abroad. If you are working remotely and living in the UK, independently and not with parents, the rate will be the same. If you are living with parents, you will receive the parental home rate, which is £2,324.

Table 2: SFE Maintenance Loan – Full Funding for a Placement under the Turing Scheme

You can apply for just the non-income assessed loan, or both the non-income and the income assessed loans (where you provide evidence of your household income to SFE). The 'Income Assessed' figures below are for a household income of £25,000 or less. The actual amount you'll receive depends on your household income.

Where residing for majority of term	Non-income Assessed	Income Assessed	Total Possible
Overseas	£5,565	£4,920	£10,485

To receive the abroad rate of maintenance loan, you must have travelled abroad. If you are working remotely from the UK, you will receive the UK rate of loan based on where you are living (either independently or with parents). If you are on a placement under the Turing scheme, you will only be eligible to receive Turing funding if you have travelled abroad.

Funding to Assist with Travel Costs

- Turing Scheme**

The Turing scheme assists with living costs abroad, and there is additional support for living and travel costs for students from underrepresented backgrounds. For more information, see: https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10300/study_abroad/1521/the_turing_scheme

- SFE Travel Grant**

If you're on placement under the **Turing Scheme** and you apply for the income assessed loan, you may be eligible for the SFE Travel Grant. (Please see the *SFE Travel Grant Fact Sheet* for further information.)

Please be aware that if you apply for the SFE Travel Grant this would make you ineligible for the Turing Scheme Underrepresented Background uplift

You're therefore advised to consider if the Turing Scheme Uplift would be financially better for you before submitting any claim for the SFE Travel Grant.

There is no funding to assist with travel costs for placements that are not under the Turing Scheme.

Requesting an Early Release of Your Loan

SFE will schedule the 1st instalment of your loan to be paid on **26/08/2024**, regardless of when your placement starts. If your placement starts before this date and you would like to receive the first instalment to coincide with the start of your placement, please email placement-funding@leeds.ac.uk with the following:

- Your name, Leeds student ID number, and course title;
- Name and address of the organisation you'll be working for;
- Whether or not your placement is under the Turing scheme;
- Start date and end date.

If your placement starts **after 26/08/2024**, you don't need to email to request an early release as SFE will have already scheduled this for you. The 2nd and 3rd instalments will be paid in line with University of Leeds term dates for 2024/25.

You must have travelled abroad to receive an early payment. If you are working remotely from the UK, your instalments will be paid in line with University of Leeds term dates.

Remember that you still need to complete online registration with the University of Leeds when on a placement year. Registration opens at the beginning of August.

Contacts & Further Information

For queries about the SFE maintenance loan, or how to apply for your loan, email placement-funding@leeds.ac.uk

For queries about the tuition fee, email UGfees@Leeds.ac.uk

For queries about the Turing Scheme, email Turingscheme@leeds.ac.uk

Please always email from your University account and include your student ID number

Further information can be found on the Study Abroad and Work Placement webpages at:

http://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/21518/study_abroad_and_work_placements

SFW, **SFNI**, and **SAAS** students should contact their loan provider for details of placement year funding.

The information and figures provided here are for guidance only. The actual amounts and terms of the student loan will be determined by SFE based on the loan application submitted by the student. The figures quoted have been obtained from The Department for Education LOAN, GRANT AND TUITION FEE RATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24 published on the Student Loans Company website: <https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1999/20231215-financial-memorandum-for-202425.pdf> [accessed 16/04/2024]