

2024/25 – STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND (SFE) Funding for Students on an INVERTED STUDY ABROAD YEAR (who commenced their course after August 2016, and will be abroad in their final year)

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

- If you completed a *Change of Programme* with your school in your 2nd year to transfer onto a new course to include a study abroad year in your 4th and final year [(INT) (inverted)], you'll complete your loan application online for years 3 and 4 using this new course title.
- If you are in your 3rd year and have not yet completed a *Change of Programme* form with your school, you should do this as soon as possible. You may find that you are not able to apply online for your funding for the 4th year, as your SFE account may have you as graduating in July 2024. You should try to submit an online application for 2024/25, but if you are not able to you will need to submit a paper application. You should put that you are in year 4 of the (INT) (inverted) course. You can download the paper application from the Gov.UK website <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms>

Leeds Bursary

You **don't** receive the Leeds Bursary when on a study abroad 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 with the correct course title, your tuition fee loan will default to the reduced amount.** No tuition fee is payable to the host university, but please be aware that some institutions will have other fees and charges that you may have to pay. The Study Abroad Office has information on host university costs on the *Study Abroad Minerva Organisation*.

Maintenance Loan

If you're studying abroad, you can apply for full student finance. Provided the period abroad is a minimum of 10 weeks in the year, and that you are away for at least 50% of the term/semester, you're eligible for the study abroad rate of Maintenance Loan.

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	£4,920	£5,565	£10,485

If you're undertaking a **year that includes a period of work placement and a period of study**, please be aware that SFE may assess you on the basis of being on work placement for the full year. This may mean that you could receive reduced funding only for the full year, and you should take account of this when budgeting for the year. Please see the *Work Placement Inverted* for information on work placement funding.

To receive the abroad rate of maintenance loan, you must have travelled abroad. If you are studying 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've travelled abroad.

Funding to Assist with Travel Costs

Turing Scheme

The Turing scheme assists with travel and living costs abroad, and there is additional support 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 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 would be financially better for you before submitting any claim for the SFE Travel Grant.

Early Release of Your Maintenance Loan & Instalment Arrangements

● Early Release

If the first day of term of your host university is **on or before 26/08/2024**, SFE pay your 1st instalment on the first day of term of the host university.

If the first day of term of your host university is **after 26/08/2024**, SFE pay your 1st instalment on 26/08/2024.

The 2nd and 3rd instalments will be paid in line with University of Leeds term dates for 2024/25.

● Instalment Arrangements

- If you're studying in **China, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, South Korea, or Taiwan**, SFE will release your entire loan in one instalment.
- If you're studying in other **countries outside Europe**, SFE will release your loan in 2 instalments (50% on the first day of term of the host university, 50% on 13/01/2025).
- If you're studying in **Europe**, SFE will release your loan in 3 instalments.

The University will request these payment arrangements from SFE. You do not need to contact SFE or the University about early payments or instalments.

You must have travelled abroad, with University of Leeds approval, to receive an early payment and 1 or 2 instalments. If you are studying remotely from the UK, your loan will be scheduled for 3 instalments on the University of Leeds term dates for 2024/25.

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.

What Happens If You Withdraw from the Study Abroad Year

The SFE maintenance loan for a final year of study is less than for other years. Therefore, if 2024/25 was going to be your final year but you withdraw from the programme, before commencing or prior to your registration being confirmed (see below), this would make 2023/24 your final year. If SFE have paid your maintenance loan for 2023/24 on the basis that it's not your final year, you'll have received more funding in 2023/24 than you're entitled to. You'll be required to repay any overpayment to SFE, as soon as your course information is updated with them. The overpayment won't be added to your overall loan for repayment (which you only begin repaying 9 months after graduating and once you're earning above the threshold).

● Withdrawing Before Commencing the Year

If you withdraw before completing Registration with the University of Leeds for 2024/25, you'll complete a *Change of Programme* form with your school to transfer back onto the 3 year course variant that you originally enrolled on. The University will send a notification to SFE advising them of this. SFE will reassess your maintenance loan for 2023/24 on the basis that this was your final year of study. You'll receive a new Financial Notification for 2023/24 with your revised maintenance loan. SFE will then request a repayment of any overpayment for this year. If making a repayment will put you in financial hardship, you can contact the SFE Financial Hardship team to request a deferment of the payment. For more information, see <https://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/overpayment/financial-hardship.html>

● Withdrawing After Commencing the Year

If you register with the University of Leeds for the 2024/25 year and withdraw before the University has confirmed your Registration with SFE, your situation will be the same as if you had withdrawn before commencing the year. If you have registered and the University has confirmed your Registration with SFE, you'll remain on the 4 year (INT) (inverted) course variant, and you'll complete a *Temporary Leave* form with your school, which will mean that you effectively suspend your studies from the date of withdrawal until the end of the 2024/25 academic year. The University will send a notification to SFE informing them of the date you've suspended studies, and SFE will reassess your funding based on this date. Please see the SES website for information on how suspending studies impacts your loan and your tuition fee liability:

https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10104/making_changes/764/changes_in_circumstances

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 study abroad 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 2024/25 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]