

# Continuing Student - Student Finance Application Guidance for England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2025/2026

This document is for guidance and only Student Finance can confirm what funding you are eligible for and advise on the terms and conditions of your tuition fee loan agreement.

OCA became part of the OU family as of August 2023. Therefore, you must apply to The Open University (OU) instead of The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) when making your Student Finance application.

## Log into your account with Student Finance.

Use the links below to log in.

- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Finance Wales](#)
- [Student Finance Northern Ireland](#)

## Re-apply for Student finance, part-time 2025/26

This academic year runs from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026. If you are applying for funding later in the academic year, we recommend making an application no later than May 2026 to begin before the end of the academic year.

## Confirm course details

### University

If you have not applied for funding since August 2023, then you may receive a message advising that your course is no longer available at UCA. Click 'back' to reselect where you are studying - you may need to delete the contents of the box if it states 'University for the Creative Arts'.

### Course

Once you have selected The Open University, you will be presented with the course name search box. Search by typing 'OCA', as this way will show available OCA courses only, instead of all Open University courses. From the drop down select which course you would like to study e.g., OCA BA (Honours) Creative Arts A01.

If your course is not showing as an option, you can try searching part of the course name instead e.g., 'Creative Arts.'

## Year of study

This will depend on when you began the course. If you began the course September 2024, then your first year of study runs from September 2024 to August 2025. Your second year of study begins from September 2025, and so on.

## Fees

**For Student Finance England**, the maximum funding available to claim for the 25/26 academic year is £7,145. Students are advised to apply for the maximum funding available to them, and within their application select the option for OCA to adjust fees based on the unit(s) they enrol on within an academic year. This means you are usually able to claim the full cost of a Stage of study, though it may vary if you have already claimed from Student Finance before. The maximum funding you may be awarded is slightly more than the total cost of a Stage of study. OCA will only claim for the costs of the units you enrol to. .

For **Student Finance Wales**, you can potentially claim up to **£2,625** for the 2025/26 academic year, and for **Student Finance Northern Ireland**, you can potentially claim up to **£3,641.25** for the 2025/26 academic year. Each 40 credit unit costs £2,268 meaning if you study two 40 credit units within a 12 month period, the total to pay to OCA would be £4,536 and so you would be expected to pay the difference.

## Confirming credits with Student Finance

Students only enrol to one course unit at a time, and so you may receive a notification from Student Finance informing you of the reduced claim OCA have made, however you still have the full amount of funding available to use.

This also means that OCA only confirms the amount of credits you study as you enrol to them. For example, we confirm all new students as studying 40 credits for the 25/26 academic year when they first enrol. This may affect the amount you receive if you are eligible for a maintenance loan. If you enrol to a second unit of study within your funding year, the credits confirmed with Student Finance would increase.

## You may be wondering, 'what is my funding year?'

The first unit of study you undertake for the academic year determines your Student Finance intake month. For example, if you begin a unit in September 2025, this month becomes your Student Finance intake month for the 25/26 academic year. Refer to the table on page 4 to see how long this funding is in place for.

- A September to November 2025 starter's funding expires after July 2026.
- A January to March 2026 starter's funding expires after December 2026.

- A May to June 2026 starter's funding expires after March 2027.
- A July 2026 starter's funding expires after June 2027.

It's important to know how long your funding is in place for when planning to enrol to your next unit of study.

For example, a September 2025 starter could enrol to another unit in May 2026 without having to apply for funding again. But from August onwards, they would need to reapply for the next academic year's funding.



