

Application Guidance for Student Finance for the Certificate of Higher Education in Film and Media Production.

Document Information: Published 1 May 2026. Valid for 2026/27 Student Finance applications until July 2027.

This document is for guidance purposes.

Only Student Finance can confirm your final eligibility and the specific terms of your tuition fee loan agreement.

New Student Guidance

Step 1: Create an account with Student Finance.

You'll need to create a student finance account if you're a new student or sign into an existing account if you're a returning student.

You'll be asked if you've ever applied for Student Finance before. It doesn't matter how long ago you applied, if it was online or using a paper form, or if you applied to your local authority. If you have applied, you'll already have an account with Student Finance and will need to use this account to make your application.

If this is your first application, select 'No, I haven't applied for student finance before' and click the green continue button.

You will then be asked to enter your personal details, including town of birth, national insurance number and contact details. Once completed, click the green continue button and proceed to set up your account.

Step 2: Select 'Apply for Student finance'.

Step 3: Select 'Higher Education'.

Step 4: Select 'Undergraduate'

Step 5: Select 'part time'.

Even if you are studying full-time, you must submit a part-time application due to the distance learning nature of OCA.

Step 6: Select '2026/27'.

This academic year runs from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027.

Step 7: Repayment information to review.

Student Finance will provide 5 key points of information for your review with further details linked within the application.

1. They will charge you interest on your loan, as soon as they make your first payment to you.

2. They'll charge you interest until you've repaid all the money or until they cancel your loan.
3. You're due to start making repayments on the April after you leave your course or the April 4 years after the course started if you're studying part-time
4. You'll only repay when your income is over the repayment threshold.
5. You'll repay a certain percentage of your income over your repayment threshold.

Step 8: Confirm your residence.

You will see that there are different sections of the application to complete:

- Course
- Previous Study
- About You
- Residency

Step Nine provides details to help you complete the course information section. You will be able to complete the remaining sections independently.

Step 9: Provide the Course details

- *Have you started your course?*
Select 'No'.
- *When will you start your course?*
Select September 2026.
- *Where will you be studying?*
Select 'Open University'.
- *What course will you be studying?*
Type 'OCA' into the course name box and select OCA Certificate of Higher Education in Film and Media Production A57.

Do not type out the course name into the box, you must select it from the drop down menu as it appears or the course will not be recognised.

- *Where will you be living?*

Select the appropriate answer.

- *How many years are you studying your course in total?*

Select 2 years.

This is your total amount of active study time to complete the course. We recommend selecting 2 years as this provides you the option to transfer from full-time to part-time study if needed.

Please note once enrolled, you cannot change from part-time to full-time study,

- *Which year of your course is this application form?*

Select Year 1.

Step 10: Provide disability details (if applicable).

- *Do you have any of the following (disabilities)?*

If you select yes, provide details and press continue, you'll be asked if your disability makes studying by distance learning your only option. If you select yes, you may be asked to provide evidence of this.

- *Confirm your tuition fee for this year.*

Student Finance England

For SFE, the maximum funding available to claim for the 26/27 academic year is £7,335. This amount is slightly more than the total cost of a Stage of study at OCA for the 26/27 academic year, which is £7,146.

Student Finance Wales

For SFW, the maximum funding available to claim for the 26/27 academic year is £2,875. The total cost of the course is £7,146. You will need to pay the shortfall between the award of the cost of the course.

Student Finance Northern Ireland

For SFNI, the maximum funding available to claim for the 26/27 academic year is £3,641.25. The total cost of the course is £7,146. You will need to pay the shortfall between the award of the cost of the course.

Step 11: Await outcome and submit an enrolment form.

Applications can take up to 4 weeks to process, or 6 to 8 weeks in peak times. Keep this in mind as you plan your studies.

If you haven't already, please submit an enrolment form via the OCA website for your undergraduate study.

Continuing Student Guidance

For Year 2 part-time CerHE Film and Media Production students.

Step 1: Log into your Student Finance account.

Log into your account with Student Finance.

Step 2: Complete your 26/27 application.

Follow the steps within your Student Finance account to submit a 26/27 funding application. Below is all the information you need from OCA to complete your application.

University

OCA became part of the OU family as of August 2023. Therefore, you must apply to The Open University (OU) when making your application.

Course

Once you have selected The Open University, you will be presented with the course name search box. Search by typing 'OCA', as this will show available OCA courses only, instead of all Open University courses. From the drop down select the course:

OCA Certificate of Higher Education in Film and Media Production A57.

Do not type out the degree name into the box, you must select it from the drop down menu as it appears or the course will not be recognised.

Year of study

Select Year 2.

Fees

Student Finance England

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Student Finance Northern Ireland

For SFNI, the maximum funding available to claim for the 26/27 academic year is £3,641.25. The total cost of the course is £7,146. You will need to pay the shortfall between the award of the cost of the course.

Step 4: Await outcome and submit an enrolment form.

Applications can take up to 4 weeks to process, or 6 to 8 weeks in peak times. Keep this in mind as you plan your studies.