

Application Guidance for Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) Part-time Fee Grant (PFTG)

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

This document is for guidance purposes.

Only Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) can confirm your final eligibility and the specific terms of your grant.

[Please review our frequently asked questions here.](#)

[Refer to the SAAS website for further guidance.](#)

Funding Overview

The maximum PTFG funding for the 2026/2027 academic year is £1,820. As OCA units are worth 40 credits, you are eligible for approximately £607 per unit.

You cannot apply the full £1,820 annual grant to a single unit. Your funding is strictly limited to the amount associated with the credits you are studying (e.g., £607 per 40-credit unit).

You are responsible for the difference between the SAAS award and the total unit cost. You must pay at least the deposit amount to begin your studies. The £607 award per unit cannot be used to cover the deposit amount.

The cost of a 40 credit unit at OCA for the 26/27 academic year is £2,382, and the deposit amount is £714 followed by 6 monthly instalments of £176.

Cost of 40-credit unit 26/27	SAAS award	Deposit amount (self-funded)	Instalments (self-funded)
£2,382	£607	£714	£176 of 6 monthly instalments

The awarded funding is paid directly to OCA.

How to Apply

Because SAAS only accepts one PTFG application per academic year (1 August 2026 – 31 July 2027), you must plan your study intentions for the full year in advance.

Step 1: Submit your PTFG Application to SAAS

- New Applicants: Register for a SAAS account.
- Continuing Students: Use your existing Learner ID.

- **Required Details:** Ensure you have your National Insurance number, income details (including benefits), course provider name, and SCQF credit information ready.
- **Assistance:** If you encounter issues with the SAAS portal, use the portal's help section or contact SAAS directly.

Step 2: Submit your OCA Enrolment Form

- Complete the enrolment form on your degree webpage at www.oqa.ac.uk.
- Select 'SAAS Part-Time Fee Grant' as your funding method.
- Have your ILA number ready, as it helps OCA communicate with SAAS regarding your application.

What Happens Next?

- **Validation:** SAAS will provisionally award funding if you meet eligibility criteria, then contact OCA to validate the award. You will receive the formal award once you have completed your two week induction period and confirmed your intention to study.
- **Tracking:** You can view your Award Notice via the 'Applications' section of your SAAS Dashboard. SAAS typically processes applications within 21 days.
- **Financial Liability:** Your funding outcome is finalised after you are enrolled. If you are not awarded funding, you remain liable for the full cost of the unit once the induction period has ended. If you withdraw from your course, you may lose eligibility for the grant and be required to pay any outstanding fees.

Important Deadlines and Planning

To allow for processing, we recommend submitting your funding application at least 4 weeks before your chosen intake's payment deadline - [review intake dates and deadlines here](#).

It's also important to note SAAS' own application deadlines, depending on when you are beginning your first unit of the year.

If you plan to study more than one unit within the same funding year, you must notify SAAS directly to secure your funding. Missing these deadlines may mean self-funding or waiting until the next academic year to access further support.

- **For course start dates between August and 1 December:** If you wish to study additional units after 1 December, you must inform SAAS before 1 December.
- **The March Cut-off:** For all other additional units intended for the current academic year, you must notify SAAS before 31 March.

If you have not submitted a SAAS PTFG application by 31st March 2027, you must wait to apply for funding and study in the following academic year.