



# Access

## Aged 24 or over and thinking about an Access to Higher Education course?

If you're starting an Access course on or after 1 August 2013 you may qualify for a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan. These loans help you to pay the tuition fees charged by colleges and training providers.

Most learners aged 24 and over, studying at Level 3 will qualify for these new loans from the UK government. Your household income isn't taken into account and there is no credit check when you apply. You won't have to pay anything back until your income is over £21,000 a year.

## Key Facts

### Do I qualify?

To qualify you must be:

- **Aged 24 or over** on the first day of your course and starting your course on or after 1 August 2013
- **Living in the UK on the first day of your course** and have lived in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for three years immediately before this
- **Studying with a college or training organisation** in England approved for public funding
- **Enrolling on an Access to Higher Education Course**

### How much will repayments be?

Repayment of the loan will only start when you have completed the course and your income is over £21,000 a year. The table to the right gives an example of the amount you will have to repay:

Up to £21,000	Repay £0 per month
£22,000	Repay £7 per month
£25,000	Repay £30 per month
£30,000	Repay £67 per month
£35,000	Repay £105 per month
£40,000	Repay £142 per month

**If you complete your Access course and go on to complete a degree you will not have to repay your 24+ loan (see over for details).**

If you complete a degree following completion of the Access course, the fees for the Access course will **not** have to be repaid\*.

*\*Matthew Hancock MP, Improving the quality of further education and skills training policy, 10 January 2013*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training/supporting-pages/funding-system-for-further-education-24-advanced-learning-loans>

## **Making the right choice**

It is important you consider your own circumstances and look into all options for paying for your course before choosing to take out a loan. You can get independent financial advice from the Money Advice Service at [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk)

You also need to make sure that you enrol on the right course for you – one that you can enjoy and succeed on. For help and advice about your course choice and career prospects, visit the Career Zone located at the front of the College.

## **Applying for your course and the loan**

When you have decided on the right course, complete a College application form and take this to Customer Services and Reception. They will then direct you to the right department for funding and finance support.

You will need to apply for the 24+ loan from Student Finance England using the information on your 'Learning and Funding' information letter. Further details are available from the website below.

As soon as your attendance on the course has been confirmed Student Finance England will pay the agreed fee to South Downs College.

## **How much can I get?**

The amount you get depends on your course, the tuition fees charged by your college or training organisation and maximum amounts set by the government.

The minimum loan amount is £300.

You can take out a loan for the maximum amount to cover your tuition fee or you can pay all or part of the tuition fee yourself.

## **Find out more**

For more information, contact the Career Zone, Customer Services and Reception or visit <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/courses/funding/Pages/24AdvancedLearningLoans.aspx>

