

# Advanced Learning Loans

## Fact Sheet (updated April 2016)



Student Financial Support Team: 020 3667 0050

### What is an Advanced Learning Loan?

An Advanced Learning Loan is a Loan that is provided by Student Finance England, to cover the cost of your course. The loan was introduced by the Government to help learners aged 19 and over engage in further education.

### Do I qualify for an Advanced Learning Loan?

You need to be:

- Aged 19 and over at the start of the course.
- A resident in the UK/EU for three years prior to the start of the course (you will have to provide 3 years address history to Student Finance England).
- Enrolling on an eligible course at Level 3 or above

### Before applying for the Loan, what do I need to do?

- Choose a Course at Barking & Dagenham College that is eligible for the Advanced Learning Loan and apply for the course via the college website ([www.bdc.ac.uk](http://www.bdc.ac.uk)).
- Following an interview at the College, we will issue you with a **Learning and Funding Information Letter**.
- If you decide to apply for the Advanced Learning Loan, you will need to do this directly to Student Finance England, online via their website.

### How do I apply?

Online at [www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans](http://www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans)

### What happens next?

You will receive confirmation from Student Finance England that your loan application has been received / approved. You will need to bring evidence of this with you when you come to the college to complete your enrolment.

### How do I pay back the loan?

- The loan is repaid via the tax system, and will only start from the April following the completion of your course and once you start earning £21,000 per annum.
- Should your annual earnings fall below £21,000, your repayments will stop and will only re-start once your annual earnings increase to more than £21,000.

### What else do I need to know?

- No Credit Check will be required.
- The Advanced Learner Loan is not means tested and your household income is not taken into account when applying for the loan.
- There is no upper age limit.
- If you are 19 – 23 years old and already hold a level 3 qualification, you will be able to apply for an Advanced Learning Loan to cover your tuition fees.

### Can I get extra support from the College?

Once accepted for the loan, you may be eligible for:

- A monthly maintenance grant
- Travel costs (to and from the College)
- Books / Equipment / Uniform
- Childcare costs
- External body registration fees (including DBS)