

Advanced Learner Loan.

Access to Higher Education Diploma information sheet

If you did not gain the traditional qualifications required to progress to Higher Education when you were at school, such as A levels, Access to Higher Education Diplomas offer an alternative route. If you want to take an Access course and you are over the age of 19, you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan to pay for the course fee. If you complete this and then go on to complete a course in Higher Education, the remaining balance of your Advanced Learner Loan, including any interest on it, will be written off.

How this works

Learner completes an Access to Higher Education Diploma, paid for with Advanced Learner Loan

The learner doesn't have to start a Higher Education course immediately following their Access course. If they get a job in between and are earning more than the repayment threshold, they would start to repay their Advanced Learner Loan.

Please visit www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan for more information.

If the learner studies a Higher Education course part-time while working and they earn more than the repayment threshold, they would start to repay their Advanced Learner Loan.

If the learner isn't earning more than the repayment threshold, either before they start their Higher Education course or while they're studying, they won't make any loan repayments.

When the learner has finished their Higher Education course, the Student Loans Company will write off the balance on the Advanced Learner Loan that they took out to fund their Access course. The learner will be contacted with confirmation of this.

If a learner doesn't take out a student loan to pay for their Higher Education course, they will have to contact the Student Loans Company and provide evidence that they have completed their course. Their Advanced Learner Loan would still be written off if the Higher Education course that they completed would have been eligible for student support.

Why does my Advanced Learner Loan get written off if I go on to complete a course in Higher Education?

Access to Higher Education Diplomas are designed to enable people who have few, if any, qualifications to study in Higher Education. As such, their main aim is to support progression to Higher Education, which is not the case for other courses funded by the Advanced Learner Loan.

For further information please visit gov.uk/advancedlearnerloan