



**University of Brighton**

# **The Student Finance Survey 2009-10**

## **Appendix 3: Questionnaire**

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# **University of Brighton**

## **Student Finance Survey 2009/10**

This is the 18th Student Finance Survey conducted by the School of Applied Social Science of the University of Brighton. It is commissioned by the university and has the full support of the Students' Union. Questionnaires are being given to around 450 full-time degree students, in order to gain a realistic picture of students' financial situations. The results will be published in a report available from the university's Social Science Policy and Research Centre.

**The questionnaire is confidential, anonymous and you can withdraw at any time.**

**Please complete the questions in the next 15-20 minutes  
as fully as possible so that we can provide a  
complete picture of students' current financial circumstances.**

Please return the completed questionnaire to the researcher who has given you this form.

**Thank you for your time and co-operation.**

1. a) What course are you studying? .....

b) What is your main site of study? (please tick ONE)

Eastbourne  Falmer  Grand Parade   
Hastings  Moulsecoomb

c) Is this course of study your first university degree? YES/ NO

2. Are you:

Full-time student   
Part-time student

3. Are you:

School of nursing and midwifery student  **Go to question 4**  
UK/home student  **Go to question 4**  
EU or international student  **Go to question 20**

4. If you are a UK/home or nursing and midwifery student where is your home address?

Please write the first half of your postcode (e.g.MK18) .....

If you are a nursing or midwifery student please go to question 7

**Contributions that your Local Authority (LA) expects you or your family to make towards your tuition fees and living expenses.**

5. Are you, your parents or partner, expected by your LA to contribute to your living expenses (i.e. required to contribute up to 25% of the student loan)

YES / NO / DON'T KNOW

If YES, how much are you/they expected to contribute in total? .....

**Only answer (a) to (d) if your parents are expected to contribute to your living costs. Otherwise go to Q6**

(a) Have your parents contributed at least the required amount? YES/ NO

(b) If your parents have not contributed at least the expected amount, how much will they actually contribute this academic year? .....

(c) Do your parents contribute towards university cost for any siblings? YES/ NO

(d) If you answered YES to question (c), how many siblings are currently at university? .....

**Student Loans.**

6. Are you eligible for a student loan for maintenance? YES/ NO

If NO, why are you not eligible?.....

7. a) Have you applied for a student loan for maintenance **THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**?

YES

NO  **Go to question 8**

If YES, how much did you apply for (including any loan adjustment)? £.....

b) Is this the maximum amount that you are entitled to take out this year?

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

**Go to question 9**

8. Which of the following best describe your reasons for not applying for a student loan? (Please tick ALL that apply)

I don't need the money because my parents give me extra money

I don't need the money because I have a paid job

I have borrowed money from another lender

Other reason (please specify below)

.....

9. Did you apply for a student loan for maintenance during **the FIRST YEAR** of your course? YES/ NO

If YES, how much money did you receive? .....

**If you are a nursing or midwifery student please go to question 12**

10. Have you applied for a student loan for tuition fees **THIS ACADEMIC YEAR**? YES/ NO

If YES, how much did you apply for? .....

11. Did you apply for a student loan for tuition fees during **the FIRST YEAR** of your course? YES/ NO

If YES, how much money did you receive? .....



**Grants, bursaries and sponsorships.**

14. Which, if any, grants, bursaries or sponsorships have you received **THIS ACADEMIC YEAR?**

(a) Maintenance grant

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(b) Special support grant

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(c) Parents' learning allowance

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(d) Childcare grant

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(e) Adult dependants' grant

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(f) Disabled students allowance

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(g) University of Brighton Bursary

YES/ NO

If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

(h) Any other grants, bursaries or sponsorships?

YES/ NO

If YES, what is it called? .....

How much will you receive this year? .....



**Department for work and pension benefits.**

15. Do you currently receive any benefits or tax credits?

YES/ NO

If YES, which benefits do you receive? (Please tick all that apply)

Working tax credit



Child tax credit



If YES, how much will you receive this year? .....

Income Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child benefit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing benefit/Local housing allowance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incapacity benefit / Disability living allowance /		<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment support allowance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state).....		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access to learning fund (hardship fund).**

**16.** Have you received any money from the Access to Learning Fund (hardship fund) administered by the university's student advice service (formerly known as welfare) **THIS ACADEMIC YEAR?**

YES/ NO

If YES, how much did you receive? .....

**17.** Did you receive any money from the Access to Learning Fund (hardship fund) during the **FIRST YEAR** of your course?

YES/ NO

If YES, how much did you receive?.....

**18.** Which **ONE** of the following statements **most closely** describes your reason for **NOT** applying to the Access to Learning Fund (hardship fund) this year?

I do not need the money

Other people need the money more than I do

It seems like a lot of effort for relatively little money

I did not know about the Access to Learning Fund (hardship fund)

Other reason (please specify below)

.....

19. a) How much do you agree with the statement: 'The level of information on student finance provided by the university before I started my course met my needs?'  
Please tick ONE.

- |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly Agree           | Agree                    | Neutral                  | Disagree                 | Strongly Disagree        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

b) What information on student finance do you remember using?

(please tick ALL that apply)

- |                                    |                          |                          |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| University of Brighton website     | <input type="checkbox"/> | UCAS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| University of Brighton Money Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family or friends advice | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Government website                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify)   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| School/college advice              | <input type="checkbox"/> | .....                    |                          |








**Current term-time paid employment.**

20. Do you currently have a REGULAR part-time job?

- YES  **Go to question 21**  
NO  **Go to question 22**

21. (a) How many hours per week on average do you work? .....

(b) What is your job? .....

(c) How much do you earn on average per week? .....

(d) If you work regular hours each week, please state the days of the week and times of the day that you work in the space below.

.....

**Go to question 24**





22. Which ONE of the following statements best describes your reason for **NOT** having a job in term-time ?

- I could not find any work
- I don't need to work
- I wanted to concentrate on my studies
- I cannot work because of childcare responsibilities
- Other reason (please specify below)

.....

23. During this academic year have you had any casual or temporary paid employment (for example a few hours paid student ambassador work, data entry, flyering, etc. but not on a regular basis)?

YES/ NO

If YES:

What are/were the job(s) .....

How many hours **AD HOC** work have you done altogether during this academic year?

.....hours

About how much have you earned altogether for this work this academic year?

£.....

**Paid work that you have done during University vacations.**

24. Have you worked during any vacations whilst at university?

Christmas vacation of the first year

YES / NO / COULDN'T FIND A JOB

Easter vacation of the first year

YES / NO / COULDN'T FIND A JOB

Summer vacation of the first year

YES / NO / COULDN'T FIND A JOB

Christmas vacation of the second year YES / NO / COULDN'T FIND A JOB

25. If YES, please indicate the reasons you work during vacations (please tick ALL that apply)

Need money for basic living costs



Extra money for a holiday



Extra money to go out socialising



Extra money so I can afford clothes, music, phone



To gain work experience



Looks good on my CV



Avoid getting into debt



Reducing the money I owe when I graduate



To pay for my tuition fees



To pay off my current debt



To pay for books and other items required on the course



I have a family to support



So I can save



Other (please specify).....

**If you have worked during term time this academic year, please answer question 26, if not go to question 27.**

**26.** Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Please tick ONE box for each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
(a) My <u>term-time</u> job has given me useful work experience	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(b) My <u>term-time</u> job has had a detrimental effect on the time I have available to study	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(c) I would like to do more paid work in <u>term-time</u> but my academic work prevents this	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(d) I would only take a paid job in <u>term-time</u> if I could fit it in around my academic timetable	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(e) The combination of academic work and paid work during <u>term-time</u> means that I am often very tired	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(f) Because of my <u>term-time</u> job, the quality of my academic work has suffered	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(g) My <u>term-time</u> job has reduced the time I have available for social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(h) My paid work had lead me to miss taught sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>					
(i) I would like to do more academic work in <u>term-time</u> but my paid work prevents this	<input type="checkbox"/>					

**Any other sources of income.**

**27.** Money from your parents/guardians or other family members.

(a) Do they contribute to your accommodation/living costs? YES/ NO

If YES, how much do they contribute **PER MONTH**? £.....

(b) Have your parents/ guardians or other family members given you any other gifts of money (apart from Local Authority assessed contributions to the means assessed part of the student loan)?

YES/ NO

If YES, about how much have they given you **SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR COURSE?** £.....

(c) Have they lent you money?

YES/ NO

If YES, please state the amount in £.....

28. Have you spent any savings which you had **prior to coming to university**

YES/ NO

If YES, about how much of these have you spent **SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR COURSE?** (please state amount) £ .....

29. Are there any other ways you have raised money or any other source of income **SINCE YOU BEGAN YOUR COURSE?**

YES/ NO

If YES, please state the source .....

How much? £.....

### Your expenditure.

30. What type of accommodation do you live in during term time? (Please tick ONE)

- |                |                          |                            |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Private rented | <input type="checkbox"/> | With parents/guardian      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Own home       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Halls of residence         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lodgings       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) ..... |                          |

31. How much rent/mortgage do you pay for your accommodation **PER WEEK?**

- |           |                          |  |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Nothing   | <input type="checkbox"/> | £80 - £89                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Up to £50 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £90 - £99                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £50 - £59 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £100 - £109                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £60 - £69 | <input type="checkbox"/> | More (including mortgage) please state £ ..... |                          |
| £70 - £79 | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                          |

32. **How** many weeks of the year is this money due? ..... weeks

33. Approximately, how much you pay for the following **PER WEEK**?

Please tick ONE per item.

<u>WEEKLY</u> Expenditure	Nothing	Less than £10	£10-14	£15-19	£20-24	£25-29	£30-34	£35-39	£40-44	£45-49	£50 or more
Gas											
Electricity											
Water supply/waste											
Food											
Social activities											
Clothes											
Broadband/TV/Phone landline											
Mobile phone											
Photocopying for your course											
Travel to and from university											

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  


34. Which is your **MAIN** mode of transport to and from the university? (Please tick ONE)

- Car
- Walk
- Train
- Cycle
- Bus

Other (please specify) .....



37. (a) What is the state of your finances at present (including any savings you have, personal loans you have, etc., but excluding mortgages and student loans)?

- |                      |                          |                         |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Over £500 in credit  | <input type="checkbox"/> | £500 - 1000 in debt     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £499 - 200 in credit | <input type="checkbox"/> | £1001 - 1500 in debt    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £1 - 199 in credit   | <input type="checkbox"/> | £1501 - 2000 in debt    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £1 - 500 in debt     | <input type="checkbox"/> | More than £2000 in debt | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) If you have indicated you are in debt in question 37(a) have you taken any debt advice?

YES/ NO

(c) Where did you go for debt advice? (please tick ALL that apply)

- |         |                          |  |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Family  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Citizens Advice Bureau                               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> | Student Services or student advice service (welfare) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bank    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify).....                          |                          |

38. (a) How worried are you about debt now? (please tick ONE)

- very worried           fairly worried           not at all worried

(b) How worried are you about debt on graduation? (please tick ONE)

- very worried           fairly worried           not at all worried

**About you.**

39. What do you expect to be doing in a year after graduation? (please only tick ONE)

- |                        |                          |                             |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Own business           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gap year                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Employment             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undecided                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Postgraduate education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify)..... |                          |

40. What do you consider your gender to be?

MALE / FEMALE

41. What is your age?

- |         |                          |         |                          |         |                          |         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 18 - 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 - 35 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46 - 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 61 - 65 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 - 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 36 - 40 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 51 - 55 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66 - 70 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26 - 30 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 41 - 45 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56 - 60 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 70+     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

42. What do you consider to be your ethnicity? (please tick ONE)

- |                          |                          |                        |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| White                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed Race             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian/Asian British      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black/Black British      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinese/ Chinese British | <input type="checkbox"/> | .....                  |                          |

43. Do you have any children aged under 19? YES/ NO

If YES, please say how many children of this age you have .....

44. Which of the following describes your current living arrangements? Please tick ONE.

Living with a partner and children

Living with a partner (no children)

Living with children, lone parent (not with a partner)

Living in a shared student house (with other students)

Living on my own

Living in a shared house (not with students or partner)

Other

45. If you live with a partner, is he/she currently:

a student

in employment

other (please state) .....

46. Do you own, or have regular use of a car? YES/ NO

47. Do you own, or have regular use of a computer or laptop at home? YES/ NO

48. Do you have access to broadband at home? YES/ NO

49. Are you the first adult in your family to go to university? YES/ NO

50. Overall, to what extent do you agree with the statement: 'The university experience has provided value for money.' Please tick ONE.

Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

              

51. Do you have anything else to say about the financial situation of students, which has not been covered in this questionnaire?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.**

The Student Advice Service can provide information, advice and support on financial issues, email: [studentadvice@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@brighton.ac.uk) or have a look on [www.brighton.ac.uk/moneymatters](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/moneymatters)