



Federal Student Loan changes resulting from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

On July 4, 2025, the United States president signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) into law. These changes are due to come into effect **from July 1, 2026**. These changes will impact the Federal Direct Loans students receive for their studies at Nottingham Trent University.

Below you will find a brief overview of the main changes and how this may impact your studies from the 2026/27 Academic Year.

Undergraduate Borrowing

Currently there are no changes to the annual Subsidised and Unsubsidised loan limits that can be borrowed by new and continuing Undergraduate borrowers.

To review the annual loan limits dependent on year of study and dependency status, please refer to the [FSA Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans](#) webpage.

Parent PLUS Borrowing

There are changes to borrowing limits for **new** Parent PLUS Loan applicants which affect:

- Parents of those whose student joined a course after July 1, 2026, and
- Parents of continuing students where neither a student nor parent borrowed Financial Aid prior to July 1, 2026

The borrowing limit for all parents (combined) is \$20,000 per student per academic year from July 1, 2026, with a lifetime (aggregate) limit of \$65,000 per dependent student.

Legacy borrowers, where a student/parent have borrowed Financial Aid prior to July 1, 2026, and the student remains enrolled on the same course, may continue to borrow based on the current rules.

This will last for either up to 3 years or the length of course remaining, whichever is lesser. If a student changes course, or a parent is supporting a new student after July 1, 2026, the parent will be subject to the new borrowing rules.



Postgraduate Borrowing

For new Postgraduate students, beginning a course after July 1, 2026, and continuing students who did not borrow Financial Aid for their current course before July 1, 2026, the Graduate PLUS Loan will no longer be available.

Instead, a student may apply for Unsubsidised Direct Loans, with an annual loan limit of \$20,500 and an aggregate loan limit of \$100,000.

The new total lifetime (aggregate) limit across all loan borrowing (excluding PLUS) will be \$257,500.

Legacy borrowers, where a student is continuing a course and borrowed Financial Aid for this course prior to July 1, 2026, may continue to borrow based on the current rules.

This will last for either up to 3 years or the length of course remaining, whichever is lesser. If a student changes course after July 1, 2026, they will be treated under the new borrowing rules.

Repayment Plans

Borrowers with new loans awarded after July 1, 2026, (including continuing borrowers with borrowing prior to July 1, 2026, who borrow further) will repay all their loans using, a new standard repayment plan and a new income-based plan called RAP (Repayment Assistance Plan).

Current borrowers with no further borrowing after July 1, 2026, will be eligible to either

- Remain on Standard, Graduated, Extended or current IBR plans or
- Opt into the new RAP plan.

Current borrowers on IDR can switch between, enter or remain on these plans until July 1, 2028, however, borrowers enrolled in ICR, PAYE and SAVE plans must transition to a different payment plan prior to July 1, 2028, or they will be moved onto the new RAP plan.

Course Intensity

Ordinarily due to visa restrictions for international students, most financial aid applicants at Nottingham Trent University are undertaking a full-time course with 100% intensity and would not be impacted by the proportional intensity rule.



However, if a student still meets eligibility criteria for Financial Aid but were enrolled less than full time (inclusive of any repeat years where a student-maintained entitlement to aid), their aid entitlement would be directly proportional to their course intensity.

E.g. A student on a postgraduate course undertaking 75% intensity of a full-time course, would only be entitled to 75% of the annual loan limit. Therefore the \$20,500 annual limit would be reduced to \$15,375. The course intensity will be calculated to the nearest percentage point.

If you are on a Student Route visa and changes to your intensity of study are being considered, you should seek advice from the [International Student Support Service](#), to check the implications for your visa.

Contacting the Financial Aid Office

You can contact the Financial Aid Office at Nottingham Trent University by:

Email: usloans@ntu.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 115 848 2521

We are open between 8.30 am – 5.00 pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 am – 4.30 pm on Fridays. Dependent on the time of year, this will either be the GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) or BST (British Summer Time) time zone.

Further information

More in depth guidance on the above changes can be received through the below additional external resources.

- [Federal Student Aid – One Big Beautiful Bill Act Updates](#)
This page is produced by the Federal Student Aid team and will be updated as further information is available.
- [NASFAA \(National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators\) – Federal Aid Changes from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#)
This document is recommended especially for further guidance on repayment options, as well as guidance for repayment options for Parent PLUS and consolidation loans.