

[Apply now for finance as the application service launches for 2022 to 2023](#)

News story

Full-time undergraduate students in Wales are being encouraged to apply now for student finance



Full-time undergraduate students in Wales are being encouraged to [apply now](#) for student finance, as the application service opens for the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The Student Loans Company (SLC) expects approximately 1.5 million full-time, undergraduate students to apply for funding this year and the advice is to get applications in early.

Students in Wales can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay for tuition fees and a Maintenance Loan and Grant to help with living costs. By applying before the deadline (27 May 2022 for new students and 17 June 2022 for returning students) students can ensure they will have their finance in place for the start of term. Even if they are unsure of what course they will be doing or what university they will be attending, SLC is still encouraging students to apply now.

Applications can take six to eight weeks to process. Students can check their application status online and view a 'to do list' of any outstanding actions they need to take.

Chris Larmer, SLC Executive Director of Operations, said: "SLC exists to enable opportunity for students to invest in their futures through access to further and higher education. We want students to get their higher education journey off to the best start by ensuring they have their finances in place at the start of term. That's why we are encouraging them to apply now for their student finance.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for students to access student finance and to support them resources are available online at

<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance>. They can also follow Student Finance Wales (SFW) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for all the latest student finance information.”

To help students apply for student finance we have provided the tips below:

- **Apply Now**

Apply as early as possible to make sure your finances are in place before your studies start. The deadline to apply is 27 May for new students and 17 June for returning students. Even if you don't know what course you'll be studying, you should still [apply now](#) using your preferred choice and update your application later if you need to. This is the best way to make sure you have your money when you start your course.

- **Don't call us – we'll contact you!**

Remember it can take 6 to 8 weeks to process an application. There is no need to contact us during this time to check on your application status. We will contact you if we need anything further. Applicants can also check their application status online and view a 'to do list' of any outstanding actions they need to take.

- **Find the answer online first**

Take advantage of the information and resources provided online at <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance> – these resources are continually updated to respond to the needs of students and their parents and partners as they progress through the application cycle. Students should follow SFW on social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) to stay up to date with the very latest information.

- **Make sure you understand how much funding you may be entitled to**

Students in Wales can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay for tuition fees and a Maintenance Loan and Grant to help with living costs. Visit the SFW website to find out [what's available](#). Watch the Discover Student Finance film to find out more.

[Discover Student Finance film](#)

- **Have your important documents at hand**

Have your National Insurance number, UK passport details and bank details to hand before you start your application as you will need this

information when you apply.

- **Provide your supporting evidence online**

Don't forget to submit any evidence you're asked for. All evidence apart from some ID or residency evidence can be submitted digitally via your online account.

- **Make sure you tell us if you have studied before**

If you have studied before it could affect your eligibility – even if your previous course was self-funded. Make sure to submit your application early so your entitlement can be confirmed.

- There may be some circumstances where you are able to access extra money, for example if you have a disability, or have children. Find out more: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/discover-student-finance>

- **Follow Student Finance Wales (SFW) on social media.**

Students can get all the latest information on student finance by following SFW on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Published 1 March 2022

[HMCTS launches Welsh Language scheme consultation](#)

News story

We've launched a new consultation to review our Welsh Language Scheme, which is open for views until 8 April 2022.



Today (1 March 2022) on St David's Day, we launched [our consultation](#) to review whether our Welsh Language Scheme still meet the needs of our Welsh speaking court and tribunal users. The consultation opens today until 8 April 2022 and seeks to introduce standards to strengthen our consideration of Welsh language matters at initial policymaking stages.

Increased court and tribunal services in Welsh

A growing number of our online services can already be accessed in Welsh, including:

Aligning our in-house Welsh Language Unit with our new Court and Tribunal Service Centres provides a more cohesive service, including access to ongoing user feedback. We introduced a [Welsh Language Twitter Account](#) and we'll be providing more Welsh content on [our YouTube channel](#) in the future.

You can use Welsh in your court or tribunal hearings. Asking to speak in Welsh in your hearing will not delay the hearing or have any impact on proceedings or the outcome. Over the next few months, our reform programme will provide more reformed services in Welsh in both the civil and family jurisdictions.

A grateful member of the public who interacted with us in Welsh during a highly emotive hearing recently shared this praise for the service:

You have restored my faith in humanity.

Kevin Sadler, Acting Chief Executive of HMCTS, said:

Today, on St David's Day I'm proud to launch our consultation on our revised Welsh Language Scheme. Improving our Welsh language provision and approach requires a cultural shift.

Our revised Welsh Language Scheme will contribute to a more lasting and sustainable approach to us providing our services in Welsh. It's our legal and moral duty to make sure our services are accessible in the Welsh language and just as importantly, that Welsh speakers know that they are available.

Hywel Hughes, Head of Welsh Language Services at HMCTS, said:

We're seeing an increased demand for Welsh language services across the public sector in Wales. From our experience in our courts and tribunals, it is plain to see users vastly appreciate being able to use Welsh when they contact or access our services. The language is an integral part of their identity and if they can't use it, they feel incomplete and alienated. The changes proposed in our revised Welsh Language Scheme cement our commitment to providing equal access to justice for Welsh speakers.

Published 1 March 2022

[Colonel James Phillips made first Wales Veterans' Commissioner](#)

The Office for Veterans Affairs and the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales have jointly appointed Colonel James Phillips as Veterans' Commissioner for Wales.

Welsh Secretary Simon Hart said he was delighted that James Phillips had been appointed to the role, which will build on the success of counterpart roles in Scotland and Northern Ireland and will mean that all devolved nations have a Veterans' Commissioner.

James will be working to enhance the support for veterans in Wales, as well as scrutinising and advising on government policy for veterans.

The establishment of a Welsh Veterans Commissioner will ensure that the particular needs and contributions of veterans in Wales are represented.

The Veterans' Commissioner will help direct veterans and their families to local support available in areas such as healthcare and mental health provision, housing and employment, as well as assisting charities and advocating for the veteran community in Wales.

The appointment has been announced as Wales celebrates St David's Day and during Wales Week in London, where the UK Government is holding a number of events.

James has just completed his own transition to civilian life after 33 years in the Army. He has served in Germany, Cyprus, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq. He has commanded soldiers, sailors and air personnel and worked in NATO, MOD, Joint and Army

Headquarters. He is married and lives in Pembrokeshire with 4 children and a very boisterous Welsh Springer Spaniel.

The Veterans' Commissioner for Wales, Colonel James Phillips said:

As a veteran of more than thirty years' service, I am very excited to be appointed as the first Veterans' Commissioner for Wales. The ex-forces community forms an important part of Welsh society and there is a long tradition of service and sacrifice. I will utilise my experience and position to improve the lives of all veterans and their families.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:

The Armed Forces have a long and important tradition in Wales and we are exceptionally proud of our Welsh veterans. Our ex-servicemen and women and their families deserve recognition, support and respect throughout the duration of their service and beyond.

The appointment of a Veterans' Commissioner for Wales will increase and coordinate the support available and highlights the UK Government's commitment to the welfare of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

I am delighted that we could make this hugely important announcement on St David's Day.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay said:

We want to ensure that veterans across all corners of the United Kingdom have access to high quality support.

The appointment of Colonel Phillips to this role now means that all parts of the UK have commissioners to champion veterans across society and hold the public sector to account.

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:

This appointment delivers on a key part of our Veterans' Strategy Action Plan and I look forward to working with Colonel Phillips.

I know they will work hard to represent veterans in Wales – driving forward support for them across the country, whether it is housing, employment or healthcare.

Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Social Partnership, Hannah Blythyn said:

Wales provides a wide range of support for veterans – from NHS Veterans Wales to our Armed Forces Liaison Officers – and we are committed to working with stakeholders to supporting all those who have served.

The Veterans' Commissioner for Wales is a UK Government appointment. We look forward to working with Colonel James Phillips as part of our commitment to veterans across Wales.

Colonel Phillips will be reporting directly to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay and Minister for Defence, People and Veterans Leo Docherty.

In January the Office for Veterans' Affairs launched the government's Veterans Strategy Action Plan. Commitments in the plan relating to Wales include:

- Stepping up data and understanding of the veterans' cohort in Wales, through the first veterans question in last year's Census in England and Wales. This will allow us to publish insights developed from the census data across a range of topics affecting veterans and their families, from health and wellbeing to housing and employment.
- The Welsh Government continuing to support the Veterans NHS Wales specialist mental healthcare service and Veterans Trauma Network (VTN) Wales service for veterans with complex physical injuries.
- The Welsh Government will work with Armed Forces Liaison Officers (AFLOs) and partners including regional suicide and self-harm prevention coordinators to promote mental health first aid training.
- The Welsh Government will review and publish a new Armed Forces Covenant, Healthcare Priority for Veterans Guidance, subject to UK developments including the Armed Forces Bill.

England's largest seagrass restoration continues in Plymouth Sound

Research shows at least 44% of the UK's seagrass has been lost since 1936¹.

This restoration work is part of England's largest seagrass planting effort under the LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES partnership, led by Natural England.

The partnership's restoration lead – Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) – is

carrying out 1 hectare of planting on 7 and 23 March, at Jennycliff Bay in Plymouth Sound. This will be in addition to the 1.5 hectares of seagrass planted there last year as part of the project.

It involves a huge contribution from volunteers, who will join the ReMEDIES partnership at the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth for 5 days of seed bag packing during March.

Fiona Crouch, Natural England Project Manager for ReMEDIES, said:

Restoring seagrass meadows means restoring the benefits they bring to people and nature – vital homes for wildlife, enhanced water quality, carbon storage, and so much more.

Disease, pollution, and physical disturbance has all contributed to the loss of seagrass. But seagrass is an important habitat, providing homes for sea life including juvenile fish and protected creatures like seahorses and stalked jellyfish. Seagrass also helps stabilise the seabed, reduce coastal erosion, clean surrounding water, and can be as effective at absorbing and storing carbon as our woodlands.

Mark Parry, Development Officer at the Ocean Conservation Trust, said:

After the success of our previous planting effort, we are excited to be getting underway again.

These events take a lot of hard work, planning and preparation, and wouldn't be successful without the help of our community.

We are so proud of how many volunteers are willing to dedicate their time to help restore such an important habitat, within what is going to be the UK's first ever National Marine Park.

The 4-year ReMEDIES project (July 2019 to October 2023) aims to plant a total of 8 hectares of seagrass meadows – 4 hectares in Plymouth Sound and 4 hectares in the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation. In mid-March, planting will begin at the Solent restoration site west of the mouth of the Beaulieu River, adjacent to the North Solent National Nature Reserve shoreline.

Find out more about LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES by following on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook @EULIFERemedies, or visiting www.saveourseabed.co.uk.

¹ Research by Alix Green, published in Frontiers in Plant Science journal, March 2021 <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.629962/full>)

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES is a £2.5 million, 4-year marine conservation project to [Save Our Seabed](#) at 5 Special Areas of Conservation along England's South Coast, through seagrass restoration, education and innovation. It is funded by the [LIFE programme](#) and led by Natural England in partnership with Marine Conservation Society, Ocean Conservation Trust, Plymouth City Council/Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum and Royal Yachting Association. Visit saveourseabed.co.uk.

Natural England

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england.

Ocean Conservation Trust

The Ocean Conservation Trust is an ocean conservation charity that focuses on 2 key areas: habitat restoration and behaviour change. Following a conservation pathway that has been proven to work, the charity's approach puts people at the centre, working hard to create meaningful connections between people and the ocean as the first step to inspiring long-term behaviour change. This is done in tandem with more traditional conservation work surrounding the monitoring and restoration of crucial ocean habitats, with a particular focus on seagrasses www.oceanconservationtrust.org.

Royal Yachting Association (RYA)

The RYA is the national body for dinghy, yacht and motor cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sports boats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative for inland waterways cruising www.rya.org.uk. The Green Blue is the joint environment programme created by British Marine and the RYA. It was set up to encourage everyone who enjoys getting out on the water or whose livelihood depends on it, to do so as sustainably as possible thegreenblue.org.uk.

Marine Conservation Society

The Marine Conservation Society is the UK's leading charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife www.mcsuk.org.

Plymouth City Council/Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum

Plymouth City Council is a unitary authority and has hosted Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum since it was first established in the early 1990s. It has a vision for Plymouth to be Britain's Ocean City and one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities which is sustainable and cares about the environment and is currently working towards creating Britain's first National Marine Park www.plymouth.gov.uk.

The Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) is a collaborative partnership bringing together the key authorities responsible for the management of the tidal waters of Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site. Under the chair of the Queen's Harbour Master, members consist of 5 local authorities, 4 harbour authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, Marine Management Organisation, Duchy of Cornwall and both Devon and Severn, and Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

Prime Minister's speech in Poland on the Russian invasion of Ukraine: 1 March 2022

I'm back here in Poland again. It's always good to be here but I'm afraid I'm here in the background of an unfolding European tragedy, when Poland is in the frontline.

Two weeks ago, when I met Mateusz and the Polish government, we agreed that our countries would stand shoulder to shoulder in what we predicted jointly would be a coming crisis.

And as indeed we have stood shoulder to shoulder so many times in the last hundred years, that crisis is now upon us.

It is now 126 hours since Vladimir Putin decided to launch a war of aggression on our continent, tearing up every principle of civilised behaviour between states.

He has hurled his war machine on the people of Ukraine, a fellow Slavic country; he has bombarded civilian targets and fired rockets at blocks of flats.

He is responsible for hundreds of civilian casualties, including growing numbers of children and for also of course the deaths of many Russian and Ukrainian soldiers.

We must accept the grim reality that Putin will continue to tighten the vice and if you go by sheer size and firepower of Vladimir Putin's war machine. The odds have always been heavily against Ukraine's armed forces.

But one thing is already clear and one prediction – that both Mateusz and I made – is being proved right.

This invasion of a free and sovereign country is not only a tragedy, but it is a colossal mistake. Putin has lied to his people and to his troops about how this conflict would go, and he has now been caught out in that lie.

They have not been welcomed to Ukraine, as he prophesised. Their tanks have not been cheered in the streets or garlanded with flowers.

Instead, Ukrainians have mounted an astonishing and tenacious resistance, which has snarled up Putin's advance on Kyiv and Kharkiv and delayed his whole invasion plan.

Putin has totally miscalculated the nature of this conflict and the nature of the people of Ukraine.

With every hour, the passionate desire of the people of Ukraine to defend their country has become more apparent and millions of people around the world have been stirred and moved by their courage.

The reality is that whatever happens in the coming days or weeks, the Ukrainian people have shown already that their spirit will not be broken, and they will not be subdued.

I have spoken almost every day to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and when I think of the dangers and pressures he must be facing, the physical dangers he must be facing,

I marvel at his coolness under fire, his bravery and his invincible good humour. I think he is mobilising the world against the horror of what is happening.

And as I said in Munich 10 days ago, Russia will not be able to subjugate the second largest country in Europe, encompassing nearly a quarter of a million square miles.

Putin's war machine will not succeed in holding down Ukraine. Even to hold down a part of that giant country, with the constant threat of reprisals and guerrilla attacks, would be militarily exhausting and economically ruinous for the Russian occupiers.

And so, it is already clear from the facts that we have right now, that Putin will ultimately fail in Ukraine and Putin must fail in Ukraine.

And so, the best thing both for Russia and Ukraine, and for the world is for this misbegotten venture to be halted and reversed as fast as possible.

And with every day and every hour that goes by that amazing Ukrainian resistance is helping to solidify and unite the rest of the world and if anything, western unity, and determination is growing stronger.

Dozens of nations have rejected the easy option of sitting on the side lines, or adopting a policy of calculated indifference, and instead, they have chosen instead to take a stand, consciously risking retaliation from the Kremlin.

They understand the stakes:

They know that if Putin succeeds in trampling Ukraine, his imperial ambitions

would not end at that country's borders.

They know that the outcome would be a world where aggression has triumphed, where might is right and extreme violence pays off and no nation would be safe.

And they know that Putin's aim is to overthrow the post-Cold War order and destroy the vision of a Europe whole and free.

The draft treaty he published in December would once again impose a Russian veto on the foreign and defence policies of a dozen or more nations at the heart of our continent, including Poland, and that is something the UK and our allies could never accept.

And it is because of the implications of what is happening in Ukraine as well as the sheer horror that the UK has worked side-by-side with the European Union and the United States to devise the biggest package of sanctions ever imposed on Russia and one of the biggest packages of sanctions of all time.

And I'm grateful for the determination of President Biden and President Ursula von der Leyen. Our efforts have intensified to the point where the rouble virtually collapsed yesterday, even though Russia's central bank doubled its interest rates.

Now we will do more with our friends to exclude Russian banks from the SWIFT system, freeze their assets and restrict trade, and we will go further in our efforts to sanction those who are close to the Putin regime.

We are now taking further steps to whip aside the veil of anonymity and freeze their assets.

But I must emphasise that we are not motivated by any hostility towards the Russia or Russians: quite the reverse.

All our hearts ache for the Russian soldiers sent to die in this futile venture: we all grieve with their parents.

Only a few weeks ago, four weeks ago, I visited St Sophia's cathedral in Kyiv, which has survived every invader since Yaroslav the Wise built its granite walls nearly a thousand years ago, it's modelled on Hagia Sophia in Constantinople which was then the capital of Christendom.

How tragic, how incredible, how inexplicable, that the cradle of Slavic civilisation and Eastern Orthodoxy, should now be within range of Russian guns.

As I speak, a column of tanks and armoured vehicles 25 miles long is grinding south towards the golden domes of this ancient European capital – a city of nearly 3 million innocent people who have done nothing to deserve the carnage that Putin is unleashing on their country.

No wonder the Kremlin-controlled media refuses to tell the Russian people that their soldiers are attacking Kyiv.

No wonder that they spin a tissue of lies and claim that Russia is merely conducting a “special operation in the Donbas”.

Russia is a great country and civilisation, and we will never forget her sacrifice in the struggle against fascism, side by side with ourselves.

We must emphasise every day that it is Putin’s regime which is exacting from its own people an unacceptable cost for an unnecessary war – a war of choice – that should end as soon as possible.

And to ensure that Putin’s venture in Ukraine fails we must get over that key point, that this is not Russia’s war, not the Russian people’s war, this is Putin’s war and that has been increasingly obvious from everything he has said and written in the last year.

The UK, our government, first considered sending weapons to our Ukrainian friends because we read Putin’s semi-mystical essay on the future of Ukraine, amounting to a manifesto for imperial expansion.

That’s why in January we sent 2,000 anti-tank missiles, and now more than 25 nations are prepared to send defensive lethal aid, in support of the principle of a country’s right to protect itself.

I thank Chancellor Scholz of Germany for his speech which I believe was of world historical significance. We should recognise the gravity of Germany’s latest decisions, which have arisen from Putin’s aggression.

When I spoke to President Biden and fellow leaders last night, we focused on the humanitarian emergency that is now beginning.

Putin’s invasion has already forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes and we must prepare for an even larger outflow, perhaps numbered in the millions.

Poland has already welcomed many thousands of refugees with compassion and practical help, and the UK will provide up to £220 million of emergency and humanitarian aid for Ukraine and I have placed 1,000 troops on stand-by to help the humanitarian response in neighbouring countries, including in Poland.

Many people in Britain will of course want to help Ukrainian refugees. So, we will make it easier for Ukrainians already living in the UK to bring their relatives to our country, and though the numbers are hard to calculate they could be more than 200,000.

And if the worst happens, and President Zelenskyy’s government is no longer able to function in Kyiv, we must prepare to support them whatever happens in the weeks ahead.

And we should recognise that this crisis will impose costs on ourselves and our electorates, that sanctions have consequences for us as well as for Russia, and no step is free of risk.

And whatever the difficulties ahead, and they may be considerable, this is now the moment for Europe to do something that is long overdue, and this is to finally wean ourselves off of Russian oil and gas and in the long term to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels from any source at all.

All of us must proceed with wisdom, care, and moderation: we have a duty to ensure that this crisis does not spread any further.

But if we are to have any chance of ending this nightmare, then Putin must understand that his savagery will be met with unrelenting economic pressure and that the west will be united in supporting Ukraine and that we are ready for a prolonged crisis.

I have no doubt that if the West can maintain the extraordinary unity we have shown so far, if we can press ahead with the strategy we have set out – of international economic, humanitarian, and diplomatic assistance to Ukraine, along with defensive weapons – then Putin's venture will ultimately fail.

The path ahead will require patience and resolve, and we must be rational in our response – and recognise that Russia is capable both of misunderstanding and misrepresenting what we say.

And I will not waver in my conviction that, however long it takes, a sovereign and independent Ukraine will emerge once again, because Putin has stubbed his toe and tripped on a giant and immovable fact:

Which is no matter how many troops and tanks he sends, the Ukrainians desire to live in freedom in an independent country – which something that Poles will immediately understand – and in this desire the UK will always give them our wholehearted support.

And in the face of that fact and the unquenchable and manifest will of the Ukrainians to resist and in the face of this gathering tragedy, I say to Vladimir Putin and his regime, that there is only one way out of this morass and that is to stop the tanks, to turn back the tanks on their way to Kyiv, turn them round and take the path of peace.

Thank you all very much.