

University of Strathclyde Emergency Aid Fund

The Emergency Aid Fund (EAF) provides interest free loans to students who are facing an immediate financial crisis. A student can borrow a maximum of £350 from the fund. In very exceptional circumstances a loan for a higher amount may be considered and authorised by the Support & Wellbeing Manager or Senior Student Financial Support Adviser. The fund is not intended to address regular cash flow problems experienced by students and applications made for this reason will not be accepted.

A member of staff in the Student Financial Support team will ascertain the student's financial circumstances to gauge if a loan from the EAF is an appropriate means of support. A loan from the EAF may be offered as standalone support or as part of a package of supports. Where a loan is offered as part of a package of support, the loan may be conditional on the student taking up the full package of support.

A loan from the fund is at the discretion of the adviser after assessing the student's situation against the following criteria.

- The student must be a registered student who is on a graduating course with the University
- The loan must be to meet essential expenditure that cannot be deferred until receipt of other income (such as Student Loan, stipend, wages). The student may be asked to supply supporting evidence showing the need for the loan.
- Emergency loans will not be issued to fund tuition fees/tuition fee arrears, library fines or any other money owed to another area of the University. The student should be advised to discuss a payment plan with the relevant area.
- The student must demonstrate a means of repaying the loan such as wages, student loan, stipend, parental contributions, discretionary fund instalment or discretionary fund award if in the adviser's view the application will result in an award. The student must be able to supply supporting evidence showing their ability to repay from disposable income.
- A realistic time scale of repaying the loan must be agreed, this should be manageable for the student. A monthly instalment plan will be set up ranging from 1 monthly payment to 12 monthly payments. Repayment in full must be made within 12 months and before the student graduates.
- If the student is in the final year of their course they are not eligible to apply for an emergency loan after the course end date regardless of graduation date.

If any one of the criteria is not met then no application will be accepted

A loan from the fund is intended to be a one-off measure. Loans to the same student shall only be made more than once during any academic year in exceptional circumstances.

The repayment date should be a realistic date for the student. For example if a student owes £350 and says they will repay it from their next Student Loan payment this might leave insufficient funds for them to cover essential living costs.

To help reduce the amount of “bad debts” or students reaching graduation with an outstanding loan, a realistic plan for the repayment of the loan will be a priority throughout the lending process, ensuring we lend responsibly to students who have the ability to repay the loan and by helping students who are struggling to repay by setting up a realistic repayment plan.

The University will make every effort to engage with students who are having trouble repaying a loan. A monthly report will be produced highlighting students who have missed their agreed repayment date. They will be contacted by email to encourage them to repay or contact the Student Financial Support Team to discuss their options. A student’s past ability to repay on time may be taken into account if the student reapplies to the fund.

If a student fails to repay their loan by the repayment date and the loan is still outstanding they will be unable to register for their next year of study. This will ensure students engage with us to arrange repayment of the loan. Students who reach graduation with an outstanding loan are unable to graduate until the loan is cleared.

Students who fail to repay their loan will be dealt with under the [University Debt Management Policy](#) .