

U.S. Federal Student Aid: Application Process for LFS Students

1. Introduction

The London Film School (LFS) participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (hereafter referred to as Direct Loan Program only or FDLP).

The Direct Loan program provides loans to eligible student (and parent borrowers) under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Funds are provided by the federal government to eligible borrowers through participating schools.

2. Information for U.S. Students

All U.S. students considering applying for federal loan are encouraged to carefully read the information provided by the U.S. Department of Education on the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/>

3. Changes from 2026/27

From 1 July 2026, important changes to US Federal Aid will take effect following the introduction of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into US law July 2025. The legislation will impact the types of federal loans available, as well as the amount students may be eligible to borrow.

The Graduate PLUS loan will be removed for all new borrowers beginning 1 July 2026.

Due to this, federal loans may not fully cover a student's total cost of attendance at LFS. Therefore, students will need to source other financing beyond base award. Private education loans will continue to be available to support any gaps in funding. Currently, we work with [Sallie Mae](#) (The list is reviewed annually). Students have the option to request funding through Sallie Mae, provided the credit check is approved.

Graduate PLUS borrowers who are in continuous study and have received federal loans before 30 June 2026 may continue with current eligibility for the standard programme duration. These continuing students will be known as legacy borrowers.

Students who defer their studies, change programmes, or begin a new programme may be classified as new borrowers.

4. General Stipulations

Students in receipt of US Federal Student Aid are required to:

- 1) Remain a full-time enrolled student in good academic standing;
- 2) Meet all remaining financial obligations in a timely manner;
- 3) Notify LFS if they withdraw from their course;
- 4) Confirm whether they are in receipt of any other financial assistance or US loan other than the ones declared in the Cost of Attendance spreadsheet;
- 5) Notify the London Film School of any changes to any financial assistance received while studying at the London Film School.

Please note that current U.S. regulations prevent students in receipt of U.S. Federal Student Aid from completing any part of their course or coursework, including films, back in the U.S.

Completing coursework somewhere other than the UK or the US may be permissible if the work can only be performed in another country. This is subject to approval by the Term Tutor(s) and Financial Aid Administrator.

5. Available Loan

There are two types of federal loans available to eligible U.S. students studying at LFS.

5.1. Unsubsidized Loan

A loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.

Eligible students can borrow up to \$20,500 each year in Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

6. Application Process

There are several steps involved in applying for federal loans, but we're here to help you and guide you through the process. In addition to the information provided on our website, please also read the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education on this website: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/>

This document outlines the various steps of the application process and clearly highlights the steps you will have to complete and the steps LFS will complete on your behalf.

6.1. FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Before we can start processing your loan, we will need you to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As you complete your FAFSA, we encourage you to include the London Film School as one of the schools (colleges) you wish to receive your FAFSA information. Our federal school code is **G10574**.

6.2. Cost of Attendance

The Cost of Attendance (CoA) is the total amount it will cost you to attend LFS and is usually stated as a yearly figure.

It is important to remember that you are borrowing money from the U.S. taxpayer and the CoA has been calculated to reflect a typical student's standard of living. Further, the loan can only cover your own study-related expenses (unless you have dependents).

Our Cost of Attendance spreadsheet does, however, give you a weekly breakdown of some of those costs to help you budget better and give you a better understanding of the cost of living in London.

Please note that financial assistance is only available while you're at least studying half-time, i.e. not during the summer holidays.

You can always borrow less than the cost of attendance, but you cannot borrow more unless you have special circumstances that affect your Cost of Attendance.

5.3.1. What's Included in the Cost of Attendance?

Tuition and fees: the CoA includes the tuition and fees payable to LFS for your studies. You will find the exact tuition fees for your course and intake in your offer letter. Tuition fees for future courses are also published on our website.

Room (housing allowance): the average cost of renting a room in London has been included in the cost of attendance. We suggest that you conduct your own research into rent. As of June 2021, the Top 10 boroughs in London where LFS students found a room are:

- Bethnal Green (E2)
- East London (E1)
- Eastern Central London (EC1)
- Finsbury Park (N4)
- Holloway (N1)
- North London (N7)
- North West London (NW1)
- Paddington (W2)
- South West London (SW1)
- West Central London (WC1)
- West London (W1)

Useful resources for rooms/flats in London are:

<https://www.spareroom.co.uk/>

<https://www.universityliving.com/>

<https://www.openrent.co.uk/>

<https://www.zoopla.co.uk/to-rent/>

www.rightmove.co.uk

Board (food allowance): an amount for board has been included in the cost of attendance.

Books and study supplies: this amount covers any books you may need to purchase as well as any other study supplies, including printing and photocopies.

Personal computer: a reasonable amount, as determined by LFS, for the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer that the student will use for study for the enrolment period may be included.

Transportation: the amount included in the Cost of Attendance covers a weekly travelcard with the [18+ Student Oyster card](#) discount for zones 1-4 (price valid as of May 2026).

Personal: an allowance for personal expenses has also been included in the Cost of Attendance.

Return flights: the cost of two return flights has been included in the Cost of Attendance.

Visa application and associated fees: a fixed amount to cover your visa application and associated fees has also been included.

Optional costs:

Laptop: you may add up £800 for a laptop. This can only be included once for the entire course.

Origination fees: you may be able to include the origination fees required to receive the loan. By default, those are not included in the CoA, but please let us know if you wish to include those fees in your loan and we'll update the CoA for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on us-loans@lfs.org.uk if you have any unusual expenses that might affect your CoA.

6.2.2. Documentation

As we process your loan, we will need a number of documents from you. Some of those we'll be able to obtain ourselves, others we'll need you to send to us. We will write to you as and when we need documents from you.

To give you an idea of the types of documents needed to process your loan, we've included a non-exhaustive list below. The list includes both documents we may need you to provide and documents we obtain ourselves directly from the U.S.

- A scan of your passport to confirm eligibility
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Master Promissory Note(s)
- Evidence of completed Entrance Counselling (new students only)
- Evidence of completed Financial Awareness Counselling (continuing students only)
- Completed Cost of Attendance spreadsheet
- Signed financial aid offer letter

Once your loan has been successfully processed, we will send you all the details, including the letter required for your Student Route Visa via email.

Please note: we will not issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) required for the Student Route Visa application until we have sent the Loan Notification Letter or Visa Letter.

7. Exchange Rate

We regularly review and, if appropriate update, the exchange rate we use to convert the CoA from GBP (£) to USD (\$).

The exchange rate used already allows for some currency fluctuations. You will find the exchange rate applied to your CoA on the spreadsheet.

Exact disbursement amounts in GBP are not known to us until the funds have reached our bank account and will inform you of the GBP amount you're entitled to as soon as possible.

8. Disbursements

Student loan amounts are per year. The loan, however, is divided into equal disbursements and normally paid over three (3) terms for students starting in September, two (2) for students starting in January and one (1) for students starting in April/May. Students with less than three terms left in an academic year, will have the loan amount divided into equal disbursements for the remainder of their studies (one per remaining term).

Any amounts owed by the student are deducted from the disbursement as per the offer letter. The credit balance, if any, is paid into the student's bank account within 14 days of the disbursement date.

Please note: the Department of Education charges an origination fee which is deducted from each disbursement. Details can be found in the CoA spreadsheet.

9. Changes, Withdrawals, Refunds of Return Title IV Funds

If you are considering withdrawing or deferring your studies, we strongly recommend you arrange a meeting with your Course Leader to discuss your options. You are also encouraged to seek support from LFS Student Services.

Decrease your loan

To decrease your loan, email the US loans team stating the new gross \$USD amounts you would like to borrow in the current academic year. The reduction will be spread across your remaining disbursements. You cannot decrease your loan below the amounts already released for each type of loan in the current academic year.

Cancel your loan

We will email you prior to each disbursement with the deadline for cancelling/returning loan funds. To cancel your loan, you must notify us by the specified deadline. You may need to pay fees and bank charges associated with returning any funds if payment has already been requested from the US.

Changes affecting your loan

- You must contact us if any of the below occur or may occur. Contact us immediately and in advance of the change where possible.
- Other funding received: If you are provided with a financial award, such as a scholarship or grant, your COA will be adjusted accordingly. This may change the amounts you are able to borrow.
- Change of course: We will reassess your eligibility and amend your COA, which could change the amounts you are able to borrow.
- Change of mode of study: If you change from full- to part-time study or vice versa, we will reassess your eligibility and amend your COA, which could change the amounts you are able to borrow.

Change or potential change in enrolment status: You must contact us immediately if you are considering changing enrolment status, so that we can prevent your disbursement being

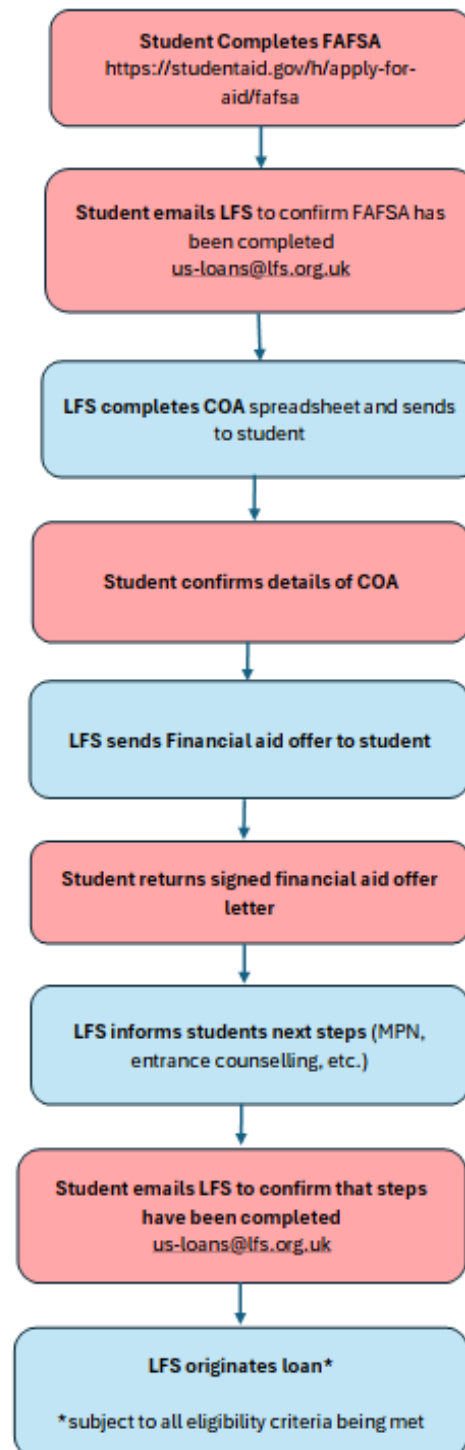
released if this has not already been done. We are required to report any enrolment changes within tight timescales and may need to complete a Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculation, which can lead to 'unearned' funds being returned to the US Department of Education (see our [Consumer Information and Polices page](#) for the full R2T4 policy).

- Return to study from a deferment: You need to complete a loan application for the year in which you will be returning to study, should you wish to borrow funds for this period. Information on applying is on our How to apply tab. It is advisable to submit your application prior to the term you are due to return.

Exit Counselling

You are required to do this when you graduate, leave the school or drop below half-time enrolment. [Exit Counselling](#) provides important information to prepare you to repay your federal student loan(s). This is mandatory

10. Loan Application Flowchart



11. Version Control

Version Number	Changes	Author, Title	Date
1.0	Approved by Academic Registrar	Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar	26/06/2017
1.1	Updated for January 2018	Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar	23/10/2017
1.2	Updated for January 2019	Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar	16/10/2018
1.3	Updated for September 2019	Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar	13/06/2019
1.4	Updated for September 2020	Rachel Cavalier Registry Officer	06/05/2020
1.5	Updated for September 2021	Rachel Cavalier Registry Officer	16/06/2021
1.6	Updated for September 2023	Jennifer Correa Registry Manager	27/07/2023
1.7	Updated for September 2025	Jennifer Correa Registry Manager	02/06/2025
1.8	Updated for September 2026 Direct PLUS Loan removed for all new borrowers from 1 July 2026	Jennifer Correa Registry Manager	14/05/2026