

Postgraduate Loan Guidance for COLP Students

An overview of details relating to the Postgraduate Loan is [here](#).

There are different rules around eligibility and the loan you receive depending on whether you are based in:

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#).

Please note that, when applying for a postgraduate loan, you should put your 'domicile' as the country you are a resident at on day 1 of the programme and your level of funding will be linked to this. For example, if you are Welsh but living in England when your LLM programme starts, you should enter England as your 'domicile'.

Who can apply for a postgraduate loan?

At COLP, the only students who will be eligible for a postgraduate loan are students enrolled on the:

Part-time LLM in Legal Practice (2 years)

Full-time LLM in Legal Practice (1 year)

Students who are enrolled on the Graduate Foundation in Law or SQE preparation courses are not eligible for a postgraduate loan.

Students who opt to do the LLM in Legal Practice through our Flexi route are not eligible for a postgraduate loan. This is because this programme does not follow a set study pathway, as required by Student Finance.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Student Finance sets out eligibility rules and undertakes the assessment of individual applicants to confirm eligibility. COLP cannot advise you on whether you are eligible and we strongly encourage you to read the pages linked above to understand your eligibility.

Please note, however, the following general rules around eligibility for a postgraduate loan:

- If you have done a masters degree (or equivalent) already, you are not likely to be eligible for a postgraduate loan.
- You cannot bring prior learning with you to your postgraduate qualification. At COLP, this means that if you have achieved credits elsewhere and wish to use them towards your LLM programme, you would not be eligible for a postgraduate loan. Please note that it is fine to have obtained credits at COLP, or elsewhere, prior to starting your LLM programme, but to obtain funding, you could not use those credits towards your programme.

When should I apply for a postgraduate loan?

Each year, normally in June, applications will open for the following academic year. For example, if your LLM was to start in August 2023, you would be able to submit your application for funding from June 2023.

Technically, applications for postgraduate loans are accepted within 9 months of the start of the academic year. However, please note that you will not receive your funds until you have applied and been approved for a loan, so it is our strong recommendation that you do this at your earliest convenience.

You do not have to wait to have a confirmed place at COLP before applying for a postgraduate loan; you can do this prior to enrolling.

Similarly, you do not need to have postgraduate loan funding approved and in place prior to applying at COLP, however, you may wish to wait until this is approved for peace of mind.

When postgraduate loan applications are received, they can take up to 6 weeks to process, although they are normally processed much more quickly than this.

How do I select the correct university and programme?

As part of the online application form for a postgraduate loan, you will be prompted to select your provider/ university.

If you search for 'The College of Legal Practice', COLP will appear and you can select it.

From here, you will be able to select the relevant programme (LLM in Legal Practice) and intake (i.e. the start date of your programme).

If I am eligible for the postgraduate loan, how much will I receive?

The postgraduate loan amount changes annually, and varies between England, Wales and NI, so we always recommend checking the Student Finance pages linked above to be clear on current postgraduate loan amounts.

Who is the postgraduate loan paid to?

It will be paid directly to you, as the student. The loan can be used for course fees, study-related costs, living costs, etc. For students at COLP, you may wish to use your loan towards the cost of the SQE1 and SQE2 assessments.

You will be required to pay your COLP course fees, from your loan or otherwise, in line with your payment schedule sent to you upon enrolment. You can do this by BACS transfer or by card. Please refer to your invoice, which is sent to you upon enrolment, for further details.

To understand the general structure of our fee schedules, please see [here](#).

What if an employer is paying for some of my fees?

If you have a sponsor or employer who is covering some of your LLM fees (e.g. they may be paying for your SQE preparation), this will not impact your eligibility for a postgraduate loan. Ultimately, if eligible, the funds are yours to manage and can be used towards course fees, living costs, or other costs.

When will I receive the funds?

Around 1-2 weeks prior to your LLM programme starting, your registration will be confirmed on the Student Loans Company portal.

Students will be confirmed as registered on their LLM programme if:

- They have accepted an offer and been enrolled;
- They have paid a £150 deposit to secure their enrolment.

No funds will be released until registration is confirmed.

Please note that if you are enrolling late, or applying for your postgraduate loan late, this will inevitably delay the release of your funds.

What will my loan instalment dates be?

The Student Loans Company do not share specific details of dates funds will be released to students with providers. They will communicate this to you directly by email.

Generally speaking, your postgraduate loan will be released to you in three payments a year. We understand that this might not tie in exactly with your COLP fees instalment plan, so if you do require a payment extension for a short period of time until you receive your next loan instalment, please contact Student Services (studentsupport@collegalpractice.com), who will be happy to support you.

What happens if I withdraw or move to another intake?

When a student withdraws from the LLM, COLP will do a Change of Circumstance notification to the Student Loans Company. In turn, the Student Loans Company will contact you in due course to confirm whether any of the loan you have received so far is to be repaid.

When a student moves to another intake of the LLM (for example, through a Leave of Absence, a Change of Circumstance notification is completed with details of the student's new programme dates. In turn, the Student Loans Company will adjust your postgraduate loan payment dates in line with your new programme.

We always recommend speaking directly to SFE, SFW or SFNI directly if you have questions about dates.

Useful contact numbers

- Student Finance England - 0300 100 0031
- Student Finance Wales - 0300 100 0494

- Student Finance Northern Ireland – 0300 100 0493