



**Newman University**  
BIRMINGHAM



# **PARENT GUIDE**



There are a variety of options when thinking of university: a range of courses; different levels of qualifications; and a number of locations to choose from.

Going to university will allow your son or daughter to continue learning about a subject they feel passionate about, it may help them to decide on a future career, and it will often develop them personally to become more confident, independent and focused.

University can also be about your son or daughter finding a balance between their studies and their social life. It can be an uncertain time for parents as you may be unsure exactly what university has in store for your child, however, we regularly hear parents talking very positively about how their son or daughter has grown as a person since starting university.

“I have had excellent support from lecturers regarding work and wellbeing, helping me to overcome challenges that have arisen.”

STUDENT FEEDBACK

If your son or daughter is considering attending university there are a number of things you can help with:

- Talk about what subject(s) they are looking to study and why, then look at which universities offer courses in this subject area(s).
- Check they have registered on UCAS – the admissions system for all full-time undergraduate degrees
- If possible narrow the choice down to 5 courses – the maximum number of choices you can initially make through UCAS
- Visit as many university open days as possible ideally covering the five preferred courses. It's not until you are physically on a university campus that you can get a true feel for the university – this may mean some long car or train journeys across the country, with your son or daughter changing their mind as soon as you arrive, but remember it's all part of the fun and the discovery process!
- Ask questions – don't be afraid to ask as many questions as possible, even about the small things, and encourage your son or daughter to ask questions too.
- Try and let your son and daughter take the lead where they want to – it will prepare them well to make decisions when they start university.

University is an exciting time in your son or daughter's life and we're sure you'll enjoy seeing them succeed.

We hope this parent guide gives you an introduction to university in general and specifically to Newman University. If you have any questions we're always here to help.

“This first year has been a fantastic opportunity for continuing self-discovery, personal development and to deepen my self-awareness.”

STUDENT FEEDBACK



### Academic Strengths

University may be the first point in your child's education where a price tag is attached to the learning; we therefore understand the importance of ensuring that your child receives the most appropriate educational opportunities for them.

Lecturers at Newman University are research active, meaning that they are experts within their field and are keen to share their knowledge with your son or daughter, and encourage them to discuss and debate issues to develop a deeper understanding.

A small university has attractive benefits. With small cohorts and class sizes, lecturers get to know their students challenging and stretching individuals to help students reach their potential, supporting your son or daughter's own personal university journey.

### Work Placements

All full-time undergraduate degrees at Newman University include a work placement for your son or daughter. This is integral to the University's course structure and the employability and career aspirations that ensue as a result.

These work placements build confidence, allow students to gain business knowledge and create opportunities to build contacts for future work opportunities.

### Employability

Newman University aims to develop the 'whole person' through teaching and work placement opportunities and consistently maintains excellent levels of graduate employment. 92% of graduates from Newman go on to thriving careers and make positive contributions within their chosen fields (DLHE 2018). We aim to provide your son or daughter with skills they need to be able to progress into their desired job role and develop their career path.

### International Opportunities (Erasmus)

As a Newman University student, your son or daughter has the opportunity to study or work abroad during their time at university through our Erasmus programme. They can learn at another university in Europe, or even further afield. They could take advantage of optional enrichments such as field trips to The Gambia or Hong Kong. Details can be found on the website at:

[www.newman.ac.uk/internationalopportunities](http://www.newman.ac.uk/internationalopportunities)

### Course Representatives, Student Ambassadors and Guardian Angels

Your son or daughter has the opportunity to become a Course Representative, Student Ambassador or Guardian Angel. Student Ambassadors are paid roles where they help with events such as Open Days school/college visits; Guardian Angels help new students during enrolment and the start of their first term; Course Reps provide the student voice for their course and help lead and shape future developments – all great things to add to a CV!

### Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)

A facility offered by just a few universities, the HEAR is designed to provide greater detail on what your son or daughter has studied and detail all the modules. It also shows volunteering or paid work whilst at university.

### Societies and Sports

By joining a society at university or a sports team, your son or daughter will be able to meet like-minded people who may be studying a different subject to them. Past societies have included e-gaming and drama. Students have the chance to create their own societies based on their own interests. Sports clubs can include football, golf, netball, basketball and jiu jitsu, with certain sports providing the opportunity to compete against other universities. Representing their university is a great opportunity for your son or daughter as well as a way to develop confidence and social skills.



## WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?



Different people want different things from their university. There are a number of factors which may be important to you when helping your son or daughter choose their university. Take a look at the list below to help you think about what to look for in a university:

- ☐ **Single campus with a real sense of belonging**
- ☐ **Academic and personal support available**
- ☐ **Good employment rates**
- ☐ **Taught by academic professionals**
- ☐ **Opportunities for my son or daughter to make friends/'fit in'**
- ☐ **Interactive teaching environments**
- ☐ **Small cohorts and class sizes**
- ☐ **What are the career prospects like after the degree?**

## WHAT HAPPENS WHILST AT UNIVERSITY?

You may be asking 'What will my son or daughter actually be doing whilst at uni?' At Newman University they will be attending lectures, seminars (classes) and tutorials whilst studying their course modules. A major transition from school/college, students are expected to be creative with their thinking, engage with existing research and challenge it, becoming confident in their subject area and able to present their own ideas and thoughts.

Newman University is distinct in that it has small cohorts and class sizes so can dedicate time to the whole class and each individual. Our staff are friendly and approachable, giving personal care and encouragement to each student.

Your son or daughter will study in two semesters, which are similar to terms at school/college; Semester One typically runs from September to the end of January with Semester Two running from late January to the middle of June/start of July. At the end of each module, your son or daughter will be required to complete a piece of work which may be in the form of an essay, presentation or an exam, then in their third year a dissertation or project.

Academic Support is available to your son or daughter; staff will provide advice and guidance on improving study skills, referencing, developing a balanced review etc. The support could make the difference between a first class degree or a 2:1, but also essential life skills are learnt when working to deadlines and prioritising workloads.

## WHAT MAKES IT ALL WORTH IT?

Graduation is a special day. Not only for all of the students who can breathe a sigh of relief that they have their degree in the bag, but for the lecturers who have supported them throughout their studies, the support staff at the university who have provided advice throughout the years and lastly for you, the parents. Being able to see your son or daughter celebrate with their friends is the culmination of hard work effort and a huge sense of achievement. Graduation is a day to celebrate with your son or daughter, and the start of their career or employment path.

## TRAVELLING TO CAMPUS



If your son or daughter is travelling to campus each day, they have the option to travel via public transport with buses running directly outside the university. If they wish to cycle, there are plenty of bike racks or if they are driving to campus we have free on-site car parking for commuting students during teaching hours.

## LIVING ON CAMPUS

If your son or daughter decides to live in our on-site accommodation they have a number of options available to them. At Newman all of our halls provide convenient access to all of the on-site facilities, so there really is no excuse for missing a lecture! There are also 24 hour on-site security and halls tutors available if your son or daughter needs to speak to someone.

Student accommodation is a great way for your son or daughter to meet new people and develop independence. We provide a welcoming environment where students can instantly feel at home, belonging to our Newman community.



## CAMPUS FACILITIES

### Student Support

Whilst studying at Newman University, your son or daughter's well-being is taken seriously. There is a range of support services to help them reach their full potential. These include: Academic Support; Disability, Dyslexia and Mental Health Services; Counselling; Study Advice; Support for Care Leavers; and Support for LGBTQ+ students.



### Careers

Your son or daughter is able to access our careers service before they start, during their studies and up to three years after they graduate. They can gain advice on various aspects as well as learn about work-based opportunities available to them.

### Library

The library, opened in 2013, and is a great place for your son or daughter to get on with independent study in a quiet or silent zone. Alternatively, meet with course friends for group work in the learning zone. It's a great space with the resources needed for your son or daughters course.

### Catering

Your son or daughter can get a drink or snack from our Atrium café or have a home cooked meal from our Sanctuary café; they will certainly never go hungry!

### Chaplaincy

The university chaplain supports all students from all faiths. St Mary's chapel is a place for quiet reflection or prayer and provides a space for community events and engagement.

### Students' Union

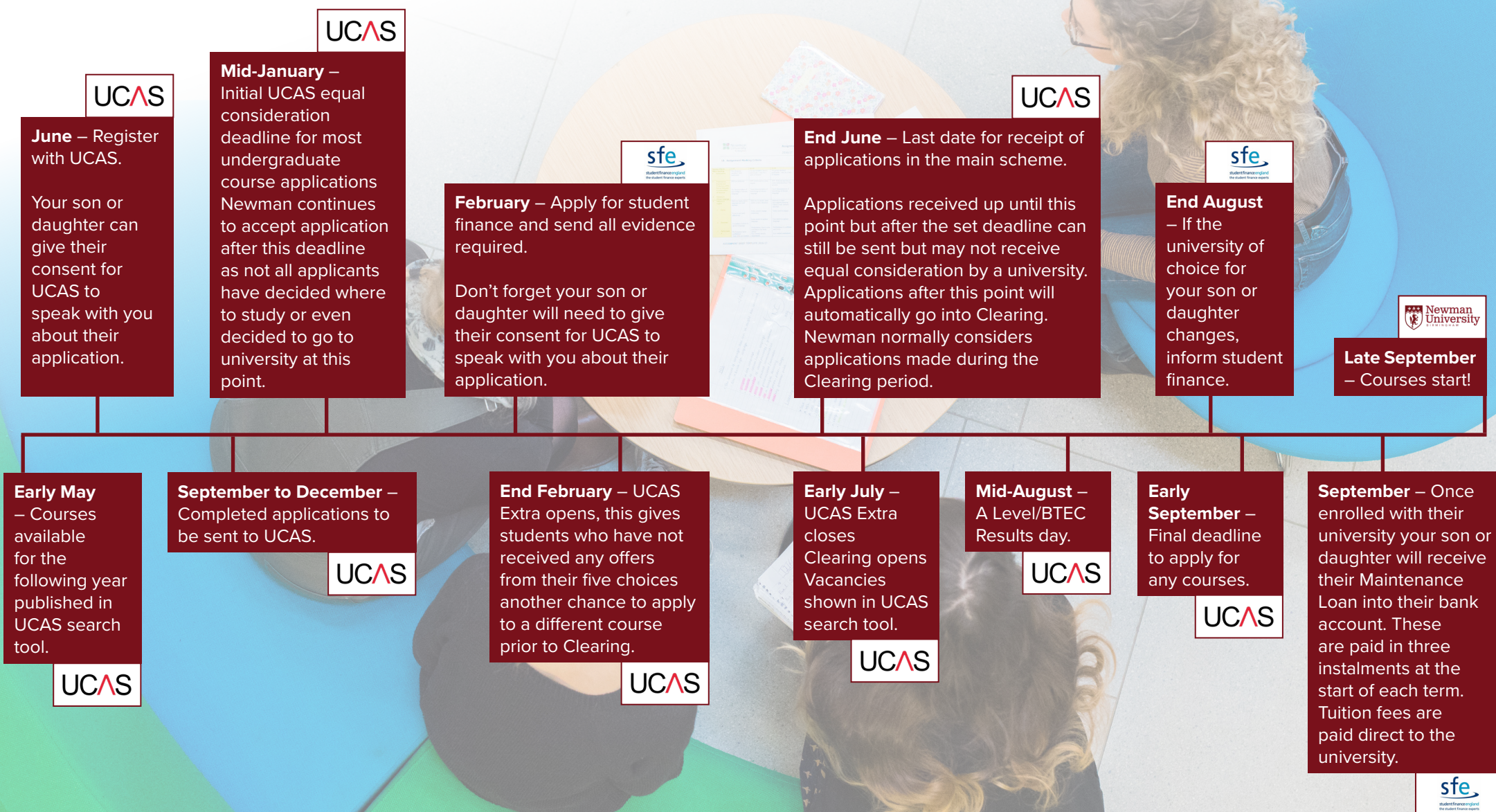
The Students' Union (SU) is a National charity run by students for students. Your son or daughter can to be involved in a variety of social events and activities put on by the SU throughout the year.

### Sports Centre

The university has an on-site gym and sports centre which your son or daughter is able to join at a reduced student price.







## WHO IS WHO?

Refer to page 18 to learn more about UCAS, Student Finance England and the Student Loans Company



**Full-time Undergraduate Study - Register on UCAS:**  
Your son or daughter will need to register with UCAS in order to submit and process their application. They will need to state that they give you permission to speak about their application if they wish.

**Submit their application(s)**  
UCAS forward the applications to universities for them to consider making an offer of a place to your son or daughter. They are informed of these offers through their UCAS Track account.

**Types of offers:**  
Unconditional Offer  
your son or daughter has a place on this course  
  
Conditional Offer  
your son or daughter has a place if they meet certain requirements

**Short-listing choices**  
Firm Acceptance  
Their first choice, usually comparable to their expected tariff points  
  
Insurance Acceptance  
The back-up choice to a conditional firm acceptance, usually with lower offer tariff/conditions.  
  
Decline  
They will need to decline any others they get.

**Results Day:**  
Official notification from UCAS  
If your son or daughter meets the requirements of their Firm choice their place is confirmed on their UCAS account.  
  
If their results are lower than expected and are not accepted by their firm choice, but they meet their insurance choice conditions, they will have their place confirmed there.  
  
If they are not accepted by either of their choices they can go through Clearing to see which universities have places. If they don't want to accept either their Firm or Insurance choice, they can ask the universities to release them into Clearing or self-release into Clearing, and look for a new university course.

**Research:**  
The most important thing to do is research the universities who offer the course your son or daughter wants to study. Attend open days at universities to ensure the university is the right place for your son or daughter. Courses can be searched on UCAS.

**Make your choice:**  
Your son or daughter can choose up to five course choices they wish to consider to study and register these on their UCAS Track account.

**Invited for interviews:**  
Dependent on the course, the university may invite your son or daughter in for an interview to discuss their application.  
  
At Newman all Teacher Training courses require an interview before an offer of a place is made. Drama courses normally involve an audition.

**Reply to offers:**  
Once your son or daughter has received all their offers from universities for their course choice(s), via UCAS, they need to accept a Firm and an Insurance choice. Attending Applicant Visit Days can help inform these choices.  
  
*Please note although offers do not need to be replied to until they have heard from **all** of the universities, they can accept offers earlier if they are already sure of their choices.*  
  
Deadline to reply to offers is detailed in UCAS Track and may differ for each individual offer.

**Apply for Accommodation:**  
If your son or daughter is planning to move into student halls of residence they will need to apply directly to the university as early as possible.

**Official letter received from university:**  
Once your son or daughter has a confirmed place at university via UCAS, they will receive an official letter from that university with the next steps detailed.

## WHAT TO DO ON RESULTS DAY

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Results day can be stressful for not only your son or daughter but you as well. We appreciate you will want to know your son or daughter has the place they want almost as much as them.

Prior to results day, UCAS receives the exam results from the exam boards and makes them available to universities. Universities then check them against the offer details to confirm entry conditions have been met. On results day the offer from your firm and insurance choice will then be displayed in UCAS track for your son or daughter to see – they will only be able to see whether they have a place confirmed at a university, not details of their results.

Your son or daughter will collect their results from their school or college on results day or they may receive them in the post or online, dependent on where they studied.

Please note that your son or daughter may need to send their results to their chosen university as UCAS does not send all results to universities.

## IF THINGS DON'T GO QUITE TO PLAN

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For numerous reasons not everyone gets their choice of University or choice that they originally hoped for. If your son or daughter can see in Track that they have not been offered a place at either their firm or insurance choice university, then Clearing is the next option!

The Clearing service from UCAS enables your son or daughter to match the course that they wish to study with universities that still have places remaining for such a course.

If your son or daughter achieves better results than expected and exceeds the conditions of their firm choice, they can look at 'adjustment'; this gives students the chance to find an alternative course at a different university or a different course at the same university. If they don't find an alternative course they like, they will keep the offer they gained on results day.

## HOW CAN I BEST PREPARE MY CHILD FOR UNIVERSITY?

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There are a number of ways you can help your son or daughter prepare for life at university. It's a time where many young people will really see themselves gain a lot more independence and it's great to encourage that.

Help your son or daughter to learn about bills, this is especially important if they will be living away from home. Teach them to budget and manage their bank accounts; many young people will never have received a large sum of money such as a student loan before so it is really important to make sure they have the skills to deal with this money.

Try to encourage your son or daughter to see an overdraft as an emergency backup rather than extra money which is theirs to use as they please – remind them that they will have to pay it off once they are earning above the repayment threshold.

It is also useful to learn some skills such as how a washing machine works, how to cook something other than beans on toast or even what to do if there is a power cut. Even if your son or daughter plans to stay at home during their studies, going to university is a great time to encourage your child to become more independent.

There are a few things that your son or daughter should do before starting university; they should ensure their chosen university has received evidence of their results, they have received appropriate certificates such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and (Disclosure By Association) DBA checks if needed and any other details requested by the university.

As well as this, it would be beneficial for your son or daughter to take a look at the reading lists provided for them before they start university; it will prepare them for their year ahead.

Newman University also offers 'HEADstart' which is a free preparatory programme in early September which helps students adapt to university life before the start of their course. Further details can be found at: [www.newman.ac.uk/headstart](http://www.newman.ac.uk/headstart)



A university degree is an investment in your son or daughters future, so it pays to choose carefully. Decisions made now can have a real impact on your son or daughters employability and earning potential in the future. With the outstanding 92% employment rate enjoyed by our graduates, we believe that a Newman degree represents excellent value for money. *(DLHE 2018)*

### No upfront fees

Whatever your circumstances, there's nothing to stop your son or daughter enjoying the advantages that a university education brings. Tuition fees don't have to be paid up front and only begin to be repaid once they start earning over £26,575 per year. Loan repayments are relatively low, particularly during the early years of their career. It's also important to remember that any loan which is not repaid after 30 years currently will be written off. *(GOV.UK figures for 2019 entry)*

### Loans

Financial support for full and part-time UK undergraduate students is currently available in two forms:

- repayable tuition fee loans
- repayable maintenance (living expenses) loans

Find out more about student loans at [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

### Applying for financial support

Maintenance loans are from the Government and available to full-time UK students to help fund living expenses. The amount your son or daughter will be able to borrow will be determined by your household income, where they opt to study and whether they live away from home. The maximum amounts they can borrow are £9,203 if they will be living away from home, outside London, and £7,747 if they will be living with parents/carers, outside London. *Government figures (correct for 2018).*

Students may have to give details of your household income to receive their loan. Your son or daughter can apply for a tuition fee loan and maintenance loans via Student Finance England. For further information go to [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) or check your UCAS application if

### you're studying full-time **Undergraduate tuition fees** *(Fees per annum)*

Our fee levels have been set to ensure that we can continue to invest in the best resources and teaching staff to deliver an exceptional learning experience.

**£9,250** full-time honours degrees (3 years), honours degrees with foundation year (4 years), foundation degrees and all full-time top-up awards

**£9,250** Postgraduate Initial Teacher Education PGCE (1 year)

**£5,130** part-time honours degrees (4.5 years)

**£4,560** part-time foundation degrees

**£9,250** part-time top-up award (total course fee)

**£6,840** part-time top-up award for those completing a Newman foundation degree (total course fee)

*Fees shown are for 2020/21 academic year.*

*The University will review tuition fees and increase/decrease fees in line with any inflationary uplift as determined by the UK Government, if permitted by law or government policy, on enrolment and in subsequent years of the course. It is anticipated that such increases would be linked to RPI (the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments).*

*For an overview of fees and finance at Newman University visit [www.newman.ac.uk/fees](http://www.newman.ac.uk/fees)*



The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Their primary role is to operate the application process for full-time undergraduate courses at British universities. Your son or daughter will need to apply to university through UCAS and track their application via their UCAS Track account. For part-time courses apply directly to Newman University.

**W:** [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**T:** 0371 468 0468



Provide loans and grants to students in universities and colleges in the UK. Student Loans Company will be responsible for paying your son or daughter their student maintenance loan and paying the university/ college the tuition fees as well as applying the repayments to the balance of the loan.

**W:** [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

**T:** 0300 100 0607



student finance england  
the student finance experts

Student Finance England (SFE) is run by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and has responsibility for those students with loans studying in England. Your son or daughter will receive letters and statements from SFE and advice is issued through SFE on behalf of the UK government.

**W:** [www.sfengland.slc.co.uk](http://www.sfengland.slc.co.uk)



GOV.UK

Your son or daughter will apply for their loan online via the gov.uk website.

**W:** [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

### USEFUL CONTACTS

**Newman University  
School and College Recruitment  
and Outreach Team**

**W:** [www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)

**T:** 0121 476 1181 ext. 2330

**E:** [marketing@newman.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@newman.ac.uk)

**Newman University  
Admission Team**

**W:** [www.newman.ac.uk](http://www.newman.ac.uk)

**T:** 0121 476 1181 ext. 2205

**E:** [admissions@newman.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@newman.ac.uk)







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