

Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE): Your Questions Answered

Thinking about studying with Metanoia Institute in 2027? Changes to student finance could give you more flexibility in how you fund your studies.

From January 2027, the way eligible higher education courses are funded in England is changing with the introduction of the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE).

Whether you're considering higher education for the first time, returning to study, or thinking about retraining for a new career, the LLE is designed to make it easier to access education at different stages of your life.

We know that funding can be an important part of deciding whether, when and how to study. So, if you're considering joining Metanoia, we've answered some of the key questions about what the new system means, how it will work and what you may be entitled to.

What is changing?

From **January 2027**, the government is introducing a new way to fund higher education in England called the **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)**.

This means eligible learners will be able to access funding more flexibly, whether they want to study a full degree, a shorter qualification, or even individual modules.

How much funding can I access?

Eligible learners will be able to access up to £39,160 in tuition fee funding across their lifetime.

That's roughly equivalent to four years of higher education study at current fee rates.

The amount you use depends on what you study; so if you take a short course or module, you'll only use part of your entitlement.

Can I still study a full degree?

Yes.

The new funding system still supports full qualifications, including:

- Undergraduate degrees
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Foundation years (where part of a degree)
- Certain postgraduate qualifications
- Distance learning and online programmes (where eligible)

Can I study shorter courses instead of committing to a full degree?

Yes, and this is one of the biggest changes.

From January 2027, learners can access funding for certain individual modules and shorter courses at Levels 4–6.

This gives people the flexibility to:

- Upskill in a specific area
- Retrain for a new career
- Study around work or family commitments
- Build qualifications gradually over time

Do I have to study full-time?

No.

The new system is designed to support more flexible learning, including:

- Full-time study
- Part-time study
- Modular learning
- Some online and distance learning routes

What if I've already been to university?

You may still be able to access funding.

Under the current system, students are often restricted from receiving funding for studying at the same or lower qualification level.

The LLE is designed to make retraining easier, and many returning learners may still have funding available, although previous student loans may reduce the amount you can access.

Can I get help with living costs?

Potentially, yes.

Eligible students studying courses with in-person attendance may be able to access:

- Maintenance loans
- Childcare support
- Disability support
- Travel grants

Who is eligible?

The LLE is primarily available to learners:

- Living in England
- Studying eligible courses
- At approved providers

- Typically aged 18–60

Eligibility rules may vary depending on residency, previous study and course type.

Why is the government introducing this?

The aim is to make higher education more flexible and help adults retrain throughout their careers as industries change.

Rather than making people commit to a traditional three-year degree at age 18, the system is designed to support learning throughout life.

What should I do now?

If you're planning to start a course in 2027:

- Research your course options
- Check whether your chosen programme is eligible
- Keep an eye on Student Finance England updates
- Prepare to apply from October 2026

Where can I find more information?

Visit:

[Student Finance England guidance](#)

or

[Government LLE overview](#)