

How your tuition fees are charged following a suspension/withdrawal depend on the type of course:

PGT tuition fees

No charge will be made to postgraduate students registered on taught programmes of study (including MRes programmes) who leave within the first four weeks of registration. Postgraduate students on taught programmes of study (including MRes programmes) who withdraw or suspend after four weeks of registration will be charged for each completed week of their programme, pro-rata to the number of weeks for which their programme is scheduled to run.

PGR tuition fees

No charge will be made to postgraduate research students on MPhil, PhD and MD programmes who withdraw or suspend within the first four weeks of registration on the first year of their programme. Postgraduate research students who withdraw or suspend after the first four weeks of registration in the first year will be charged on a monthly basis. Where the registration extends beyond the fourteenth day of the month of their leaving, students will be charged for this month. Students will not be charged for the month of their leaving where the change in registration takes effect on or before the fourteenth day.

Postgraduate Loans (Masters and Doctoral)

If you suspend your studies your Postgraduate Loan payments will stop. If you get a payment after you have suspended you may be asked to repay this straight away, so it's important to let Student Finance know as soon as you suspend your studies. As long as the University has agreed that you can suspend your studies, your Postgraduate Loan payments will resume when you return to your course. However, if you have suspended for 2 years or more during your course you'll only get further Postgraduate Loan payments if you can show you have CPR (compelling personal reasons) for each period of suspension.

If you suspend and return to study at an earlier point in the course than which you suspended, you will not receive additional funding from Student Finance. You will only receive any remaining scheduled payments.

Postgraduate Progression Award or the Postgraduate Opportunity Bursary – how will suspending affect eligibility

Where a student on a postgraduate programme of study withdraws from their programme or suspends their study, the fee waiver for which they are eligible will be applied pro rata to the programme fee calculated in accordance with the postgraduate refund policy. For more information please contact the Student Fees and Funding team on email: feesenq@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone: 0151 794 6777.

Withdrawal

If you withdraw from your course your Postgraduate Loan payments will stop. If you get a payment after you have withdrawn you may be asked to repay this straight away, so it's important to let Student Finance know as soon as you withdraw from your course. If you have compelling personal reasons (CPR) for leaving your course you may be able to get another Postgraduate Loan for a new course. You can only get this once.

If you don't finish your course because of CPR, such as illness or bereavement or other documented personal problems, you'll be asked to send evidence to support this. Student Finance will look at each case individually. There's no definitive list of compelling personal reasons, but academic performance alone usually can't be classed as a compelling personal reason.

Postgraduate students who are funded by the University or Research Councils should contact the Liverpool Doctoral College for advice on 0151 794 5927.

Other considerations

If you have taken out a Postgraduate Masters Loan or a Doctoral Loan from the Student Loans Company (SLC) and you suspend, any future payments for the current year will be blocked until you return to your course, at which point you will continue to receive the remainder of your loan. If you take a break for two or more years during your course, however, you will only receive further payments if you can show that you have compelling personal reasons for the break in your studies, such as illness or bereavement.

Generally, you can't get funding to repeat a year, or part of a year, of your course. Even if you haven't had all of your Postgraduate Loan payments or you chose not to take the maximum amount of loan available to you. Unfortunately, CPR cannot be applied for to fund repeat years or following a suspension of less than 2 years.

While suspended you are still classed as a full-time student and are therefore exempt from Council Tax. However, you are not entitled to welfare benefits unless you are a single parent/student couple with children or a disabled student in receipt of PIP and were assessed as having a limited capability for work before the start of the course – if this is the case you should ask for your benefits to be recalculated if your funding is reduced.

However, if you withdraw from your course and you are out of work or on a low-income you will be entitled to claim Universal Credit for help with living costs (and rent if applicable), even if you do not fall into these groups, for information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>.