

STUDENT FUNDING SURVEY

This survey aims to find out how you feel about recent proposals for changes in the funding of higher education.

The information deriving from this survey will be used to contribute to the public debate on this matter. It is being distributed to a wide range of schools and colleges throughout the country.

Please answer as many questions as you can. If there are any questions you cannot answer or do not wish to answer, just leave them blank.

All responses will be treated in the strictest confidence. Neither you nor your school will ever be individually identified.

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer questions by ticking boxes [, ringling a number 1 2 3 4 5, or writing in as appropriate. Your answers will help us compare attitudes to education amongst a wide range of school and college students. There are no right or wrong answers, we are only interested in your own opinions.

Office use
only
Please do not
write in this
column.

Serial (1-4)

(5) Blank

(6) 1

1. What type of school or college are you studying in?
(If more than one please tick the one you spend most time at.)

(7)

State Comprehensive School

1

Sixth Form College

2

Further Education College

3

Independent school

4

State Grammar School

5

other

6

(8)

a)... Is this...?

Full time

1

Part time

2

2. What qualification, if any, are you currently working for? (Tick as many as apply.)

(9-12)

GCSE

1

BTEC

2

A Levels

3

CPVE

4

City and Guilds

5

RSA

6

other

7

(Please say what _____)

3		
3.	Which of the following do you expect to be doing next academic year (ie. September 1989 onwards)? (You may tick more than one box)	(13-18)
	GCSE <input type="checkbox"/>	01
	BTEC <input type="checkbox"/>	02
	A Levels <input type="checkbox"/>	03
	CPVE <input type="checkbox"/>	04
	City and Guilds <input type="checkbox"/>	05
	RSA <input type="checkbox"/>	06
	Doing a job <input type="checkbox"/>	07
	YTS <input type="checkbox"/>	08
	A degree at college or university <input type="checkbox"/>	09
	Take time out to travel <input type="checkbox"/>	10
	Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Please say what _____)	11
4.	At what age do you intend to finish your full time education?	(19)
	16 <input type="checkbox"/>	1
	17 <input type="checkbox"/>	2
	18 <input type="checkbox"/>	3
	19 <input type="checkbox"/>	4
	20 <input type="checkbox"/>	5
	21-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	6
	25 or over <input type="checkbox"/>	7

4

5. Which of the following do you intend to study for eventually? (Tick as many as apply)		(20-23)
A Levels	[]	1
ONC / OND	[]	2
HNC / HND	[]	3
BTEC	[]	4
Degree (including B.Ed.) (at college or university)	[]	5
Professional Qualification (Eg: Accountancy, Nursing, Physiotherapy)	[]	6
Other (please say what _____)	[]	7
None of these	[]	8
6. Which three of the following have been or are most influential in helping you to decide your future plans? (Write 1 against your first choice, 2 against the next, and 3 against the third)		
father	<input type="text"/>	(24)
mother	<input type="text"/>	(25)
grandparents	<input type="text"/>	(26)
other family	<input type="text"/>	(27)
school	<input type="text"/>	(28)
teacher	<input type="text"/>	(29)
friends	<input type="text"/>	(30)
Other (Please specify _____)	<input type="text"/>	(31)
7. How important are / were financial considerations in deciding whether you will go on to college or university? (Please tick one box only.)		(32)
Very important	[]	1
Fairly important	[]	2
Not very important	[]	3

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8. At the moment most full time students studying for a degree receive a local authority grant, to cover their living expenses. The amount a student gets depends on how much money their parents earn.

The current full grant is £2425 in London and £2050 outside London.

The government is proposing to change the way students at college or university are funded. Student loans will be phased in over a period of years. In the first year of the scheme students will borrow £420. Eventually half of the student's income will come from a grant, (where the amount depends on parent's income), the other half will be a loan, to be repaid out of future income.

If this loans scheme were introduced, would it effect your plans to go on to higher education? (33)

(Please tick one box.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|
| yes a lot | [] | 1 |
| yes a bit | [] | 2 |
| not at all | [] | 3 |
| I have no plans to go on to college | [] | 4 |

(ANSWER Q.9 ONLY IF YOU HAVE NO PLANS TO GO TO COLLEGE)

9. There are many reasons why people do not go on to higher education. Some of these are listed below. For each one please circle the number that applies to you (eg. 1 **2** 3)

- | | yes -
a lot | yes -
a bit | no | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----|------|
| I won't have good enough grades | 1 | 2 | 3 | (34) |
| I want to get a job | 1 | 2 | 3 | (35) |
| I need to earn some money | 1 | 2 | 3 | (36) |
| My family doesn't want me to go | 1 | 2 | 3 | (37) |
| I won't be able to afford it | 1 | 2 | 3 | (38) |
| I have too many family commitments | 1 | 2 | 3 | (39) |

If you have any other reasons for not going on to college please write in, and then go to Q.11.

(40-42)

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 0

6

(ANSWER Q.10 ONLY IF YOU HOPE TO GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION)

10. Below are a series of statements which show the kind of effects this proposal might have on you. Please ring one of the numbers for each option, where 5 is strongly disagree and 1 is strongly agree.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
(a) If loans were introduced I would not go on to higher education	1	2	3	4	5	(43)
(b) If loans were introduced I would need to save money before going to college	1	2	3	4	5	(44)
(c) It would make no difference to my plans	1	2	3	4	5	(45)
(d) If loans were introduced I would get a part time job in term time	1	2	3	4	5	(46)
(e) If loans were introduced I would choose a different course	1	2	3	4	5	(47)
(f) If loans were introduced I would do a course at a college nearer home	1	2	3	4	5	(48)
(g) If loans were introduced I would get a job straight from school	1	2	3	4	5	(49)
(h) If loans were introduced I would go to college sooner	1	2	3	4	5	(50)
(j) If loans were introduced I would go to college part time	1	2	3	4	5	(51)
(k) If loans were introduced I would get a job where my employer would pay for me to go to college	1	2	3	4	5	(52)
(l) If loans were introduced I would be less likely to go on to higher education	1	2	3	4	5	(53)
(m) If loans were introduced I could easily get money from my parents	1	2	3	4	5	(54)

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11. Below are a series of statements. We ask you to indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements by ringing a number. There are no right or wrong answers, we are only interested in what you think.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
(a) Higher Education should be free and should be paid for out of general taxation.	1	2	3	4	5	(55)
(b) Higher education is a privilege that students should pay for.	1	2	3	4	5	(56)
(c) Graduates in highly paid jobs should pay for their own education.	1	2	3	4	5	(57)
(d) If society as a whole needs graduates to keep our economy and institutions going, then society should be prepared to pay the costs of higher education.	1	2	3	4	5	(58)
(e) My family and I have enough trouble paying for my education now.	1	2	3	4	5	(59)
(f) Parents should pay for their children in higher education.	1	2	3	4	5	(60)
(g) People who employ graduates should pay extra taxes for them.	1	2	3	4	5	(61)
(h) The most important thing is to get a good education, even if it doesn't always lead to a highly paid job.	1	2	3	4	5	(62)

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12. Some people think that the government's proposals to introduce student loans are a good idea. Others feel that the present system is better. What do you think? (Please tick one box.)		(63)
Student loans are a good idea	[]	1
Present system is better	[]	2
I am undecided	[]	3
FINALLY, so that we can compare your answers with those of other students we need to know a little bit about you and your background.		
13. How old were you on your last birthday? <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		(64-65)
14. Are you:		(66)
male	[]	1
female	[]	2
15. Do you have any dependent children of your own who live with you?		(67)
yes	[]	1
no	[]	2
16. Is the house or flat you live in at the moment: (Tick one)		(68)
Rented from the Council	[]	1
Rented privately	[]	2
Owned by your family	[]	3
Something else (please say)	[]	4
		(76-80) NUS80

9				Required 2 (1-4) dup (5) Blank (6) <u>2</u>		
7. What daily newspaper does your family normally take at home (at least three times a week)? If more than one, tick as appropriate.						
Daily Express	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	Financial Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	08	(7-14)
Daily Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	02	The Guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	09	
Daily Mirror	<input type="checkbox"/>	03	The Times	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	
Daily Star	<input type="checkbox"/>	04	The Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	
The Sun	<input type="checkbox"/>	05	Today	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	
Daily Telegraph	<input type="checkbox"/>	06	The Morning Star	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	
Local morning paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	07	Local evening paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	
18. Which city/town/county do you live in? (If city, please give district or postcode)				(15-16)		
19. Compared to most families in Britain today, how would you describe your own family income? (Tick one only)				(17)		
Is it....?	A lot more than most families	<input type="checkbox"/>				1
	A little more	<input type="checkbox"/>				2
	About the same	<input type="checkbox"/>				3
	Less than most families	<input type="checkbox"/>				4
	A lot less	<input type="checkbox"/>				5
20. Are your parents still alive? (Circle number)						
	Mother	1	2			(18)
	Father	1	2			(19)

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21. If either or both of your parents are still alive, (or, if more appropriate, stepfather or stepmother) what are they doing now?

(Please tick one thing for each parent).

	Father	Mother
	(20)	(21)
In a full time job as an employee	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Self employed <u>and</u> employing others	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Self employed on his/her own	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
In a part time job	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Looking after the home	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Unable to work (eg: disabled)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
I have no (step) father/mother	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0

22. What are/were your parents' (or step parents') jobs, or the most recent one if they are not in work?

Father's job

(22)

What is/was the job called? _____

What exactly does/did he do? _____

Mother's job

(23)

What is/was the job called? _____

What exactly does/did she do? _____

		11		
23. How old were your father and mother when they completed their continuous full time education? (Please write in)				
	Mother	<input type="text"/>		(24-25)
	Father	<input type="text"/>		(26-27)
24. Did your father and mother obtain any qualifications after the age of 18, such as degrees, diplomas, HNC, HND, nursing or teaching qualifications?				
(Circle number)		yes	no	
	Mother	1	2	(28)
	Father	1	2	(29)
If <u>yes</u> for either parent, please give <u>highest</u> qualification				
	Mother			(30)
	Father			(31)
25. How would you describe your ethnic origin? (Please tick one box only)				
	Indian	[]		01
	Pakistani origin	[]		02
ASIAN	Bangladeshi origin	[]		03
	East African origin	[]		04
	Chinese origin	[]		05
	Other Asian (please write in)	[]		06
	Caribbean origin	[]		07
BLACK	African origin	[]		08
	Other Black (please write in)	[]		09
	British origin	[]		10
WHITE	Other White (please write in)	[]		11

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This survey is about the funding of students in full time higher education. If you have any further comments or suggestions, please write them in here.

(76-80)
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This is the end of the questionnaire.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP IN COMPLETING IT.

We hope to publish the results later in the year.

