

**THE  
EQUAL  
ACCESS  
LOAN**

**AUGUST 2022**

**RefuAid**  
Hope.Resilience.Unity

## THE EQUAL ACCESS LOAN – PORTFOLIO REPORT AUGUST 2022

- The Equal Access Loan is an interest-free, character-based financial product available to those with refugee status throughout the UK who require UK accreditation in order to return to work in the UK. The loan is offered to:
  - Those with refugee status in the UK
  - Individuals who require financial support to sit UK accreditation exams.
  - People who intend to work in the same field as they worked in in their home country.
  - People who have already achieved the required level of English Language (if applicants haven't, they're referred to our English Language programme <https://refuaid.org/language>)
- Each successful loan applicant has a personalised repayment schedule and a dedicated caseworker who supports them on their UK reaccreditation journey.

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Q, A PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALIST WHO SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE UK IN 2014, BORROWED £1300 ON THE EQUAL ACCESS LOAN SCHEME IN ORDER TO RETURN TO WORK, IS NOW WORKING AND IS CURRENTLY REPAYING £27.09 A MONTH

*“RefuAid has been a great help to me. In fact I would go a step ahead by stating that it transformed me. I was an asylum seeker and professionally and academically there is nothing that we can do. As it took four and a half years for my asylum case determination to be a refugee I was worried as to how to enter the job market as there are certain qualifications and licensing examinations one needs to pass. As it involves considerable cost, I was just looking for funding options and then I read about RefuAid. It just took two to three conversations amongst us and subsequently they approved a loan for me (of course when I give evidence of my qualifications and experience) which was sufficient for my exam cost and materials. Then comes the COVID however I passed my exams with flying colours as I was awarded distinction. I am currently employed by a renowned academic and health care institution in a cancer prevention and screening project. Thanks RefuAid for all your help and support. You people are actually the STARS.”*

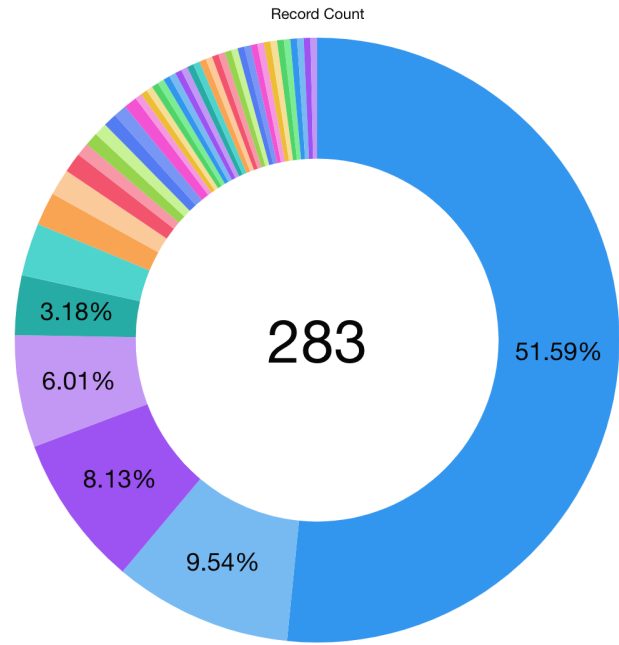
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### The Equal Access Loan

We have now made loans totaling £1,574,864.90 to 283 individuals.

The average loan amount is currently £5564.88.



- Profession
- Doctor
- Dentist
- Lawyer
- Pharmacist
- Engineer
- Accountant
- Nurse
- Architect
- Plumber
- Auditor
- HGV Driver
- Marine Officer
- Marine Pilot
- Security Guard
- Teacher
- Adult Education Teacher
- Child psychologist
- Civil Engineer
- Commodities Broker/Trader
- Computer Engineer
- Construction Project Manager
- Credit Analyst
- Cyber Security



GREETINGS , I AM A SYRIAN REFUGEE DOCTOR. I CAME TO THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 2019. AS AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE I WAS ASKED TO PASS CERTAIN EXAMS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE AS A DOCTOR

I WAS A LITTLE BIT FRUSTRATED WITH AN UNDERSTANDABLY LONG PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR MY LICENSE TO PRACTICE. BEING A REFUGEE AWAY FROM HOME AND FAMILY IS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, ALTHOUGH I WAS ALONE AND AWAY FROM MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH NO EMOTIONAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, I WAS ABLE TO FIND PEOPLE HERE IN THE UK THAT HELPED ME THROUGH TOUGH TIMES. REFUAID WAS AN ESSENTIAL HELPLINE FOR ME AND WITH THEIR AID I WAS ABLE TO GET SOME OF THE RESOURCES NEEDED

I AM PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR REFUAID ORGANISATION HELP AND I BELIEVE IT IS A WISE DECISION TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED, THEIR HELP ALLOWED ME TO PROGRESS FURTHER IN MY CAREER WHICH I HOPE WILL BE REFLECTED AS A BETTER QUALITY OF CARE IN ANY HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION I WILL BE PART OF IN THE FUTURE. MY HOPE IS THAT AS I ADVANCE IN MY CAREER I CAN USE MY SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO BENEFIT THE SOCIETY AND THE COUNTRY THAT GAVE ME A NEW LIFE , THE UNITED KINGDOM. I AM CURRENTLY WORKING AS A MEDICAL SUPPORT WORKER ( BAND 6 ) AT THE ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL AND ALSO PREPARING FOR THE PLAB EXAM.

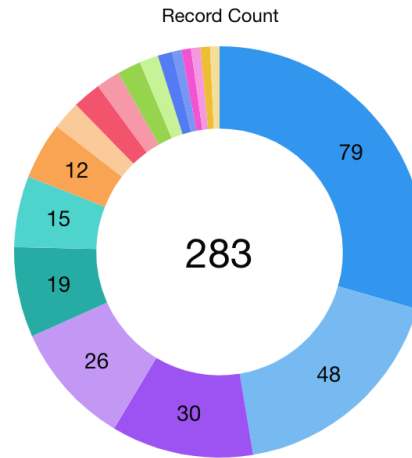
WITHOUT REFUAID HELP AND SUPPORT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HARDER FOR ME TO BE WHERE I AM NOW. I AM HAPPY AND PROUD THAT NOW I AM A PART OF THE NHS. I HOPE I CAN GET THE LICENSE TO PRACTICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BEGIN MY JOURNEY AS A DOCTOR IN THIS COUNTRY AND I HOPE THE BEST FOR ALL PEOPLE WHOSE SITUATION IS SIMILAR TO MINE."

**DR S BORROWED £7000 TO COVER THE COSTS OF HIS REQUALIFICATION AND IS CURRENTLY REPAYING £166.66 PER MONTH**



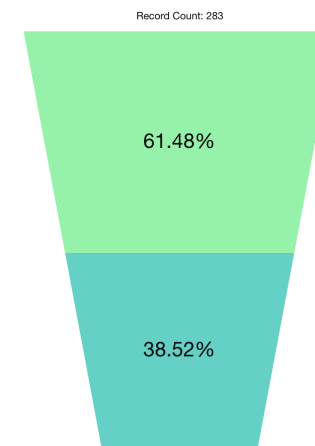
## The Equal Access Loan - Client Demographics

Of the 283 loan clients the majority come from Syria, Sudan and Iran. In recent months we have seen an increase in applications from people from Afghanistan and we are now beginning to see applicants from Ukraine, although we expect a delay on Ukrainian applicants as most people will spend time on our language programme prior to needing the loan. We are now supporting more women than prior to 2020 when the loan portfolio only had 25% women and we are continuing our female engagement strategies to make sure the loan is equally accessible.



Country Of Birth

- Syria
- Sudan
- Iran
- Libya
- Iraq
- Turkey
- Pakistan
- Afghanistan
- Nigeria
- Egypt
- Yemen
- Somalia
- Kuwait



Gender

- Male
- Female

## Average Loan Amounts by Profession

**£5037**  
Doctor

**£3320**  
Nurse

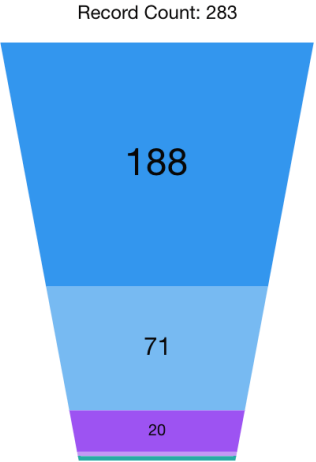
**£8397**  
Pharmacist

**£5057**  
Engineer

**£4266**  
Teacher

**£7152**  
Lawyer

# The Equal Access Loan – Repayments



- Loan - Status
- Repaying
- Lent
- Repaid
- Suspended
- Delinquent

188 loan recipients are currently repaying the agreed monthly amount. 71 clients are currently on an agreed capital repayment holiday. 20 clients have fully repaid their loans and 4 loans remain suspended.

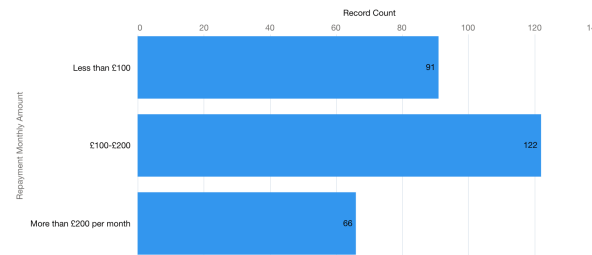
The current repayment rate **98.6%** is:

We have now received a total of **£423,476.55** in loan repayments.

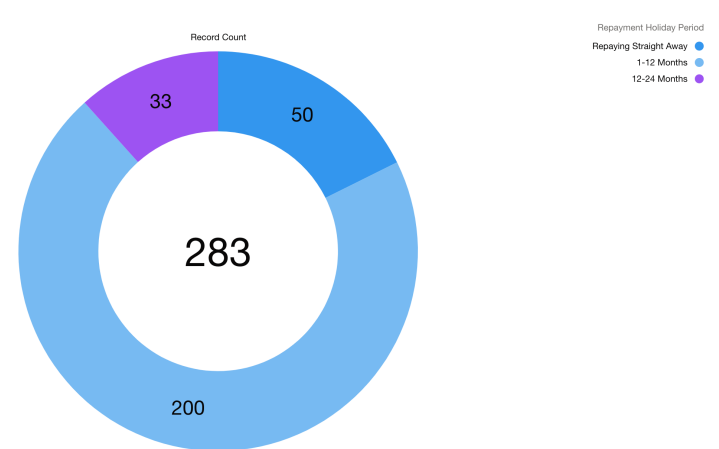


## The Equal Access Loan – Repayments

Amongst those currently repaying the average monthly loan repayment is £140.13



Each loan recipient's repayment schedule is different. Some people have a set capital repayment holiday, others start repaying straight away.



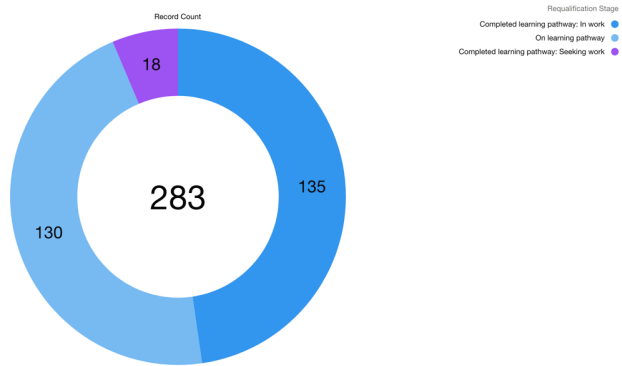
N A PALESTINIAN PHARMACIST, BORROWED £10,000 TO COVER THE COST OF THE OSPAP COURSE FOR PHARMACISTS. N WILL BEGIN REPAYMENTS IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

*“I really want to thank RefuAid from the bottom of my heart for the great help and continuous support they have been offering since I have contacted them couple of years ago. I knew about RefuAid from browsing the internet and I sent them to help me get IELTS lessons to be able to re-qualify my pharmacy degree to the UK standard and then to work in the UK. They replied quickly and enrolled me in an IELTS course, then again enrolled me in an OET course. Finally they gave me a loan with free interest to pay university fees so I can requalify my degree. They are always here beside me like a family, offering me help and support and always contacting to ask if I need any help. I cannot thank them enough and I look forward to paying them back in the near future.”*

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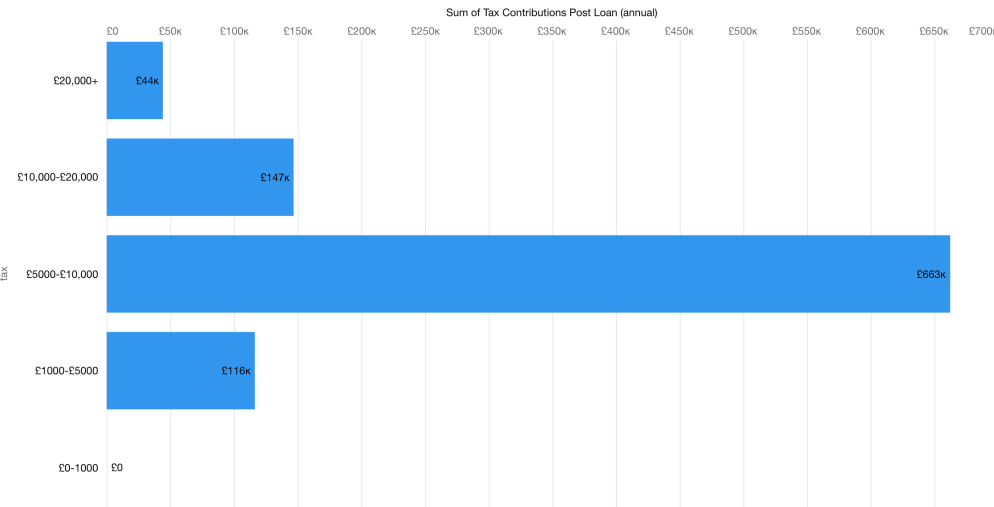


## The Equal Access Loan – Employment & Tax Contributions



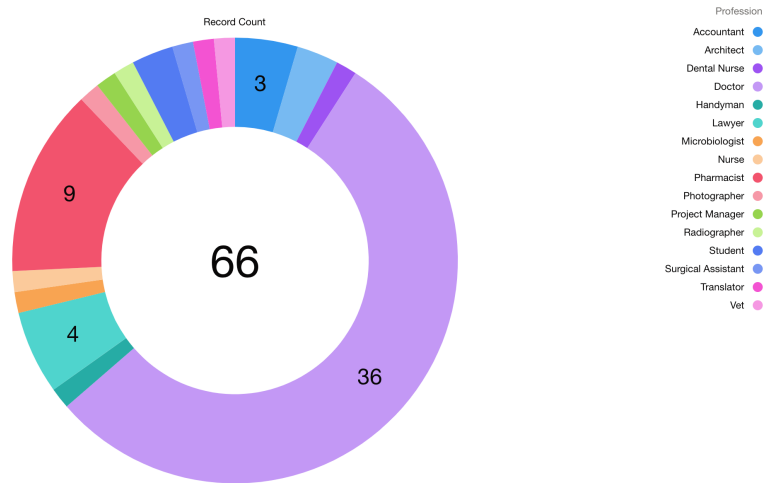
Of the 283 Loan recipients 135 are now in work commensurate with their skills and experience. The **average salary for loan recipients once in work is £33,489**. The average pre-loan income is £5970. **78% of loan applicants are in receipt of Universal Credit when they apply.**

The 135 loan clients who are now working commensurate with skills and experience **are now contributing £970,036 per annum in tax to the UK economy.** As more clients complete their learning pathways we expect this to grow.

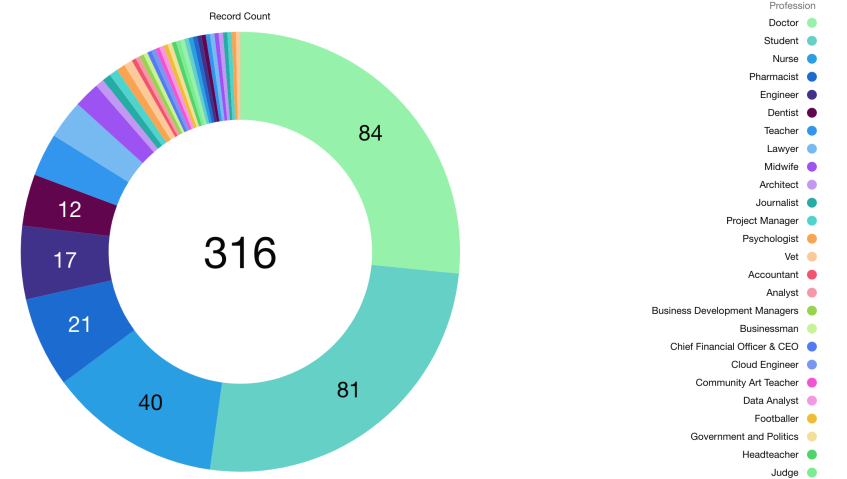


## The Equal Access Loan – Immediate Waitlist & Pipeline

The immediate waitlist is RefuAid clients who have already completed their required English Language qualification and require financial assistance to gain their UK accreditation and return to work.



In addition to the immediate waitlist, a number of professionals who are currently studying on our Language Programme throughout the UK will also require funding in the future in order to return to work.



INAS BORROWED £7000 IN ORDER TO COVER THE COSTS OF HER UK ACCREDITATION AND RETURN TO WORK IN THE UK. SHE IS CURRENTLY ON AN AGREED CAPITAL REPAYMENT HOLIDAY AND WILL BEGIN REPAYING £145.83 IN 2024 WHEN INAS BEGINS WORK.



**THANK YOU TO OUR  
CLIENTS, DONORS,  
SUPPORTERS AND  
INVESTORS**



**REFUAID: EQUAL ACCESS LOAN AUGUST 2022**