



Student Finance

2009/2010

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Eligibility Criteria

Residence

A student must:

- have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for at least 3 years before the start of the course
- have been ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland on the first day of the academic year in which the course begins

Eligibility Criteria

Colleges

A student must attend an **approved college** to be able to get support.

Approved colleges include –

- A University or College in the UK or ROI maintained out of public funds
- The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
- Certain private colleges, specifically designated for student support

Eligibility Criteria

Courses

A student must attend an **approved course** to get support e.g.

- First Degree
- Higher National Diploma
- Higher National Certificate
- Diploma of Higher Education
- Foundation Degrees
- Certain other courses

Financial Support Available

Help with tuition fees

- All Students can take out a Student Loan for Fees for the amount charged by the institution (max £3,225)
- Paid direct to the institution by The Student Loans Company (SLC)
- No income assessment involved

Financial Support Available

Fees chargeable for students studying in the UK

- **NI, England and Wales** – up to £3,225 a year
- **Scotland** – £1,820 a year, apart from Medicine where fees are £2,895 a year
- Fees may vary between courses and between universities

Financial Support Available

Fees chargeable for students studying in the Republic of Ireland

If attending an ROI college no Tuition Fees are payable – only a non means tested Registration Fee of €1500 (proposed rate) which will be paid direct to the Institution by your Education and Library Board

Transfer or repeat students will be charged the full fee.

Financial Support Available

Student Loans for Maintenance 2009-10

- Max **£3,673** if living at home
- Max **£4,745** if living away from home and studying outside London
- Max **£6,643** if living away from home and studying in London
- Loans are reduced if a Maintenance Grant is payable

Financial Support Available

Maintenance Grant / Special Support Grant (SSG)

- Non-repayable grant for students from households with income up to £40,238
- Worth up to £3,406 a year – depending on household income
- SSG is available to students who have an underlying eligibility to Social Security Agency or Housing Executive means-tested benefit

Not available for students studying in ROI

Financial Support Available

Extra help with living expenses

Extra help includes –

- **Parents' Learning Allowance** of up to £1,508 a year
- **Childcare Grant** of up to £148.75 a week for one child and £255.00 a week for two or more children
- **Adult Dependents' Grant** of up to £2,642 a year

Financial Support Available

Help with living expenses

Disabled Students' Allowance – a range of help available which is not means tested on household income

- Specialist equipment allowance of up to £5,161 for the whole course
- Non-medical helpers' allowance of up to £20,520 per year
- General allowance of up to £1,724 per year
- Extra travel costs as a result of the disability

Financial Support Available

Help from your Institution

Higher Education Bursary Scholarship Scheme (HEBSS)

UK institutions charging tuition fees of £3,225 may provide a minimum of £319 to students who are in receipt of full or partial Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant

Speak to your institution or view the Student Finance NI website for further information

Household income

Student Finance NI assesses household income based on:

Gross taxable income of the **student** excluding any earnings;

PLUS Gross taxable income of parent(s) /partners / step-parents;

LESS Deductions for payments into pension funds and £1,130 for each other dependent child in the household

This does not apply to Independent students

Grant & Loan 09/10

Living away from home (excl London)

Income	Maint. Grant	Loan	Total
Up to £18,820	£3,406	£2,953	£6,359
£25,000	£2,048	£3,274	£5,322
£35,000	£602	£4,143	£4,745
£40,238	£50	£4,695	£4,745
£51,980	£0	£3,559	£3,559

Exceptions

- Health Professional Degrees at NI Colleges – eligible for income assessed bursary of £2,300 (2008/09 rate), reduced loan and Tuition fees paid in full
- Nursing Degrees / Diplomas at NI Colleges – not eligible for any Student Finance support.
- Social Work Degrees at NI Colleges – eligible for additional funding from DHSS&PS of non-means tested bursary and contribution towards work based learning expenses.

Part Time HE Courses

Students can study HE courses on a part time basis and apply for support which includes:

- Means tested Tuition Fee Grant up to £1,210
- Means tested Course Grant up to £260
- Disabled Students Allowance

More information on part time support for 09-10 will be available on our website from summer 2009

Further Education Awards

There are two main types of full/part time Further Education Awards:

- Further Education Award – Non advanced courses eg AVCE, GNVQ
- Advanced Further Education Award – Advanced courses eg Foundation Art, Private Secretarial

Closing Dates:

- Full time - 30 June 2009
- Part time - 30 October 2009

Further Education Awards

Apply to:

Student Finance NI
Further Education Awards Section
1 Hospital Road
Omagh

Telephone: 028 8225 4546

Email: feawards@welbni.org

How to apply for HE support

- Application forms for 09-10 available at schools from December 2008
- From mid November 2008 - download an application form or apply online at www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk
- Complete the form and send it to your local Education and Library Board (ensure correct postage is paid)

How to apply for HE support

Information required

The following information **must** be provided with the application form –

- Original Birth certificate or valid Passport. A Birth cert must be accompanied by a declaration from the school confirming identity
- National Insurance Number
- Student bank account details
- Details of student's income and that of their household (07-08 financial year)

What happens after you apply?

- ELB determines eligibility and entitlement
- SLC sends notification of entitlement and payment schedule letters
- Student advises ELB of change of circumstances, if applicable (name, address, course, income)
- Student is paid termly by BACS by SLC

Repayments

- Student Loans are only repayable once students have left their courses and are earning over £15,000 a year.
- Repayments are based on what is earned
- Grants are not repayable unless a student withdraws or a re-assessment is carried out due to a change of circumstances.

How to Contact us



By telephone on: 0845 6000 662



By post or personal visit:

Student Finance NI,

3 Charlemont Place,

The Mall, Armagh, BT61 9AX



Visit our web site at:

www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk

www.studentfinance.co.uk

- Find your local Education and Library Board
- Entitlement Calculator for 09/10 now available
- Apply online from mid November
- Find out more about the support available
- Maintain your account online
 - Change your address
 - Change your bank details
 - View correspondence