

A GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS 2009/2010 - EXISTING FULL-TIME STUDENTS

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Are you going back to your higher education course in September 2009 or later?

You'll need to read this leaflet to find out about changes that may affect the amount of student finance you get.

1. The amount of financial help available to you has changed

- **Maximum tuition fees have increased to £3,225.** Check with your university or college to see how much you will have to pay. **You can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to help you pay what you are charged by your university, up to your maximum course fee.**
- **Maintenance Grants have increased to £2,906**

If you started your course **in or after** September 2008, the planned grant levels are as follows.

If your household income is no more than £25,000	Full grant
If your household income is between £25,000 and £60,032	Partial grant
If your household income is over £60,032	No grant

If you started your course **before** September 2008, the planned grant levels are as follows.

If your household income is no more than £18,360	Full grant
If your household income is between £18,360 and £39,333	Partial grant
If your household income is over £39,333	No Grant

- **Maintenance Loans (and Special Support Grants) increase**

Students living away from their parents home and studying in London	Maximum £6,643
Students living away from their parents and studying elsewhere	Maximum £4,745
Students living at their parents home (London and elsewhere)	Maximum £3,673

- **Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) increase**

Allowance	Maximum amount
A non-medical personal helper	£20,520
For major items of specialist equipment	£5,161
For other disability-related costs	£1,724

- **Students with children or adult dependants**

- The maximum **Parents' Learning Allowance** is £1,508 and the minimum is £50.
- The maximum **Childcare Grant** is £148.75 a week for one child only or £255 a week for two or more children.
- The maximum **Adult Dependants' Grant** is £2,642.

2 There have been changes to the rules that decide who qualifies for student finance and how much they can get

- **Changes to support for undergraduate Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses**

From 1 September 2009, new and continuing students taking undergraduate ITT courses of between 6 and 10 weeks will be eligible for a half-rate fully means-tested Maintenance Grant of up to £1,453. This means that the amount you can get depends on your financial circumstances. You will also be eligible for a full-rate Maintenance Loan (25% of which is means-tested).

- **Pension arrangements and assessment of student income**

From 1 September 2009, income under a pension arrangement that is paid to an ex-partner will not be considered as part of the income taken into account for student support. However, students whose household receives income under a pension arrangement will need to include it in their application for student support.

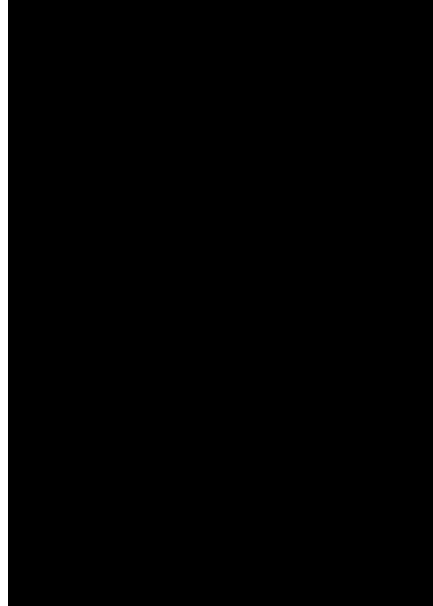
3.Changes to your circumstances

Remember that you **must** let your local authority (or Student Loans Company if you live in a pilot authority area) know about any changes to your circumstances that may affect your entitlement to student finance.

4.Students on medical and dental courses

Undergraduate students in the fifth (or higher) year of their medical or dental courses should contact the relevant NHS authority for the country in which they normally live for financial help. NHS-funded medical and dental students living in England and receiving NHS bursaries are also entitled to apply for payments from the Access to Learning Fund.

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5. Repaying your student loan

You may be thinking about how and when to start repaying your student loans. Remember that you only start repaying your loans in the April after you have left your course and when you are earning over £15,000 a year. If you want more detailed information on repayments, read the booklet 'Student Loans - a guide to terms and conditions' or go to www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

6. More information

If you have any questions, you can contact your local authority (or Student Loans Company if you live in a pilot authority area). For more general information you can go to www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance or phone Student Finance England on 0845 300 5090.

7. Complaints and appeals

If you want to complain or appeal against a decision that has been made, you can get more information in section 10 of the booklet 'Student Loans - a guide to terms and conditions' which you can get by downloading it from www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance or from the Student Finance England Publication Line on 0800 731 9133.

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There is a free textphone service available on 0800 328 8988.

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