STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE

STUDENT SUPPORT FOR THE 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 02/18
12 February 2018

Dear colleague:

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE IN 2018/19:

THE EDUCATION (STUDENT SUPPORT)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2018 (2018 No. 136)
THE EDUCATION (STUDENT FEES, AWARDS AND SUPPORT)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2018 (2018 No. 137)

1. Changes to student support for 2018/19 are set out in two sets of Regulations: the Education (Student Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Healthcare Regulations")(2018 No. 136) and the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Uprating Regulations") (2017 No. 137) which were laid before Parliament on **6 February 2018** and will come into force on **27 February 2018**. These Regulations are subject to Parliamentary Scrutiny.

The Education (Student Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Healthcare Regulations")

2. The Department of Health (DH) changed the funding system and financial support offered to eligible undergraduate students starting pre-registration courses in nursing, nursing and social work, midwifery, operating department practice and the allied health professions from 1 August 2017 onwards. These students are now funded through the standard student support system administered by the Student Loans Company rather than through the NHS Bursary scheme. They typically receive around a 25% increase in the financial resource they receive whilst studying than under the former bursary system.

3. The 2018 Healthcare Regulations make a corresponding change for eligible students starting (i) full-time postgraduate pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery, and the allied health professions; and (ii) full-time and part-time undergraduate pre-registration courses in dental hygiene, dental therapy or dental hygiene and dental therapy ("dental profession subjects") from the 2018/19 academic year from 1 August 2018 onwards. Eligible students will be funded through the standard student support system administered by the Student Loans Company rather than through the NHS Bursary scheme.

4. Eligible full-time students starting postgraduate pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery, and the allied health professions from 1 August 2018 onwards will qualify for the same fee loan and living costs support as undergraduate students starting full-time higher education courses in 2018/19.

5. Eligible full-time students starting undergraduate pre-registration courses in dental profession subjects from 1 August 2018 onwards will qualify for the same fee loan and living costs support as other undergraduate students starting higher education courses in 2018/19.

6. Eligible part-time students starting undergraduate pre-registration courses in dental profession subjects from 1 August 2018 will qualify for the same fee loan as other undergraduate students starting part-time courses in 2018/19. This group of students will also qualify for part-time loans for living costs when these are introduced through a separate amendment to the Student Support Regulations later in 2018. Some dental profession students will remain on bursaries where their courses are not designated for student support.

7. An electronic copy of the **2018 Healthcare Regulations** can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

   http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/136/contents/made

8. An Explanatory Memorandum setting out healthcare changes in detail can also be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

   http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/136/pdfs/uksiem_20180136_en.pdf

The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support)(Amendment)Regulations 2018 ("the 2018 Uprating Regulations")

9. The 2018 Uprating Regulations introduce an updated Schedule of private institutions with a Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework

(TEF) award for the 2018/19 academic year which attract higher rates of fee loan.

10. The 2018 Uprating Regulations also introduce a revised living costs support package for new and continuing students in respect of an academic year beginning on or after 1 August 2018. They increase the maximum loan for living costs and long courses loan for new and continuing full-time students attending their courses in 2018/19 by 3.2% (forecast inflation). They also increase maximum maintenance grants and special support grants in 2018/19 for full-time students who started attending their courses before 1 August 2016 by 3.2%.

11. The 2018 Uprating Regulations increase maximum grants in 2018/19 for new and continuing full-time students with dependants and maximum disabled students' allowance for new and continuing full-time, part-time and postgraduate students with disabilities in 2018/19 by 3.2%. These Regulations also increase maximum fee grants and course grants in 2018/19 for part-time students who started their courses before 1 September 2012 by 3.2%.

12. The 2018 Uprating Regulations increase maximum loans in 2018/19 for students starting postgraduate master's courses from 1 August 2018 by 3.2%.

13. The 2018 Uprating Regulations allow those who have a current grant of stateless leave, and their families who are starting courses in the 2018/19 academic year to qualify for the first time for loans for fees and living costs and grants for living and other costs where applicable. Corresponding changes are made for students undertaking postgraduate master's courses and full-time postgraduate courses at the European University Institute.

14. The 2018 Uprating Regulations allow students who are members of the UK armed forces serving in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales or family members living with these armed forces personnel to qualify for fee loans and, where applicable, DSAs for their full-time or part-time distance learning course in 2018/19 for the first time. A corresponding change is also made for students undertaking postgraduate master's courses.

15. An electronic copy of the **2018 Uprating Regulations** can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

    http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/137/contents/made

16. An **Explanatory Memorandum** setting out these changes in detail can also be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/137/pdfs/uksiem_20180137_en.pdf

17. Changes to grants and loans for living and other costs for the 2018/19 academic year are set out in detail in **Student Support Information Note 01/18** on the Student Finance England Practitioner's Website at:

    http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1607/ssin-0118-student-support-package-for-201819.pdf

18. An Equality Analysis of Higher Education Student Finance changes for undergraduates and postgraduates in 2018/19, can be found on the .GOV.UK website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-student-finance-2018-to-2019-equality-analysis

ORDERING COPIES OF REGULATIONS:

19. If you wish to order copies of Regulations, please access the TSO Shop website and click on the 'contact us' link at the top of the webpage: www.tsoshop.co.uk

ENQUIRIES:

20. If you have any queries about the Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team: telephone 0300 100 0618; email SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk