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**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE**

**STUDENT SUPPORT FOR THE 2020/21 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**TO:**

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS

IN ENGLAND

SSIN 03/20

30 January 2020

Dear colleague:

**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE IN 2020/21:**

**THE EDUCATION (STUDENT FEES, AWARDS AND SUPPORT ETC.) (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) REGULATIONS 2020**

1. Changes to student support for 2020/21 are set out in the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support etc.) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020 No. 48) which were laid before Parliament on **23 January 2020** and will come into force on **13 February 2020**. These Regulations are subject to Parliamentary Scrutiny.

**The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support etc) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Student Support Regulations”)**

1. The 2020 Student Support Regulations:
	1. introduce a revised living costs support package for new and continuing full-time students attending undergraduate courses in respect of an academic year beginning on or after 1 August 2020.
	2. increase maximum loans for living costs and long courses loans for new and continuing full-time students attending their undergraduate courses in 2020/21 by 2.9% (forecast inflation).
	3. increase maximum maintenance grants and special support grants in 2020/21 for full-time students who started attending their undergraduate courses before 1 August 2016 by 2.9%.
	4. increase maximum grants in 2020/21 for new and continuing full-time undergraduate students with adult or child dependants in 2020/21 by 2.9% (adult dependants’ grant, childcare grant, parents’ learning allowance).
	5. increase maximum disabled students’ allowances for new and continuing full-time and part-time undergraduate students and postgraduate students with disabilities in 2020/21 by 2.9%.
	6. increase maximum loans for living costs for part-time students attending degree level and equivalent courses who started their courses on or after 1 August 2018 by 2.9%.
	7. increase maximum fee grants and course grants in 2020/21 for part-time students who started their undergraduate courses before 1 September 2012 by 2.9%.
	8. increase maximum loans in 2020/21 for students starting postgraduate master’s degree courses from 1 August 2020 by 2.9%.
	9. increase maximum loans in 2020/21 for students starting postgraduate doctoral degree courses from 1 August 2020 by 2.9%.
	10. introduce a new eligibility category in further and higher education student finance regulations for ‘Calais Children’ and their dependent children who are starting courses in the 2020/21 academic year which allows them to qualify for home fee status and student support.

* 1. introduce a new eligibility category in further and higher education student finance regulations for victims of domestic violence or domestic abuse granted Indefinite Leave to Remain who are starting courses in the 2020/21 academic year which allows them to qualify for home fee status and student support.
	2. add a new provision to higher education student finance regulations for the 2020/21 academic year so that courses offered by certain private providers in the devolved administrations can be automatically designated for the purposes of student support for students domiciled in England.
1. An electronic copy of the **2020 Student Support Regulations** can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/48/contents/made>

1. 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/2020/48/contents/made>

1. Detailed changes to grants and loans for living and other costs for the 2020/21 academic year are set out in detail in the **Student Finance Memorandum for the 2020/21 Academic Year** on the Student Finance England Practitioner’s Website at:

<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1750/financial-memorandum-for-202021.pdf>

1. An Equality Analysis of Higher Education Student Finance changes for undergraduates and postgraduates in 2020/21, can be found on the .GOV.UK website at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860573/Equality_Analysis_for_2020.21_17.01.20.pdf>

**ORDERING COPIES OF REGULATIONS:**

1. 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](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk)

**ENQUIRIES:**

1. 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