

STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE
STUDENT SUPPORT FOR THE 2021/22
ACADEMIC YEAR

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 02/21
5 November 2020

Dear colleague:

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE IN 2021/22:

**THE EDUCATION (STUDENT FEES, AWARDS AND SUPPORT ETC.)
(AMENDMENT) (No. 3) REGULATIONS 2020**

1. Changes to student support for 2021/22 are set out in the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support etc.) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020 No. 1203) which were laid before Parliament on **5 November 2020** and will come into force on **26 November 2020**. These Regulations are subject to Parliamentary Scrutiny.

The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support etc.) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 (“the 2021 Student Finance Regulations”)

2. The 2021 Student Finance Regulations:
 - a. 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 2021.
 - b. increase maximum loans for living costs and long courses loans for new and continuing full-time students attending their undergraduate courses in 2021/22 by 3.1% (forecast inflation).
 - c. increase maximum maintenance grants and special support grants in 2021/22 for full-time students who started attending their undergraduate courses before 1 August 2016 by 3.1%.

- d. increase maximum grants in 2021/22 for new and continuing full-time undergraduate students with adult or child dependants by 3.1% (adult dependants' grant, childcare grant, parents' learning allowance).
 - e. increase maximum loans for living costs in 2021/22 for part-time students attending degree level and equivalent courses who started their courses on or after 1 August 2018 by 3.1%.
 - f. increase maximum loans in 2021/22 for students starting postgraduate master's degree courses from 1 August 2021 by 3.1%.
 - g. increase maximum loans in 2021/22 for students starting postgraduate doctoral degree courses from 1 August 2021 by 3.1%.
3. The 2021 Student Finance Regulations also make the following changes for 2021/22:
- a. Full-time and part-time undergraduate students and postgraduate students will, for the first time, qualify for the same Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). The four sub-allowances for full-time and part-time undergraduate students in 2020/21 will be replaced with a single maximum DSA of £25,000 in 2021/22. An exception to this cap will apply for travel costs, which will remain uncapped.
 - b. Students in protection based eligibility categories (Humanitarian Protection, Stateless Persons leave, Calais leave and Section 67 ('Dubs') leave) who are starting or continuing their courses in 2021/22 will need to have been resident in the UK and Islands since the grant of their leave to remain in order to qualify for home fee status and student support. They will no longer be required to be ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for the three year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of their course.
 - c. Students granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) as a bereaved partner who do not satisfy the three year ordinary residence requirement and are starting courses in 2021/22 will qualify for student support in England and home fee status. This category of students will need to have been resident in the UK and Islands since the grant of such leave.
 - d. A number of other minor policy and technical changes which are set out in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulations.

4. An electronic copy of the **2021 Student Finance Regulations** can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2020/1203>

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1203/resources>

6. Detailed changes to grants and loans for living and other costs for the 2021/22 academic year are set out in detail in the **Student Finance Memorandum for the 2021/22 Academic Year** on the Student Finance England Practitioner's Website at:

<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1833/ssin-financial-memorandum-for-2021.pdf>

7. An Equality Analysis of Higher Education Student Finance changes for undergraduates and postgraduates in 2021/22, can be found on the .GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-grants-and-loans-2021-to-2022-equality-analysis>

ORDERING COPIES OF REGULATIONS:

8. 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:

9. 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