

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 03/25
18 February 2025

Dear colleague:

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT IN 2025/26:

1. Changes to student support for the 2025/26 academic year are set out in the Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 2025 No. 162) which were laid before Parliament on **13 February 2025** and will come into force on **6 March 2025**. These Regulations are subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

Changes to maximum fees for the 2025/26 academic year are set out in **SSIN 01/25**.

The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (“the Student Finance Regulations”)

2. The Student Finance Regulations:
 - a. increase maximum fee loans for full-time and part-time undergraduate courses by 3.1% (forecast inflation based on the RPIX inflation index).
 - b. reduce maximum fee loans for full-time and part-time classroom-based foundation years starting in 2025/26.
 - c. 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 2025 (the 2025/26 academic year).
 - d. increase maximum loans for living costs and long courses loans for new and continuing full-time students attending their undergraduate courses in 2025/26 by 3.1%.
 - e. increase maximum maintenance grants and special support

grants in 2025/26 for full-time students who started attending their undergraduate courses before 1 August 2016 by 3.1%.

- f. increase maximum grants in 2025/26 for new and continuing full-time undergraduate students with adult or child dependants by 3.1% (adult dependants' grant, childcare grant, parents' learning allowance).
 - g. Increase maximum disabled students' allowance for new and continuing undergraduate and postgraduate students with disabilities by 3.1%
 - h. increase maximum loans for living costs in 2025/26 for part-time students attending degree level and equivalent courses who started their courses on or after 1 August 2018 by 3.1%.
 - i. increase maximum loans in 2025/26 for students starting postgraduate master's degree courses from 1 August 2025 by 3.1%.
 - j. increase maximum loans in 2025/26 for students starting postgraduate doctoral degree courses from 1 August 2025 by 3.1%.
3. The Student Finance Regulations also make the following changes for the 2025/26 academic year:
- a. remove the 3 year ordinary residence requirement for the bereaved partners, and their children, of Gurkhas and Hong Kong military veterans discharged before 1997 who have been granted indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain. This group of students will qualify for home fee status and student support if they are ordinarily resident in England on the course start date.
 - b. a technical amendment to ensure that students can still access repairs and replacements of DSA equipment, and aftercare support for DSA equipment and software, while on a sandwich work placement year. This follows the changes introduced by SLC to fund repairs and replacements on a case-by-case basis rather than through insurance and warranty arrangements, and to pay a fee for aftercare support annually rather than up-front for the student's whole course.

- c. a technical amendment to ensure that students undertaking a work placement as part of an Erasmus Year/Turing Year qualify for a travel grant in line with current policy intent and practice.
 - d. an amendment to the definition of 'unpaid service' to reflect the dissolution of Health and Services Boards in Northern Ireland and the transfer of their functions to the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and various other public health and social security bodies in Northern Ireland.
 - e. remove an obsolete reference to Netherlands Antilles and replace with a reference to 'Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten').
4. An electronic copy of the **Student Finance Regulations** and **Explanatory Memorandum** can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2025/162/memorandum/contents>

5. An **Equality Impact Assessment** of changes to maximum fees and student support for the 2025/26 academic year can also be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2025/162/impacts/2025/34>

6. The main changes for 2025/26 were announced through a **Written Statement** made in Parliament on 20 January 2025:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-01-20/hcws372>

ORDERING COPIES OF REGULATIONS:

7. 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:

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