

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE**  
**STUDENT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC**  
**YEAR 2016/17**

**TO:**

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS  
IN ENGLAND

**SSIN 01/16**

**21 July 2015**

Dear colleague

**The Student Finance Package for 2016/17**

This information note sets out the student finance package for the 2016/17 academic year for students in England which was announced by the Government on 8 and 21 July 2015.

The main components of the package of support for 2016/17 are highlighted below and in the attached Annex.

**Changes to the student support package for 2016/17 – summary:**

***New Full-time Students starting their courses from 1 August 2016 onwards:***

*Full time fee and fee loans:*

- Maximum fees and fee loans for full-time courses, sandwich courses and full-time distance learning courses starting on or after 1 August 2016 will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

*Maintenance support:*

- Maintenance loans (loans for living costs) will replace maintenance grants for new full-time students.

- The maximum maintenance support for students from low income households will be increased by £766 to £8,200 a year for students from low income households living away from home and studying outside London, a 10.3% increase in overall maintenance support compared with 2015/16.
- A corresponding 10.3% increase will be made to overall maintenance support compared with 2015/16 for students living away from home and studying in London or overseas and students living in the parental home.

*Students entitled to benefits:*

- Maintenance loans (loans for living costs) will replace special support grants for new full-time students entitled to benefits.
- The maximum maintenance support for students from low income households entitled to benefits will be increased by £220 to £9,347 a year for students from low income households living away from home and studying outside London, a 2.41% inflationary increase in overall maintenance support compared with 2015/16.
- A corresponding 2.41% increase will be made to overall maintenance support compared with 2015/16 for students living away from home and studying in London or overseas and students living in the parental home.

*Students aged 60 or over at the start of their course:*

- Maintenance loans (loans for living costs) will replace special support grants for new full-time students aged 60 or over at the start of their course.
- The maximum loan for living costs for students aged 60 or over will be £3,469, a 2.41% increase compared to the maximum Special Support Grant in 2015/16.

***Full-time Students continuing their courses from 1 August 2016 onwards:***

*Full time fees and fee loans:*

- Maximum fees and fee loans for full-time courses, sandwich courses and full-time distance learning courses starting on or after 1 September 2012 will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

*Maintenance support:*

- Maximum Maintenance Grants and Special Support Grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- Maximum maintenance loans (loans for living costs), will be increased by forecast inflation (2.41%) in 2016/17.

***Part-time Students:***

- Maximum fees and fee loans for part-time courses starting in September 2012 or later will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- Maximum Fee Grants and Course Grants for part-time courses (and full-time distance learning courses) that started before September 2012 will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

***Targeted Grants:***

- Maximum grants for full-time students attending courses with dependants (Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance), will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- Maximum Disabled Students' Allowances for full-time, part-time and postgraduate students will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

## **Changes to the student support package for 2016/17 – detail:**

### ***Fees and Fee Loans - New and Continuing Full-time Students in 2016/17.***

#### *1) Full-time fees and fee loans:*

New students and eligible continuing students starting to attend full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012:

- Maximum fees for full-time courses will be maintained at £6,000, or £9,000 where an institution has met conditions on widening participation set by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).
- Maximum fee loans for full-time courses will also be maintained at £9,000 (or for specifically designated courses at private institutions, £6,000).

Continuing students who started attending full-time courses before 1 September 2012:

- The maximum fee cap for full-time courses will be maintained at £3,465.
- Maximum fee loans for full-time courses will also be maintained at £3,465.

#### *2) Fees for students undertaking Erasmus study and work placement years abroad and non-Erasmus years of study abroad.*

New students and continuing students starting to attend full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012:

- Maximum fees for Erasmus study or work placement years and non-Erasmus overseas years of study will be maintained at £900 or £1,350 where an institution has met conditions on widening participation set by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). These figures are 15% of the maximum fee caps for students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012.
- Maximum fee loans for Erasmus study or work placement years and non-Erasmus overseas years of study will be maintained at £1,350 (or for non-Erasmus overseas years where a designated course is provided by a private institution, £900).

Continuing students who started attending full-time courses before 1 September 2012:

- Students who started their courses before 1 September 2012 who are undertaking an Erasmus study or work placement year in 2016/17 will not be charged fees for that year.

- Maximum fees and fee loans for non-Erasmus overseas years of study will remain at £1,725 in 2016/17 for students who started their courses before 1 September 2012.

### 3) Fees for students undertaking Sandwich work placement years.

New students and continuing students starting to attend full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012:

- The maximum fees for Sandwich work placement years will be maintained at £1,200 or £1,800 in 2016/17 where an institution has met conditions on widening participation set by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). These figures are 20% of the maximum fee caps for students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012.
- Maximum fee loans for Sandwich work placement years will be maintained at £1,800 (or where a designated course is provided by a private institution, £1,200).

### **Maintenance Support – New Full-time Students starting their courses in 2016/17.**

#### 1) *Maintenance loans (loans for living costs) for new full-time students (other than those who qualify for benefits) who start attending full-time courses on or after 1 August 2016:*

- New full-time students will no longer qualify for a Maintenance Grant.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying outside London will be increased to £8,200, a 10.3% increase on the maximum maintenance grant/loan support package available in 2015/16.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying in London will be increased to £10,702, a 10.3% increase on the maximum maintenance grant/loan support package available in 2015/16.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living at home will be increased to £6,904, a 10.3% increase on the maximum maintenance grant/loan support package available in 2015/16.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students studying overseas as part of their UK course will be increased to £9,391, a 10.3% increase on the maximum maintenance grant/loan support package available in 2015/16.

#### 2) *Maintenance loans for new full-time students who qualify for benefits and who start attending full-time courses on or after 1 August 2016:*

- New full-time students who qualify for benefits will no longer qualify for a Special Support Grant.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying outside London who qualify for benefits will be increased

to £9,347, a 2.41% increase (forecast inflation) on the maximum special support grant/maintenance loan support package available in 2015/16.

- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying in London who qualify for benefits will be increased to £11,671, a 2.41% increase on the maximum special support grant/maintenance loan support package available in 2015/16.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living at home who qualify for benefits will be increased to £8,144, a 2.41% increase on the maximum special support grant/ maintenance loan support package available in 2015/16.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students studying overseas as part of their UK course who qualify for benefits will be increased to £10,453, a 2.41% increase on the maximum special support grant / maintenance loan support package available in 2015/16.

3) *Maintenance loans for new students aged 60 or over at the start of their course who start attending full-time courses on or after 1 August 2016.*

- New full-time students aged 60 or over at the start of their course will no longer qualify for Special Support Grants.
- The maximum maintenance loan for all full-time students aged 60 or over will be £3,469, a 2.41% increase (forecast inflation) on the maximum Special Support Grant in 2015/16.
- A minimum maintenance loan of £50 will be paid at household incomes of £43,668.

***Maintenance Support – Full-time Students who started attending their full-time courses before 1 August 2016.***

1) *Maintenance Grants and Special Support Grant – continuing students who started attending full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012 and before 1 August 2016.*

- The maximum Maintenance Grant will be maintained at £3,387 in 2016/17.
- The maximum Special Support Grant, which is paid to certain groups of students eligible for benefits in place of the Maintenance Grant, will also be maintained at £3,387.
- Income thresholds for the maximum grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

2) *Maintenance Grants and Special Support Grant - continuing students who started attending full-time courses before 1 September 2012.*

- The maximum Maintenance Grant will be maintained at £3,110 in 2016/17.

- The maximum Special Support Grant, which is paid to certain groups of students eligible for benefits, will also be maintained at £3,110.
- The income thresholds for the maximum grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

3) *Maintenance Loans (loans for living costs)- continuing students who started attending full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012 and before 1 August 2016.*

- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying outside London will be increased to £5,878 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying in London will be increased to £8,202 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living at home will be increased to £4,675 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living overseas as part of their studies will be increased to £6,984, an increase of 2.41%.
- Income thresholds for maximum loans will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

4) *Maintenance Loans - continuing students who started attending full-time courses before 1 September 2012.*

- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying outside London will be increased to £5,292 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living away from home and studying in London will be increased to £7,404 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living at home will be increased to £4,102 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- The maximum maintenance loan for students living overseas as part of their studies will be increased to £6,299 in 2016/17, an increase of 2.41%.
- Income thresholds for maximum loans will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

***Other help for full-time students attending their courses in 2016/17.***

1) *Grants for Disabled Students*

- Maximum Disabled Students Allowance will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- The non-medical helper allowance will be maintained at £20,725; the specialist equipment allowance at £5,212; the allowance for other disability related expenditure at £1,741.

## 2) Grants for Students with Dependants

- The maximum Adult Dependants Grant will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17: £2,757.
- The maximum Childcare Grant will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17: up to £155.24 per week for one child and to £266.15 for two or more children.
- The maximum Parents Learning Allowance will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17: £1,573.
- Maximum income thresholds, where applicable, will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

## Full-time Distance Learning Support Package in 2016/17

*Student undertaking full-time distance learning courses do not qualify for Maintenance Grants, maintenance loans or Dependants Grants.*

### 1) Full time fees and fee loans:

New students and eligible continuing students starting full-time distance learning courses on or after 1 September 2012:

- Maximum fees for full-time distance learning courses in 2016/17 will be maintained at £6,000, or £9,000 where an institution has met conditions on widening participation set by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).
- Maximum fee loans for full-time distance learning courses in 2016/17 will also be maintained at £9,000 (or for specifically designated courses at private institutions, £6,000).

Continuing students who started full-time distance learning courses before 1 September 2012:

- Maximum Fee Grants and Course Grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17. Maximum Fee Grants will be maintained at £1,285 and maximum Course Grants will be maintained at £280.
- Thresholds for grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

### 2) Other help:

- Maximum Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- The DSA non-medical helper allowance will be maintained at £20,725; the specialist equipment allowance will be maintained at £5,212; the

allowance for other disability related expenditure will be maintained at £1,741.

### **Part-time Support Package in 2016/17**

#### *1) Part-time fee and fee loans/grants*

New students and eligible continuing students starting part-time courses on or after 1 September 2012 (whether they are attending their course or undertaking them by distance learning):

- Maximum fees for part-time courses in 2016/17 will be maintained at £4,500, or £6,750 where an institution has met conditions on widening participation set by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).
- Maximum fee loans for part-time courses will also be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17: £6,750 (or for designated courses at private institutions, £4,500).

Continuing students who started part-time courses before 1 September 2012 (whether they are attending their course or undertaking them by distance learning):

- Maximum Fee Grants and Course Grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17. Maximum fee grants will be maintained at £855, £1,025 or £1,285 depending on the intensity of study on the course. Maximum course grants will be maintained at £280.
- Thresholds for part-time grants will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.

#### *2) Other help:*

- Maximum Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) will be maintained at 2015/16 levels in 2016/17.
- The DSA non-medical helper allowance will be maintained at £15,543; the specialist equipment allowance at £5,212; the allowance for other disability related expenditure at £1,305.

### **Postgraduate Support Package in 2016/17**

For new students and continuing students in 2016/17:

- Maximum Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs) will be maintained at £10,362.

### **Enquiries:**

If you have any queries about the Student Support Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team – telephone 0845 6020583; email [SSIN\\_queries@slc.co.uk](mailto:SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk)

## ANNEX

### Student Finance Arrangements for 2016/17 Academic Year.

<b>Support Package/ Tuition Charges</b>	<b>Changes for 2016/17 support package</b>	<b>Mode of Study</b>	<b>Support Package / Fees for students subject to the pre 2012 student finance arrangements.</b>  <i>These are most students who started their courses in 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and August 2012 who are continuing their courses in 2016/17.</i>	<b>Support package / Fees for students subject to the 2012 student finance arrangements.</b>  <i>These are eligible students who started their courses on or after 1 September 2012 but before 1st August 2016 who are continuing their courses in 2016/17.</i>  <i>It includes students undertaking 'end on' courses in 2016/17.</i>	<b>Support package / Fees for students subject to the 2016 student finance arrangements.</b>  <i>These are eligible students who started their courses from August 2016 onwards.</i>
Fees and Fee loans.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels.	Full-time	Fees and fee loans up to £3,465.	Fees and fee loans up to £6,000 or up to £9,000 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	Fees and fee loans up to £6,000 or up to £9,000 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Fees and fee loans for Erasmus study and work placement years.	Maintained at 15% cap students starting their courses on or after 1 September 2012	Full-time	No charge to student. Students not eligible for loans.	Fees and fee loans up to £900 or up to £1,350 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	Fees and fee loans up to £900 or up to £1,350 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Fees and	Maintained	Full-time	Fees and fee loans for	Fees and fee loans up to £900 or	Fees and fee loans up to £900 or

fee loans for non - Erasmus overseas study years	at 15% cap for students starting their courses on or after 1 September 2012		tuition up to £1,725	up to £1,350 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	up to £1,350 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Fees and fee loans for sandwich course work placement years	Maintained at 20% cap for students starting their courses on or after 1 September 2012	Sandwich	Fees and fee loans up to £1,725	Fees and fee loans up to £1,200 or up to £1,800 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	Fees and fee loans up to £1,200 or up to £1,800 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Maintenance Grant / Special Support Grant.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels	Full-time	Income assessed Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant of up to £3,110.	Income assessed Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant of up to £3,387	Not applicable.
Maintenance Loans	Increased by 2.41%	Full-time	- up to £5,292 for students living away from home and studying outside London - up to £7,404 for students living away from home and studying in	- up to £5,878 for students living away from home and studying outside London - up to £8,202 for students living away from home and studying in London - up to £4,675 for students living	Not applicable.

			<p>London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to £4,102 for students living at Home.</li> <li>- up to £6,299 for students studying overseas as part of their UK course</li> </ul> <p>28% of the Loan will be subject to means-testing.</p>	<p>at Home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to £6,984 for students studying overseas as part of their UK course.</li> </ul> <p>35% of the Loan will be subject to means-testing.</p>	
Maintenance Loans	Increase of 10.3% over 2015/16 package of maintenance grant/loan support.	Full-time (excluding students eligible for benefits)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to £8,200 for students living away from home and studying outside London</li> <li>- up to £10,702 for students living away from home and studying in London</li> <li>- up to £6,904 for students living at Home.</li> <li>- up to £9,391 for students studying overseas as part of their UK course.</li> </ul>
Maintenance Loans	Increase of 2.41% over 2015/16 package of special support grant/loan support.	Full-time students eligible for benefits.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to £9,347 for students living away from home and studying outside London</li> <li>- up to £11,671 for students living away from home and studying in London</li> <li>- up to £8,144 for students living at Home.</li> <li>- up to £10,453 for students studying overseas as part of their UK course.</li> </ul>

Maintenance Loans	Replaces Special Support Grant for 2016/17 starters + 2.41% increase in maintenance support.	Full-time students aged 60 or over at start of course.	Not applicable	Not applicable.	- up to £3,469
Adult Dependents' Grant, Childcare Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels.	Full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult Dependents Grant - up to £2,757</li> <li>- Childcare Grant – 85% of actual cost up to a maximum of £155.24 per week for one child, and £266.15 per week for two or more children.</li> <li>- Parents Learning Allowance – up to £1,573</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult Dependents Grant - up to £2,757</li> <li>- Childcare Grant – 85% of actual cost up to a maximum of £155.24 per week for one child, and £266.15 per week for two or more children.</li> <li>- Parents Learning Allowance – up to £1,573</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult Dependents Grant - up to £2,757</li> <li>- Childcare Grant – 85% of actual cost up to a maximum of £155.24 per week for one child, and £266.15 per week for two or more children.</li> <li>- Parents Learning Allowance – up to £1,573</li> </ul>
Fee grants and course grants.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels	Part-time	Maximum Fee Grants and Course Grants will be maintained at 2014/15 levels. Maximum fee grants will be maintained at £855 (50 -59% intensity), £1,025 (60 - 74% intensity) or £1,285 (75%+ intensity) depending on the intensity of study on the course. Maximum course	Not applicable.	Not applicable

			grants will be maintained at £280.		
Fees and fee loans.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels.	Part-time	Fees for part-time courses that started before September 2012 will remain unregulated  Fee loans are not available for part-time courses starting before 1 September 2012.	Fees and fee loans for tuition of up to £4,500 or up to £6,750 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	Fees and fee loans for tuition of up to £4,500 or up to £6,750 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Fee grants and course grants.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels	Full-time distance learning	Means-tested Fee Grant of up to £1,285 and Course Grant of up to £280.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Fees and fee loans.	Maintained at 2014/15 levels.	Full-time distance learning.	Fees up to £3,465.  Fee loans are not available for full-time distance learning courses starting before 1 September 2012.	Fees and fee loans up to £6,000 or up to £9,000 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.	Fees and fee loans up to £6,000 or up to £9,000 where OFFA has approved a HEI access plan.
Disabled Students' Allowances.	Maintained at 2015/16 levels	Full time, part time, full time distance learning, postgraduate.	<i>Full-time and full-time distance learning:</i>  - up to £20,725 (non-medical helper) - up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)	<i>Full-time and full-time distance learning:</i>  - up to £20,725 (non-medical helper) - up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)	<i>Full-time and full-time distance learning:</i>  - up to £20,725 (non-medical helper) - up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)

			<p>- up to £1,741 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Part-time:</i></p> <p>- up to £15,543 (non-medical helper)</p> <p>- up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)</p> <p>- up to £1,305 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Postgraduate:</i></p> <p>-up to £10,362</p>	<p>- up to £1,741 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Part-time:</i></p> <p>- up to £15,543 (non-medical helper)</p> <p>- up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)</p> <p>- up to £1,305 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Postgraduate:</i></p> <p>-up to £10,362</p>	<p>- up to £1,741 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Part-time:</i></p> <p>- up to £15,543 (non-medical helper)</p> <p>- up to £5,212 (specialist equipment)</p> <p>- up to £1,305 (other disability related expenditure).</p> <p><i>Postgraduate:</i></p> <p>-up to £10,362</p>
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