



AY2016/17 HE FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE SERVICE LAUNCH

The 2016/17 Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales and Student Finance Northern Ireland services for HE full-time undergraduate students opened on 29th February 2016. We are encouraging new students to apply as soon as possible.

The process for continuing students is different. Continuing students should wait for SFE, SFW or SFNI to contact them before applying. We will automatically process applications for some continuing students for 2016/17. Continuing students who do not have their applications automatically processed will be contacted during March/April and asked to apply online.

To read the full update please visit:
www.slc.co.uk/stakeholders-partners/latest-news

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES (CoC)

There will be a staged delivery of functionality within SLC portal services for AY2016/17 applications, due to scheduled system releases. The ability for both Providers and students to commence raising CoCs for AY2016/17 applications is planned for mid June.

The CoC functionality release coincides with the normal submission pattern for pre-liability CoCs. We recommend that any changes noted ahead of the CoC launch are saved off line, in readiness for submission mid June onwards.

ENSURING STUDENT'S CONTINUING STATUS IS RETAINED (English domiciled students)

Following some queries from the sector, SLC sought clarification from BIS regarding scenarios where a student completes an Academic Year of study with one Provider but who does not return the following AY and instead starts a second course at a new HEP.

SLC and BIS considered factors such as, student's perception of their period of study, the Regulations, the application process for returning students and CoC processes. A new SFE processing procedure has now been established, which with the support of HEPs, will allow the student to retain their 'continuing student' status when they start their course the next AY.

For returning students applying to a different HEP in the next AY, where this is in the same 12 month period as the previous one, they will be deemed as continuing students. SFE will accept the application for support as notification of the change and submission of Registration or Attendance by the Provider will be taken as notice of transfer.

When a returning student applies to SFE with the following circumstances:

- student has changed course/HEP and seasonal start
- student has changed HEP following a gap of a year or more

then, in the absence of any CoC notification from the first HEP, SFE will hold the application and seek confirmation from the Provider that the student has been accepted

as a continuing student, via a CoC 'transfer in'.

It is anticipated that around three thousand applications will fall within this procedure.

Where applications are held subject to this procedure, SFE will write to the student to notify them and contact the Provider to request clarification around the study status.

Full details of the finalised procedure will be issued shortly, alongside interim arrangements for applications received in advance of the mid June AY2016/17 delivery of the SIS CoC functionality.

BURSARIES SERVICE

We have updated the AY2016/17 subscription for the Service, this option can be seen within the Award Detail screen. However please do not start entering rules for AY2016/17 until you receive a specific communication to do so.

Timeline for entering awards:

- End March – AY2016/17 Bursary & Scholarship Award rules only (not Fee Waiver rules)
- Mid June – AY2016/17 Fee Waiver rules.

Please note that the ability to activate Fee Waiver Award rules in mid June reflects the release of the CoC functionality within SIS.