

Assessing Financial Entitlement Guidance

Higher Education Student Finance in Wales

Academic Year 20/21– Version 1.0

Summary

This section provides details of financial entitlement assessments for the core financial support package for Full-Time (FT) students.

Disclaimer

This guidance is designed to assist with the interpretation of the Student Support (Wales) Regulations as they stand at the time of publication. It does not cover every aspect of student support or constitute legal advice or a definitive statement of the law. Whilst every endeavour has been made to ensure the information contained is correct at the time of publication, no liability is accepted with regard to the contents and the Regulations remain the legal basis of the student support arrangements for the academic year 20/21. In the event of anomalies between this guidance and the Regulations, the Regulations prevail. Please note the Regulations are subject to amendment.

Please note this guidance is for Student Finance Wales (SFW) students only.

Regulation References

There are two sets of Regulations governing student support in Wales. As these Regulations often have mirroring provisions, the regulatory references throughout this guidance will be followed by either '(2017)' or '(2018)' to denote which set of Regulations are being referred to.

'(2017)' denotes the "The Education (Student Support)(Wales) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/47)" as amended

'(2018)' denotes the "The Education (Student Support)(Wales) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/191)" as amended

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full description
APP	Access Participation Plan
AY	Academic year
CertHE	Certificate of Higher Education
DaDA	Dance and Drama Award
DipHE	Diploma of Higher Education
DL	Distance Learning
DoH	Department of Health
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
EU	European Union
FT	Full-time
HE	Higher Education
HHI	Household income
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HNC	Higher National Certificate
HND	Higher National Diploma
ITT	Initial teacher training
LSS	Learner Support Service
ML	Maintenance loan
NHS	National Health Service
OfS	Office for Students
PT	Part-time
RRML	Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan
SFW	Student Finance Wales
SI	Statutory Instrument
SLC	Student Loans Company
SSG	Special Support Grant
TFG	Tuition Fee Grant
TFL	Tuition Fee Loan

TG	Travel Grant
WG	Welsh Government
WGLG	Welsh Government Learning Grant

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1 Document Overview

1.1 Introduction

This chapter explains how an eligible FT student's entitlement to loans for living costs, Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG), Special Support Grant (SSG), Travel Grant (TG), and grants and loans for tuition fees are assessed.

In AY 18/19 the Welsh Government introduced a new income assessment model in response to the Diamond Review, leading to the creation of the 2018 cohort. Any sections that are unique to a cohort will specifically reference which cohort it applies to. Where a section does not refer to a specific cohort it applies to all cohorts in the same way.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with the 'Assessing Eligibility' guidance chapter.

1.2 Definitions

The cohort groups described in this guidance are as follows:

- '2018 cohort' students
- '2012 cohort' students
- '2011 cohort' students

See Annex A for definitions of student cohorts.

The previous cohort group (2010 cohort) is described in the AY 18/19 assessing financial entitlement guidance.

In AY 20/21, the following core living cost and fee support is available to FT students:

Product	2011 cohort students	2012 cohort students	2018 cohort students
Tuition Fee Loan	✓	✓	✓
Tuition Fee Grant	X	✓ (Up to £4,530)	X
WGLG	✓ (Up to £5,780)	✓ (Up to £5,161)	✓ (Up to £10,124*)
SSG	✓ (Up to £5,780)	✓ (Up to £5,161)	✓ (Up to £5,161**)
Maintenance Loan	✓	✓	✓

*£10,124 represents the maximum WGLG available, this is in respect of students living outside of the parental home and studying in London.

** £5,161 represents the maximum SSG, note that students may qualify for WGLG in addition to SSG.

All cohort groups may be eligible for additional grants for living costs if they are disabled, have dependants or have certain travel costs.

Guidance on Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) is contained in the 'Disabled Students' Allowances' guidance.

Guidance on the Adult Dependants' Grant (ADG), Childcare Grant (CCG), Parents' Learning Allowance (PLA) is contained in the 'Grants for Dependants' guidance.

The following students may be ineligible for support for living costs and other grants:

- FT distance learning students (pre-2018 cohort) are only eligible to apply for tuition fee support and DSAs. The only exception are students who are distance learning on a course that normally requires attendance at a HE provider but are unable to attend the course due to their disability. These students are entitled to the same support as a student who is attending their HE provider. Note that this exception does not apply where the student is undertaking a distance learning course. See section 2.2 in 20/21 'Grants for Dependants' guidance for more information about eligibility for Grants for Dependants while studying on a distance learning course.
- Prisoners who started a FT course on or after 1 September 2012 and are eligible prisoners under regulations 2(1)(2017) and Schedule 1, paragraph 6(1) (2018) are eligible for tuition fee support only while imprisoned. They are eligible for maintenance support and DSAs on a pro-rated daily basis only for those periods of time not spent in prison. Where the student started the course prior to 1 September 2012, they will be eligible for tuition fee support and DSAs for those periods when they are imprisoned.

Academic year (AY)

An 'academic year' means the period of twelve months beginning on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 September of the calendar year in which the AY of the course in question begins, according to whether that AY begins (regulation 2(1) (2017) and Schedule 1 paragraph 1 (2018)):

- on or after 1 January and before 1 April
- on or after 1 April and before 1 July
- on or after 1 July and before 1 August
- on or after 1 August and on or before 31 December

Transfers

Where a student has had their eligibility transferred from a previous course that started before 1 August 2018 to a course beginning on or after 1 August 2018 and

- the mode of study remains the same (for example, FT to FT), the student is treated for student finance purposes as having started their course in the AY relevant to the first course they transferred from
- the mode of study has changed (for example, from PT to FT or FT distance learning to FT in attendance), they are treated for student finance purposes, where applicable, as belonging to a new cohort from the start of the second course

End-on

Where the student's course is taken 'end-on' to another course (see definition below) the student will be treated for student finance purposes as having started their current course at the beginning of the AY in which they started the previous course. The definition of an 'end-on' course is set out in regulation 2(1) of the 2017 Student Support Regulations and Schedule 1, paragraph 6 (1) of the 2018 Student Support Regulations and is as follows:

- a full-time (FT) non-Initial Teacher Training (ITT) first degree course which the student begins to attend immediately following certain FT HNC, HND, Cert HE or Dip HE courses (disregarding the intervening vacation)
- a FT honours degree starting on or after 1 September 2006 which the student begins to attend immediately following certain FT foundation degree courses (disregarding the intervening vacation), or
- an ITT course not exceeding two years in length which a student began to attend before 1 September 2006 immediately following certain first degree courses (disregarding the intervening vacation)

The intervening vacation is not stipulated in Regulations but in most cases the gap in study between the two courses is five months or less.

As per the above definitions, a course cannot be defined as 'end-on' where the mode of study changes.

2 Living costs products

2.1 Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) overview

WGLG is generally payable to all cohort groups who are attending:

- a FT course
- a sandwich course (but not generally in the sandwich year – see regulations 23(6) and 23(7) (2017)/ regulation 44(1), exception 6 and 44(2) to (4)(2018)).

An eligible student will not qualify for WGLG if:

- they are an EU national, or family member of such a national, and they fall under Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 9 (2017) or Schedule 2, paragraph 6 (2018)
- they are eligible for an income assessed healthcare bursary or Scottish Healthcare allowance in this AY
- they qualify for SSG*
- they do not qualify for a fee loan in this AY (this does not apply to students who do not qualify for fee support because they are on a pre-14/15 Erasmus year). Refer to the 'Assessing eligibility' guidance on eligibility for fee support.

*except in respect of students starting courses on or after 1 August 2018, who may qualify for WGLG in addition to SSG.

There are no age restrictions in relation to WGLG. However, an applicant who would otherwise qualify for WGLG and who is over 60 on the first day of the first AY of their course would qualify for SSG instead.

2.2 Special Support Grant (SSG) overview

Some students are eligible for income assessed benefits, for example, income support, housing benefit or Universal Credit, from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) while studying on a FT course.

Due to DWP regulations, if students who are eligible to apply for benefits were to receive WGLG, their entitlement to benefits would be reduced as the purpose of WGLG is to help with living costs. This is because it will be taken into account as income by DWP when assessing a student's entitlement to income assessed benefits.

In order to avoid students having their benefits reduced, students eligible for income assessed DWP benefits instead qualify for SSG as an alternative to WGLG. SSG is disregarded by DWP when assessing a student's entitlement for income assessed benefits. SSG may be available in AYs where the student:

- falls within one of the categories of people prescribed for the purposes of section 124(1)(e) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 in regulation 4ZA of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987/1967), or
- is treated as being liable to make payments in respect of a dwelling prescribed for the purposes of section 130(2) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 in regulation 56 of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/213) or the Universal Credit Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/376).

The categories of students who are potentially eligible for SSG are set out below (it is likely that some of these categories will only rarely apply to HE students):

- the student is a lone parent responsible for a child or a young person aged under 20 who is a member of the student's household and is in FT education
- the student is a lone foster parent of a child or young person aged under 20
- the student has a partner who is also a FT student and one or both of them are responsible for a child or young person aged under 20 who is in FT non-advanced education
- the student has a disability and qualifies for a Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium
- the student has been treated as incapable of work for a continuous period of at least 28 weeks (two or more periods of incapacity separated by a break of no more than 8 weeks count as one continuous period)
- the student is deaf and qualifies for DSAs
- the student is waiting to go back to a course having taken approved time out because of an illness or caring responsibility that has now come to an end for a period not exceeding one year
- the student is aged 60 or over
- the student is entitled to Personal Independence Payment, Armed Forces Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance

In addition, a student qualifies for SSG if:

- the student is entitled to housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit

- the student has a disability and qualifies for income related Employment Support Allowance

A student will not qualify for a SSG if:

- the only paragraph of Schedule 1 into which they fall is paragraph 9 (for example, an EU national or family member of such a national)
- they are eligible to apply for an income assessed healthcare bursary or Scottish healthcare allowance in the AY
- they are on a sandwich course and the periods of FT study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks (this does not apply if the periods of work experience constitute periods of unpaid service)
- they do not qualify for a fee loan (except where they do not qualify for such a loan because they are on an Erasmus year and:
 - the course began before 1 September 2012 and is provided by an HEP in England or Wales
 - the course began before 1 August 2017 and is provided by an HEP in Scotland
 - the course is provided by an HEP in Northern Ireland

A student who falls within a prescribed category of person in the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (as amended) need not be entitled to or in receipt of benefits such as Income Support to qualify for SSG. For example, a lone parent student who is responsible for a child or young person aged under 20 who is a member of their household and in FT non-advanced education would be eligible for SSG, even if they did not in fact qualify for Income Support, had never applied for it or were not in receipt of it for the whole year.

Where a student's circumstances change so that they become eligible for SSG part way through the AY, they may be awarded SSG in respect of the whole of that year. For example, a student who separates from their partner part way through the AY and therefore becomes a lone parent may be awarded SSG in respect of the whole of that AY, subject to income assessment. The student does not need to have actually received, applied for or be eligible for Income Support. If the student was already receiving WGLG, this would be reassessed and SSG awarded in its place. Any loan substitution that has taken place would also be reassessed and the student invited to apply for the additional amount of loan if they wish to do so.

2018 cohort students who qualify for SSG may also be eligible for an amount of WGLG.

2.3 Travel Grant (TG) overview

Please note that, for pre-2018 cohorts, TG are typically only available to income assessed students. 2018 cohort students may access TG regardless of whether they have provided income details or not.

TG are payable in respect of reasonable expenditure incurred for travel during that AY, subject to cohort-specific disregards and income reductions which are outlined in the Travel Grant entitlement sections below.

SLC has discretion to pay the grant in advance of the student incurring the expenditure.

For TG Case studies please see [Annex B](#).

2.3.1 Mileage

Some students claiming a TG may undertake their journey by car. For the purpose of deciding the cost of the journey by car, a rate of 24p per mile should be used. This rate is based on the midpoint range of AA motoring costs and includes an amount for wear and tear on the car. Some continuing students using their own car for travel may already be receiving a TG based on a higher mileage rate. In such cases, it is recommended that SFW pay that rate until the end of the course.

2.3.2 Students attending courses in medicine and dentistry

Students attending courses in medicine and dentistry who are not eligible for income assessed bursaries or awards from the Department of Health are entitled to a TG for costs of travel associated with their clinical training, where they have to attend at a hospital or other premises in the UK. This does not cover any attendance involving residential study.

2.3.3 Students attending an overseas provider

Students attending an overseas provider as part of their UK course during a qualifying quarter (whether obligatory or optional) are eligible for TG for travel costs within and outside the UK for the purpose of attending the overseas provider, including necessary daily travel costs while abroad. A qualifying quarter is an academic quarter during which the student attends the overseas provider for at least 50% of that quarter. It would be reasonable to allow for three return journeys between the UK and the overseas provider during the AY in such cases.

Account should be taken of the aggregate amount of eligible travel expenditure which a student is obliged to incur in order to attend their course, excluding any expenditure in respect of which a grant is payable under regulations 24(2017) and 63(2018). SFW assessors must be satisfied that the method and class of travel are appropriate and that all costs are reasonably and necessarily incurred.

There may be cases where single parents who are on courses that involve study overseas have to take their child (or children) abroad with them. In such cases, the cost of the

child's/children's fare from the UK to the overseas country may also be covered by the TG for up to three return journeys during the AY.

Students attending an overseas provider as part of their course for at least 50% of any academic quarter may need to insure themselves against liability for the costs of medical treatment provided outside the UK. Regulations 33(3)(a)(2017) and 66(3a)(2018) provides that such students shall be eligible for additional TG equal to the amount incurred. This expenditure is NOT subject to the £303 disregard. For example, if a student claimed grant on a total expenditure of £320, comprising travel costs of £250 and medical insurance costs of £70, he would be eligible for a grant of £70. SFW assessors must be satisfied that the costs incurred for insurance are reasonable.

Such students may also have to meet the costs of items such as visas and medical costs (regulations 33(3b & c)(2017) and 66(3b&c)(2018)). Where these are a mandatory condition of entry into the host country, they are legitimate costs incurred in order to attend the course and they can also attract grant. Where vaccinations are strongly recommended (including high risk) by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office these would be eligible for payment.

2.3.4 Students attending the University of London Institute in Paris

Students attending the University of London Institute in Paris (formerly known as the British Institute in Paris) are eligible for a TG as if they were attending an overseas provider.

2.4 Maintenance loan overview

Maintenance loan (also referred to as loan for living costs) is generally payable to all cohort groups who are attending:

- a FT course
- a sandwich course

An eligible student will not qualify for maintenance loan if:

- they are an EU national (or family member of such a national and they fall under Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 9(2017) or Schedule 2, paragraph 6(2018)

2.4.1 Age limit

Eligible students need to be below the age of 60 on the first day of the first AY of the specified designated course.

For example:

- Student A starts a four-year degree course on 1 September 2020, aged 59. As he is under the age of 60 on the first day of the first AY of his course, he will qualify for a loan for living costs in AY 20/21 and in future AYs of the course.

- Student B starts a Foundation Degree on 1 September 2018, aged 59. He qualifies for a maintenance loan for a FT Foundation Degree which he completes in AY 19/20. He then starts a FT 'end-on' honours degree course in September 2020. As he was under 60 when he started the Foundation Degree, he qualifies for a loan for living costs for the 'end on' Honours course.
- Student C starts a two year FT Foundation Degree on 1 September 2020, aged 60. As he is aged 60 on the first day of the first AY of his course, he does not qualify for maintenance loan in AY 20/21 and 21/22. However, he qualifies for SSG in both AYs.

2.4.2 Loans for extra weeks attendance

Additional loan for extra weeks of attendance over 30 weeks and 3 days in an AY is available at a fixed amount per extra week / part week, up to 45 weeks of study. Students studying for 45 weeks or more in any 52 week period are paid as if they are studying for the full 52 weeks.

The amount of extra weeks loan payable is determined by reference to the category into which the student falls (regulations 50 (2017) and 57(2018)).

Extra weeks loan can be awarded in respect of any AY of a designated course. HE providers should determine the length of their courses on the basis of the number of weeks during term time when students are attending lectures, undertaking course work or taking exams on a FT basis. Course length should also include reading periods and revision weeks up to when the student takes examinations. It does not include periods at the end of the AY after FT study and examinations have been completed when students are awaiting results, and/or writing up dissertations.

2.4.3 Rates of extra weeks loan

Rate	Weekly Amount
Parental Home	£86
London	£167
Elsewhere	£131
Overseas*	£182

*The overseas rate only applies to pre-2018 cohort students, 2018 cohort students who are overseas students will receive the elsewhere rate.

2.4.4 Students on accelerated courses

Eligible students on accelerated degrees which last for two AYs (or one AY fewer than the standard course length if starting a course in England in AY 19/20 or later) and that require students to undertake more than 40 weeks in the final year, are entitled to the full-year loan rate in the final year and also extra weeks loan for the extra weeks attendance over 30

weeks and 3 days. Eligible students on designated fast-track degrees or compressed degrees, also delivered over two long AYs, are entitled to the same support package, but are not required to be in attendance for the full duration of the award.

2.4.5 Changes during the year

Broadly, maintenance loan is payable for three quarters of the AY. With the exception of maintenance loan paid to compressed degree students, maintenance loan is not payable in the quarter in which the longest vacation falls. Where maintenance loan is payable to a compressed degree student, the Welsh Ministers will determine the quarter in respect of which the loan is not payable.

Where students are subject to two different rates of maintenance loan based on their living/studying location in an AY quarter, they will be entitled to the rate which applies to the longest period in the AY quarter (regulation 48(2017) and 86(2018)). For example, a student attending an overseas provider for 60% of the quarter and studying in London (not residing at home) for the remaining 40% of the quarter would qualify for the overseas rate (pre-2018 cohorts) or the elsewhere rate (2018 cohort) of loan in that quarter.

Where a student has more than one change of circumstance in the AY quarter, they qualify for the rate of maintenance loan covering the longest period in that quarter (regulation 48(c)(i)(2017) and 86(2)(2018)). For example, a student spending 40% of a quarter overseas, 30% away from home outside London and 30% at the parental home, would be entitled to the overseas rate (pre-2018 cohorts) or the elsewhere rate (2018 cohort) of loan for that quarter.

Where students are subject to two different rates of maintenance loan for equal periods in an AY quarter, they will be entitled to the higher of the two possible rates of maintenance loan (see regulations 48(c)(ii)(2017) and 86(3) (2018)). For example, a student attending an overseas provider for 50% of the quarter and studying in London (not residing at home) for the remaining 50% of the quarter would qualify for the London rate of loan in that quarter.

3 Living costs entitlement (2018 cohort)

3.1 Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) and maintenance loan (2018 Cohort)

Students starting a course in AY 18/19 or later are eligible for an income assessed WGLG topped up by ML to a total support cap.

A taper rate will be used to calculate a reduction in the WGLG. There will be a different taper rate for each of the loan rates (parental home, London, elsewhere) as outlined in Table 2 below.

Please note: there is no 'overseas' maintenance loan rate from AY 18/19, students who study overseas are awarded the elsewhere rate of support.

Maintenance loan entitlement will be the total support amount minus WGLG entitlement. No assessed contribution is calculated for 2018 cohort students.

WGLG is reduced as follows:

- an eligible student will be entitled to the maximum WGLG at household incomes of £18,370 or lower. For eligible students with household incomes between £18,370 and £59,200, the WGLG amount will be reduced by £1 for every complete applicable taper figure.
- The minimum WGLG amount of £1,000 will be available to eligible students with household incomes of £59,200 or higher.

Eligible students who choose not to provide details to be income assessed will be entitled to the minimum £1,000 WGLG and the maximum available ML.

AY 20/21 total support amounts, tapers and WGLG /ML split at upper and lower income thresholds

			Income Threshold			
			Lower		Higher	
			£18,370		£59,200	
Rate	WGLG (HE) + ML (Max)	Grant Taper	WGLG (HE)	ML	WGLG (HE)	ML
Parental Home	£8,335	6.937	£6,885	£1,450	£1,000	£7,335
London	£12,260	4.475	£10,124	£2,136	£1,000	£11,260
Elsewhere	£9,810	5.75	£8,100	£1,710	£1,000	£8,810

In practice this means every eligible student who is entitled to full support (not those who are entitled to maintenance loan only (reduced or full rate)) will be awarded a minimum of £1,000 WGLG and will be eligible for the same total amount of support. The income assessment only determines the ML/WGLG grant split not the support maximum.

The calculation used to determine entitlement to WGLG and ML is:

Step 1:	HHI - lower threshold =	income difference
Step 2:	income difference ÷ rate taper =	WGLG reduction
Step 3:	max WGLG - WGLG reduction =	WGLG entitlement
Step 4:	total support - WGLG entitlement =	ML entitlement

Examples:

James is starting a degree at York University in AY 20/21 and he is living in York whilst he studies. He has chosen to be income assessed and his HHI is £15,000.

As James qualifies for the 'elsewhere' rate of support and has HHI below the lower income threshold of £18,370, he is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £9,810

WGLG : £8,100

ML: £1,710

Ted is starting a degree at Bristol University in AY 20/21 and he is living in Bristol whilst he studies. He has chosen to be income assessed and his HHI is £25,000.

As Ted qualifies for the 'elsewhere' rate of support and has an income above the lower threshold his entitlement is calculated as follows:

Step 1: £25,000 - £18,370 = £6,630
Step 2: £6,630 ÷ 5.75 = £1,153*
Step 3: £8,100 - £1,153 = £6,947
Step 4: £9,810 - £6,947 = £2,863

Ted is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £9,810

WGLG : £6,947

ML: £2,863

Zac is starting a degree at University College London in AY 20/21 and he is living away from home whilst he studies. He has chosen to be income assessed and his HHI is £40,000.

As Zac qualifies for the 'London' rate of support and has an income above the lower threshold his entitlement is calculated as follows:

Step 1-4 is as per the above example.

Step 1: £40,000 - £18,370 = £21,630
Step 2: £21,630 ÷ 4.475 = £4,833*
Step 3: £10,124 - £4,833 = £5,291
Step 4: £12,260 - £5,291 = £6,969

Zac is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £12,260

WGLG : £5,291

ML: £6,969

*amount is rounded down, as the reduction is £1 for every full taper amount.

3.1.1 Students with different loan rates within an AY

Students can continue to receive different rates of support (parental home, London, elsewhere) within the AY if their circumstances change.

In these cases, the total support (WGLG and ML) will be the average of the applicable rates within the AY. The WGLG (HE) and ML split will be determined per term to account for the differences in tapers and amounts between the rates. The amount paid per term will be split 33%/33%/34%.

This maintains the key concepts of a uniform upper limit for students on the same rates, and minimum grant entitlement of £1,000 over the AY.

For example:

Sandra is a 2018 cohort student who is living with her parents whilst studying at Bangor University. Her HHI is £30,000. Before term 3 she decides to move out of her parents' home and informs SFW.

As a result she is entitled to two terms of support at the parental home rate and one term at the elsewhere rate.

Her total support for the AY will average of the rates she receives which is:

$$(\pounds8,335 + \pounds8,335 + \pounds9,810) \div 3 = \pounds8,826$$

Her breakdown of support per term would be:

Term	WGLG	ML	Total Support
1	£1,736	£1,042	£2,778
2	£1,736	£1,042	£2,778
3	£2,026	£1,244	£3,270
Total	£5,498	£3,328	£8,826

3.1.2 Maintenance loans – students with reduced entitlement

Different rates of maintenance loan apply to current system students who are:

- on certain types of sandwich year courses
- eligible to apply for income assessed NHS bursaries

Students falling in these groups are entitled to a non-income assessed reduced rate maintenance loan (RRML) at the following amounts:

Rate	RRML amount
Parental home	£3,665
London	£5,630
Elsewhere	£4,405

3.2 Special Support Grant (SSG) entitlement (2018 cohort)

2018 cohort students are eligible to apply for SSG. The maximum SSG available in AY 19/20 is £5,161. Where a student is entitled to SSG, their minimum ML will be the RRML of the applicable rate.

As the maximum amount of SSG is lower than the maximum WGLG available at all rates, 2018 cohort students may be eligible for SSG, WGLG and ML.

Grant entitlement (SSG/WGLG (HE)) will be reduced as follows:

- an eligible student will be entitled to the maximum grant at household incomes of £18,370 or lower. For eligible students with household incomes between £18,370 and £59,200, the grant amount will be reduced by £1 for every complete applicable taper figure
- the minimum grant amount of £1,000 will be available to eligible students with household incomes of £59,200 or higher

Please see the table in section 3.1 for the maximum grant entitlement for each rate.

The calculation used to calculate entitlement to SSG/WGLG and ML is:

Step 1:	household income - lower threshold =	income difference
Step 2:	income difference ÷ rate taper =	grant reduction
Step 3:	max grant amount - grant reduction =	grant entitlement
Step 4 (a):	Where grant entitlement is higher than £5,161	
(i)	SSG entitlement =	£5,161 of grant entitlement
(ii)	grant entitlement – £5,161 =	WGLG (HE) entitlement
(iii)	rate maximum - grant entitlement =	ML entitlement*
	*ML entitlement will not be lower than RRML for the applicable rate	
Step 4 (b):	Where grant entitlement is equal to or lower than £5,161	
(i)	SSG entitlement =	grant entitlement
(ii)	rate maximum - grant entitlement =	ML entitlement*
	*ML entitlement will not be lower than RRML for the applicable rate	
Step 5:	ML entitlement + grant entitlement =	total support

Examples:

Anthony is starting a Foundation Degree at Cardiff University in AY 20/21 and is living away from the parental home while he studies. Anthony has provided evidence that he is in a special support category and has a household income of £16,500.

As Anthony qualifies for the elsewhere rate of support and has HHI below the lower income threshold of £18,370, he is entitled to the maximum amount of grant £8,100.

As this amount is higher than £5,161 we would use step 4(a) of the calculation to establish his entitlement to support as follows:

Step 4 (a): Where grant entitlement is higher than £5,161

- (i) £5,161 of grant entitlement = SSG entitlement
- (ii) £8,100 – £5,161 = £2,939 WGLG entitlement
- (iii) £9,810 – £8,100 = £1,710*

*as £1,710 is less than the RRML for the elsewhere rate, ML entitlement defaults to £4,405.

Step 5: £8,100 + £4,405 = £12,505

Anthony is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £12,505 SSG: £5,161 WGLG: £2,939 ML: £4,405

Nancy is starting a degree at Bangor University in AY 20/21 and is living away from the parental home while she studies. Nancy has provided evidence that she is in a special support category and has an HHI of £25,000.

As Nancy qualifies for the elsewhere rate of support her grant entitlement is calculated using steps 1-3 of the calculation:

- Step 1: £25,000 - £18,370 = £6,630
- Step 2: £6,630 ÷ 5.75 = £1,153**
- Step 3: £8,100 - £1,153 = £6,947

**amount is rounded down, as the reduction is £1 for every full taper amount.

As the grant entitlement is higher than £5,161 we would use step 4(a) of the calculation to establish her ML entitlement as follows:

Step 4 (a): Where grant entitlement is higher than £5,161

- (i) £5,161 of grant entitlement = SSG entitlement
- (ii) £6,947 – £5,161 = £1,786 WGLG (HE) entitlement
- (iii) £9,810 – £6,947 = £2,863*

*as £2,863 is less than the RRML for the 'elsewhere' rate, ML entitlement defaults to £4,405

Step 5: £6,947 + £4,405 = £11,352

Nancy is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £11,352 SSG: £5,161 WGLG: £1,786 ML: £4,405

Harley is starting a degree at Leeds University in AY 20/21 and she is living away from home in Leeds whilst she studies. Harley has provided evidence that she is in a special support category and has an HHI of £40,000.

As Harley qualifies for the 'elsewhere' rate of support, her grant entitlement is calculated using steps 1-3 of the calculation:

Step 1: £40,000 - £18,370 = £21,630
Step 2: £21,630 ÷ 5.75 = £3,761**
Step 3: £8,100 - £3,761 = £4,339

**amount is rounded down, as the reduction is £1 for every full taper amount.

As the grant entitlement is lower than £5,161 we would use step 4(b) of the calculation to establish her entitlement to support as follows:

Step 4 (b): Where grant entitlement is equal to or lower than £5,161
(i) SSG entitlement = £4,339
(ii) £9,810 – £4,339 = £5,471 ML entitlement
Step 5: £4,339 + £5,471 = £9,810

Harley is entitled to the following support:

Total Support: £9,810 SSG: £4,339 ML: £5,471

Please note that 2018 cohort students aged 60 or over on the first day of the first AY of the course are entitled to SSG and WGLG (where applicable) and no ML.

For example:

If Anthony, in the previous example, was 60 or over on the first day of the first AY of the course, his entitlement would be £5,161 SSG, £2,939 WGLG and no ML.

If Harley, in the previous example, was 60 or over on the first day of the first AY of the course, her entitlement would be £4,339 SSG only and no WGLG or ML. Harley is not entitled to WGLG due to the income assessment.

3.3 Travel Grant entitlement (2018 cohort)

A 2018 cohort student who is eligible to apply for a TG and who chooses to be income assessed will have a different disregard applied dependent on the household income (as calculated under section 7). See below on disregards:

- if the student's household income is equal to or less than £59,200 they will be subject to a disregard of £303
- if the student's household income is greater than £59,200, or where the student is not income assessed, they will be subject to a disregard of £1,000

Once the total amount of reasonable additional expenditure has been established in line with Sections 2.3, the students entitlement is calculated using the following formula:

$$(X - Y) + Z = \text{TG entitlement}$$

Where:

- X is the aggregate of the reasonable travel costs incurred in an qualifying quarter
- Y is either
 - £303 where the household income is £59,200 or less, or
 - £1,000 where the household income is more than £59,200 or household income details have not been provided.
- Z is the aggregate cost of overseas medical insurance, visas and any mandatory medical costs which are a condition of entry to an overseas country.

Please note that where the student qualifies for TG as a result of attending a course in medicine or dentistry, Z = 0 in respect of years of study in the UK, Z is only applicable to years of study overseas.

The remaining amount is paid to the student as TG.

4 Living cost entitlement (pre-2018 cohorts)

4.1 Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) entitlement (pre-2018 cohorts)

4.1.1 2012 cohort students

Where the household income is £18,370 or less, the student will be entitled to receive the maximum grant of £5,161. This will be reduced by £1 for every complete £3.653 above £18,370, up to a household income of £26,500. Where the household income exceeds £26,500, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £4.18 of household

income above this threshold, up to a household income of £34,000. Where the household income exceeds £34,000, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £14.67 above this threshold up to a household income of £50,020. Where the household income is £50,020, a minimum grant of £50 will be payable. No grant is payable where the household income is more than £50,020.

2012 Cohort – household income of £20,000		
A	Household income	£20,000
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£18,370
C	Difference A – B	£1,630
D	Divide C by £3.653 and round down to the nearest pound	£446
E	£5,161 minus D = WGLG payable	£4,715

2012 Cohort – household income of £30,000		
A	Household income	£30,000
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£26,500
C	Loan entitlement at £26,500 threshold	£2,936
D	Difference A – B	£3,500
E	Divide D by £4.18 and round down to the nearest pound	£837
F	£2,936 minus E = WGLG payable	£2,099

2012 Cohort - Household income of £50,020		
A	Household income	£50,020
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£34,000
C	Loan entitlement at £34,000 threshold	£1,142
D	Household income between £50,020 and £34,000	£16,020
E	Divide D by £14.67 and round down to the nearest pound	£1,092
F	£1,142 minus E = WGLG payable	£50

4.1.2 2011 cohort students

Where the household income is £18,370 or less, the student will be entitled to receive the maximum £5,780 grant. This will be reduced by £1 for every complete £3.653 of household income above this threshold up to a household income of £26,500. Where the household income exceeds £26,500, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £4.18 of household income above this threshold, up to a household income of £34,000. Where the household income exceeds £34,000, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £9.36 above £34,000 up to a household income of £50,020. Where the household income is £50,020, a minimum grant of £50 will be payable. No grant is payable where the household income is more than £50,020.

2011 Cohort – household income of £20,000		
A	Household income	£20,000
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£18,370

C	Difference A – B	£1,630
D	Divide C by £3.653 and round down to the nearest pound	£446
E	£5,780 minus D = WGLG payable	£5,334

2011 Cohort – household income of £30,000		
A	Household income	£30,000
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£26,500
C	Loan entitlement at £26,500 threshold	£3,555
D	Difference A – B	£3,500
E	Divide D by £4.18 and round down to the nearest pound	£837
F	£3,555 minus E = WGLG payable	£2,718

2011 Cohort - Household income of £50,020		
A	Household income	£50,020
B	WGLG threshold below household income	£34,000
C	Loan entitlement at £34,000 threshold	£1,761
D	Household income between £50,020 and £34,000	£16,020
E	Divide D by £9.36 and round down to the nearest pound	£1,711
F	£1,761 minus E = WGLG payable	£50

4.2 Special Support Grant (SSG) Entitlement (pre-2018 cohorts)

4.2.1 2012 cohort students

Where the household income is £18,370 or less, the student will be entitled to receive the maximum grant of £5,161. This will be reduced by £1 for every complete £3.653 above £18,370, up to a household income of £26,500. Where the household income exceeds £26,500, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £4.18 of household income above this threshold, up to a household income of £34,000. Where the household income exceeds £34,000, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £14.67 above this threshold up to a household income of £50,020. Where the household income is £50,020, a minimum grant of £50 will be payable. No grant is payable where the household income is more than £50,020.

2012 Cohort – household income of £20,000		
A	Household income	£20,000
B	SSG threshold below household income	£18,370
C	Difference A – B	£1,630
D	Divide C by £3.653 and round down to the nearest pound	£446
E	£5,161 minus D = SSG payable	£4,715

2012 Cohort – household income of £30,000		
A	Household income	£30,000
B	SSG threshold below household income	£26,500

C	Loan entitlement at £26,500 threshold	£2,936
D	Difference A – B	£3,500
E	Divide D by £4.18 and round down to the nearest pound	£837
F	£2,936 minus E = SSG payable	£2,099

2012 Cohort - Household income of £50,020		
A	Household income	£50,020
B	SSG threshold below household income	£34,000
C	Loan entitlement at £34,000 threshold	£1,142
D	Household income between £50,020 and £34,000	£16,020
E	Divide D by £14.67 and round down to the nearest pound	£1,092
F	£1,142 minus E = SSG payable	£50

4.2.2 2011 cohort students

Where the household income is £18,370 or less, the student will be entitled to receive the maximum £5,780 grant. This will be reduced by £1 for every complete £3.653 of household income above this threshold up to a household income of £26,500. Where the household income exceeds £26,500, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £4.18 of household income above this threshold, up to a household income of £34,000. Where the household income exceeds £34,000, the grant will decrease by a further £1 for every complete £9.36 above £34,000 up to a household income of £50,020. Where the household income is £50,020, a minimum grant of £50 will be payable. No grant is payable where the household income is more than £50,020.

2011 Cohort – household income of £20,000		
A	Household income	£20,000
B	SSG threshold below household income	£18,370
C	Difference A – B	£1,630
D	Divide C by £3.653 and round down to the nearest pound	£446
E	£5,780 minus D = SSG payable	£5,334

2011 Cohort – household income of £30,000		
A	Household income	£30,000
B	SSG threshold below household income	£26,500
C	Loan entitlement at £26,500 threshold	£3,555
D	Difference A – B	£3,500
E	Divide D by £4.18 and round down to the nearest pound	£837
F	£3,555 minus E = SSG payable	£2,718

2011 Cohort - Household income of £50,020		
A	Household income	£50,020
B	SSG threshold below household income	£34,000
C	Loan entitlement at £34,000 threshold	£1,761

D	Household income between £50,020 and £34,000	£16,020
E	Divide D by £9.36 and round down to the nearest pound	£1,711
F	£1,761 minus E = SSG payable	£50

4.3 Travel Grant entitlement (pre-2018 cohorts)

A pre-2018 cohort student must be income assessed to be eligible for TG. The household income is used to calculate an assessed contribution as outlined in Step 4 of the income assessment, see section 7.4.

Once the total amount of reasonable additional expenditure has been established in line with [Section 2.3](#), the student's entitlement is calculated using the following formula:

$$(X - £303) + Y = \text{TG entitlement}$$

Where:

- X is the aggregate of the reasonable travel costs incurred in an qualifying quarter and
- Y is the aggregate cost of overseas medical insurance, visas and any mandatory medical costs which are a condition of entry to an overseas.

Please note that where the student qualifies for TG as a result of attending a course in medicine or dentistry, Y= 0 in respect of years of study in the UK, Y is only applicable to years of study overseas.

TG entitlement is then further reduced by any remaining assessed contribution (following its application to GfDs and ML).

Any remaining amount is paid to the student as TG.

4.4 Maintenance loan entitlement (pre-2018 cohorts)

The maintenance loan rates varies according to where the student lives and studies. Regulations 43-52 (2017) set out the maximum amounts applicable in each case. Please note the conditions under which the London rate of loan is applicable (regulation 52(b)(2017)) and the related definition of the former Metropolitan Police District in regulation 2(1)(2017).

Students are entitled to a maintenance loan of at least 75% of the maximum rate applicable to them (unless substitution with WGLG applies, in which case the loan entitlement may be less than 75% of the maximum). The remaining 25% of the loan is income assessed.

4.4.1 2012 Cohort Students

Please see below for the loans rates for 2012 cohorts students:

FULL-YEAR STUDENTS	MAIN RATE (100%)	NON-INCOME ASSESSED (75%)	INCOME ASSESSED (25%)
Parental home	£5,848	£4,386	£1,462
London	£10,584	£7,938	£2,646
Elsewhere	£7,555	£5,666	£1,889
Overseas	£9,008	£6,756	£2,252
FINAL YEAR STUDENTS	MAIN RATE (100%)	NON INCOME ASSESSED (75%)	INCOME-ASSESSED (25%)
Parental home	£5,295	£3,971	£1,324
London	£9,638	£7,228	£2,410
Elsewhere	£6,999	£5,249	£1,750
Overseas	£7,835	£5,876	£1,959

4.4.2 2011 cohort students

Please see below for the loan rates for 2011 cohort students (these figures remain unchanged from 17/18):

FULL-YEAR STUDENTS	MAIN RATE (100%)	NON-INCOME ASSESSED (75%)	INCOME ASSESSED (25%)
Parental home	£5,358	£4,019	£1,339
London	£9,697	£7,273	£2,424
Elsewhere	£6,922	£5,191	£1,731
Overseas	£8,253	£6,190	£2,063
FINAL YEAR STUDENTS	MAIN RATE (100%)	NON INCOME ASSESSED (75%)	INCOME-ASSESSED (25%)
Parental home	£4,851	£3,638	£1,213
London	£8,830	£6,623	£2,207
Elsewhere	£6,412	£4,809	£1,603
Overseas	£7,179	£5,384	£1,795

4.4.3 Financial assessment of loans for living costs

All students in the case studies are living elsewhere. In other words they are living away from the parental home and studying outside of London, and are in a non-final course year.

4.4.4 2012 cohort students

2012 cohort students who receive WGLG have their maintenance loan entitlement reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of WGLG awarded up to a maximum reduction of £2,580 (regulation 43(2017)). 2012 cohort students who qualify for SSG do not have their maintenance loan reduced. Students with a household income of £50,753 are entitled to the full maintenance loan. Students with household incomes above this threshold will be assessed to make a contribution to their support, which will be calculated at £1 for every £5 of income above £50,753. The maintenance loan will be reduced on this basis until 75% of the loan remains.

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £30,000		
A	WGLG payable	£2,099
B	Maintenance loan payable (£7,555 less £1,049 WGLG substituted for loan)	£6,506

Eligible for SSG – Household Income £30,000		
A	SSG payable	£2,099
B	Maintenance loan payable (no substitution applied)	£7,555

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £34,000		
A	WGLG payable	£1,142
B	Maintenance loan payable (£7,555 less £571 WGLG substituted for loan)	£ 6,984

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £40,000		
A	WGLG payable	£734
B	Maintenance loan payable (£7,555 less £367 WGLG substituted for loan)	£7,188

Eligible for SSG – Household Income £40,000		
A	SSG payable	£734
B	Maintenance loan payable (no substitution applied)	£7,555

Eligible for WGLG– Household Income £50,020		
A	WGLG payable	£50
B	Maintenance loan payable (£7,555 less £25 WGLG substituted for loan)	£7,530

Household Income £50,020 to £50,753		
A	WGLG or SSG payable	£0
B	Maintenance loan payable (no income above £50,753 therefore no assessed contribution)	£7,555 (100% loan)

Household Income £59,935		
A	Household Income	£59,935
B	Maintenance loan threshold	£50,753

C	Difference A – B	£9,182
D	Divide by £5 and round down to the nearest pound to give income assessed element of loan	£1,836
E	£7,555 – D = Loan for living costs payable	£5,719 (75% non-means tested element of maximum entitlement to loan)

4.4.5 2011 cohort students

In each 2011 cohort example, maintenance loan is reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of grant awarded, up to a maximum reduction of £2,688.

2011 cohort students who receive WGLG have their maintenance loan entitlement reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of WGLG awarded up to a maximum reduction of £2,688 (regulation 44 (2017)). 2011 cohort students who qualify for SSG do not have their maintenance loan reduced. Students with a household income of £50,488 are entitled to the full maintenance loan. Students with household incomes above this threshold will be assessed to make a contribution to their support, which will be calculated at £1 for every £5 of income above £50,488. The maintenance loan will be reduced on this basis until 75% of the loan remains.

Eligible for WGLG - Household Income £30,000		
A	WGLG payable	£2,718
B	Maintenance loan payable (£6,922 less £1,359 WGLG substituted for loan)	£5,563

Eligible for SSG – Household Income £30,000		
A	SSG payable	£2,718
B	Maintenance loan payable (no substitution for loan for living costs)	£6,922

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £34,000		
A	WGLG payable	£1,761
B	Maintenance loan payable (£6,922 less £880 WGLG substituted for loan)	£ 6,042

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £40,000		
A	WGLG payable	£1,120
B	Maintenance loan payable (£6,922 less £560 WGLG substituted for loan)	£6,362

Eligible for SSG – Household Income £40,000		
A	SSG payable	£1,120
B	Maintenance loan payable (no substitution for loan for living costs)	£6,922

Eligible for WGLG – Household Income £50,020		
A	WGLG payable	£50
B	Maintenance loan payable (£6,922 less £25 WGLG substituted for loan)	£6,897

Household Income £50,020 to £50,488		
A	WGLG or SSG payable	£0
B	Maintenance loan payable (no income above £50,488 therefore no assessed contribution)	£6,922 (100% loan)

Household Income £59,143		
A	Household Income	£59,143
B	Maintenance loan threshold	£50,488
C	Difference A – B	£8,655
D	Divide by £5 and round down to the nearest pound to give means tested element of loan	£1,731
E	£6,922 – D = maintenance loan payable	£5,191 (75% non-means tested element of maximum entitlement to loan)

4.4.6 Maintenance loan – students with reduced entitlement

Different rates of maintenance loan apply to current system students who are:

- on certain types of sandwich year courses
- in their final year of study
- eligible to apply for income assessed NHS bursaries

Students who choose not to be income-assessed will only be able to apply for a reduced rate maintenance loan, which is 75% of the maximum entitlement (regulation 45 (1c)(2017)). Please note students on a bursary year who are overseas will receive the elsewhere rate.

4.4.7 2012 Cohort

Please find below the reduced entitlement rate for 2012 cohort students:

MAXIMUM RATES OF FULL-YEAR LOAN	REDUCED LOANS
Parental	£2,777
London	£5,204
Elsewhere	£3,702
Overseas	£4,428
MAXIMUM RATES OF FINAL YEAR LOAN	REDUCED LOANS

Parental	£2,111
London	£3,980
Elsewhere	£2,885
Overseas	£3,237

4.4.8 2011 cohort

Please find below the reduced entitlement rate for 2011 cohort students (these figures remain unchanged from 17/18):

MAXIMUM RATES OF FULL-YEAR LOAN	REDUCED LOANS
Parental	£2,544
London	£4,768
Elsewhere	£3,392
Overseas	£4,056
MAXIMUM RATES OF FINAL YEAR LOAN	REDUCED LOANS
Parental	£1,934
London	£3,646
Elsewhere	£2,643
Overseas	£2,965

5 Tuition fee support

5.1 2018 cohort students

5.1.1 Full-year fee rates

2018 cohort students may qualify for a Tuition Fee Loan (TFL) only towards the cost of their tuition fees, subject to certain criteria which include the provisions on previous study (as set out in the Assessing Eligibility guidance).

The maximum TFL for 2018 cohort students for AY 20/21, where the course is provided by a publicly funded/regulated provider is £9,250 (provider in Scot/NI) or £9,000 (provider in Wales)

Where the course is provided by an alternative / privately funded provider, a TFL of up to £6,165 will be available.

Following regulatory changes made under the Higher Education Research Act 2017, from AY 20/21 HEPs in England must be registered in either the Approved or Approved (fee cap) categories with the OfS to access to the student support system. The maximum tuition fee an Approved (fee cap) provider can charge will be set in the Access and Participation Plan (APP) approved by the OfS's Director of Fair Access and Participation.

Therefore the maximum TFL for 2018 cohort students studying on England in AY 20/21 is £9,250, where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider with an APP.

Where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider without an APP or an Approved provider, a TFL of up to £6,165 will be available.

5.1.2 Fee rates in special cases

Special fee rates apply in the circumstances described below.

Students on a sandwich work placement of an AY:

- during which any periods of FT study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AY of the course, the aggregate of any one or periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceeds 30 weeks

Sandwich work placements at HE providers in England and Wales:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £1,850
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £1,800
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum TFL available is £1,230

Sandwich work placements in Scotland and NI:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum TFL available is £3,080

Students studying on a course provided in conjunction with an overseas provider (non-Erasmus), where in an AY:

- any periods of FT study at the UK provider are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AYs of the course, the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the UK provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceed 30 weeks

Overseas (non-Erasmus) placements in England and Wales:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,385
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,350
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum TFL available is £920

Overseas (non-Erasmus) placements in Scotland and NI:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625
- where the fee loan cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum fee loan available is £3,080

Students studying on an Erasmus year where at least one period of study or work placement is attended at an provider or workplace outside the UK and:

- any periods of FT study at the UK provider are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AYs of the course, the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the UK provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceed 30 weeks

Erasmus year at an HE provider in Wales, England and Scotland:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,385.
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,350.
- Erasmus years are not available at private HE providers.

Erasmus at an HE provider in Northern Ireland:

- no fee is charged for an Erasmus year where the student is studying at an HE provider in Northern Ireland

Short final years where the study is less than 15 weeks (HE providers in England ,Wales, NI and Scotland):

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625.
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £4,500.
- where the TFL cap applies of £6,165, the maximum TFL available is £3,080.

5.1.3 Accelerated degree fee rates

From AY 19/20, fee caps for accelerated degree courses undertaken at Approved (Fee Cap) providers with an APP in England will be set at 1.2 times the standard maximum amount. Fees will be uncapped for accelerated degree courses undertaken at Approved (Fee Cap) providers without an APP or Approved providers in England.

Welsh domiciled students will only be able to access standard fee support for accelerated degree courses at a HEP in England. Therefore the maximum tuition fee loan available in 20/21 for Welsh students starting on a designated accelerated degree course in England is as follows:

Students studying on a FT accelerated degree course:

- £9,250 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider with an APP
- £6,165 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider without an APP or an Approved provider.

Students on a work placement sandwich year:

- £1,850 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider with an APP

- £1,230 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider without an APP or an Approved provider.

Students on an overseas study year (either Erasmus or non-Erasmus):

- £1,385 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider with an APP.

5.2 2012 cohort students

5.2.1 Full-year fee rates

2012 cohort students may qualify for a Tuition Fee Loan (TFL) and new Tuition Fee Grant (TFG) towards the cost of their tuition fees, subject to certain criteria which include the provisions on previous study (as set out in the Assessing Eligibility guidance).

The maximum TFL for 2012 cohort students for AY 20/21, where the course is provided by a publicly-funded/ regulated provider (with TEF) is £4,720. Regulation 16 (2017) provides that where the tuition fee exceeds £4,470, a 2012 cohort student on a course provided by a publicly funded provider, will qualify for TFG of up to a maximum of £4,665. Further, where the fee exceeds £9,000, the remainder up to a maximum of £250 additional TFL. For example, where the tuition fee charge is £9,100, the student will be awarded a TFL of £4,470 a TFG of £4,530 and additional TFL of £100. The total fee loan and grant will not exceed £9,250 in any AY (regulation 16(3)(2017)). Please note that providers in Wales cannot charge more than £9,000 regardless of TEF award, capping the TFL maximum to £4,470 in this instance.

Where the course is provided by an alternative / privately-funded provider, no fee grant is available. A TFL only of up to £6,165 will be available (Regulation 21(2017)).

Following regulatory changes made under the Higher Education Research Act 2017, from AY 19/20 HEPs in England must be registered in either the Approved or Approved (fee cap) categories with the OfS to access to the student support system. The maximum tuition fee an Approved (fee cap) provider can charge will be set in the Access and Participation Plan (APP) approved by the OfS's Director of Fair Access and Participation.

The maximum TFL for 2012 cohort students studying in England in AY 20/21 is £4,720 where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider with an APP. The student will also qualify for TFG of up to a maximum of £4,530.

Where the course is provided by an Approved (Fee Cap) provider without an APP or an Approved provider, no fee grant is available. A TFL only of up to £6,165 will be available.

5.2.2 Fee rates in special cases

Special fee rates apply in the circumstances described below:

Students on a sandwich work placement of an AY:

- during which any periods of FT study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AY of the course, the aggregate of any one or periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceeds 30 weeks.

Sandwich work placements at HE providers in England and Wales

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £1,850. This is made up of £950 loan / £900 grant.
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,800. This is made up of £900 loan / £900 grant.
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum fee loan available is £1,230.

Sandwich work placements in Scotland and NI (approx half full-year fee)

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625. This is made up of £2,160 TFL / £2,340TFG/ £125 additional TFL. Additional TFL amount is not available where £9,000 is the full year fee being charged and the fee cap is £4,500.
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum fee loan available is £3,080.

Students studying on a course provided in conjunction with an overseas provider (non-Erasmus), where in an AY:

- any periods of FT study at the UK provider are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AYs of the course, the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance that are not periods of FT study at the UK provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceed 30 weeks

Overseas (non-Erasmus) placements in Scotland and NI:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625. This is made up of £2,160 TFL / £2,340TFG/ £125 additional TFL. Additional TFL amount is not available where £9,000 is the full year fee being charged and the fee cap is £4,500.
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum TFL available is £3,080.

Overseas (non-Erasmus) placements in England and Wales:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,385. This is made up of £710 TFL / £675 TFG
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,350. This is made up of £675 TFL / £675 TFG
- where the TFL cap of £6,165 applies, the maximum fee loan available is £920.

Students studying on an Erasmus year where at least one period of study or work placement is attended at an provider or workplace outside the UK and:

- any periods of FT study at the UK provider are in aggregate less than 10 weeks, or
- in respect of that AY and any previous AYs of the course, the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the UK provider (disregarding intervening vacations) exceed 30 weeks.

Erasmus year at an HE provider in Wales, England and Scotland:

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,385. This is made up of £710 loan / £675 grant.
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £1,350. This is made up of £675 loan / £675 grant.
- Erasmus years are not available at private HE providers.

Erasmus at an HE provider in Northern Ireland

No fee is charged for an Erasmus year where the student is studying at an HE provider in Northern Ireland.

Short final years where the study is less than 15 weeks (HE providers in England ,Wales, NI and Scotland):

- where £9,250 is the full-year fee being charged, the fee cap in this case is £4,625. This is made up of £2,160 TFL / £2,340TFG/ £125 additional TFL.
- where £9,000 is the full-year fee being charged the fee cap in this case is £4,500. This is made up of £2,160 TFL / £2,340 TFG.
- where the TFL cap applies of £6,165, the maximum fee loan available is £3,080.

5.3 Fee support summary (2018 and 2012 cohorts)

5.3.1 Fee support for Welsh domiciled students studying in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Maximum FT fee support in AY 20/21 for Welsh domiciled students studying in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland				
Rate	Public/ Alternative Provider (or in Wales, Regulated /Not Regulated)	Maximum Fee Loan – Scotland (£)	Maximum Fee Support – Wales (£)	Maximum Fee Loan – Northern Ireland (£)
Full-year	Public/ Regulated	9,250	9,000	9,250
Final year	Public/Regulated	4,625	4,500	4,625

(<15 weeks attendance)				
Work placement sandwich year	Public/Regulated	4,625	1,800	4,625
Overseas study year	Public/Regulated	4,625	1,350	4,625
Erasmus year	Public/Regulated	1,385	1,350	Fee Waiver
Full-year	Alternative/Not Regulated	6,165	6,165	6,165
Final year (<15 weeks attendance)	Alternative/Not Regulated	3,080	3,080	3,080
Work placement sandwich year	Alternative/Not Regulated	3,080	1,230	3,080
Overseas study year	Alternative /Not Regulated	3,080	920	3,080
Erasmus year	Alternative /Not Regulated	N/A	N/A	N/A
Part-time	Public /Regulated	£6,935	£2,625	£6,935
Part-time	Alternative /Not Regulated	£6,935	£2,625	£6,935
Graduate Entry Medicine*	Public	£5,785	£5,535	£5,785

*The maximum fee charge in Wales in this case is £9,000. The loan available is the difference between £3,465, which the student self-funds in year 1 and the NHS pays in years 2-4, and the fee charged.

5.3.2 Fee support for Welsh domiciled students studying in England

Maximum FT fee support in AY 20/21 for Welsh domiciled students studying in England			
Category	Approved with Plan/Approved without Plan or Approved	Maximum fee support	
		Standard AY	Accelerated AY

Full-year	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan	£9,250 (with TEF award) £9,000 (no TEF award)	£9,250
Final year (if <15 weeks attendance)	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan	£4,625	£4,265
Work placement sandwich year	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan	£1,850 (with TEF award) or £1,800	£1,850
Overseas study year (non-Erasmus)	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan	£1,385 (with TEF award) or £1,350	£1,385
Unknown Work Placement <10 Weeks	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan		
Erasmus year	Approved Fee Cap with APP Plan		
Full-year	Approved (fee cap) without APP Plan or Approved		
Final year (if <15 weeks attendance)	Approved (fee cap) without APP Plan or Approved	£3,080 (with TEF award) or £3,000	£3,080
Work placement sandwich year	Approved (fee cap) without APP Plan or Approved	£1,230 (with TEF award) or £1,200	£1,230
Overseas study year (non-Erasmus)	Approved (fee cap) without APP Plan or Approved	£920 (with TEF award) or £900	£920
Unknown Work Placement <10 Weeks	Approved (fee cap) without APP Plan or Approved	£920 (with TEF award) or £900	£920
Erasmus year	Approved	N/A (Erasmus year cannot be undertaken at an Approved Provider)	
	Approved (fee cap) without APP	£920 (with TEF award) or £900	£920
Graduate Entry	Approved Fee	£5,785 (yr 1)	N/A

Medicine/Dentistry	Cap with Plan	£5,535 (yr 2-4)	
SCITT providers unregistered with OfS**	Public OFFA	£9,250 (£9,000 without TEF)	£9,250
	Public Non Offa	£6,165	£6,165
	Private	£6,165	£6,165

**SCITT providers who do not register with the OfS may be specifically designated. When this occurs SLC will be advised of their fee cap and will allocate these HEPs public or private status. Rates in special circumstances (i.e., placements, ERASMUS, final year etc) will derive from the caps shown in the same manner as those for their OfS registered equivalents.

5.4 Fee support – 2011 cohort students.

2011 cohort students may qualify for tuition fee loan only towards their tuition fees, subject to certain criteria which include the provisions on previous study as set out in the 'Assessing Eligibility' guidance.

Regulation 18(2) and (3)(2017) provides that the maximum level of loan support towards tuition fees applicable is the lower of the fee charged or £3,465 (£4,030 if studying in Northern Ireland). There are, however, certain exceptions, the following groups are subject to a maximum fee loan of the lower of £1,725 (£2,015 in Northern Ireland) or the fee charged (regulation 16(7) (2017)):

- students in the final AY which is ordinarily required to be completed after less than 15 weeks' attendance
- students on a sandwich course, where in an AY:
 - any periods of FT study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks. or
 - the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of FT study at the provider in respect of the current academic year and any previous AYs, exceeds 30 weeks

6 Course specific conditions

6.1 Calculation of weeks of FT study – sandwich courses

The calculation of 10 weeks should include weeks of FT study and any days of FT study which fall in any week which also includes work experience. Only days of FT study (not part

days) should be counted. Also, when counting days of study to make up a number of weeks of study, the divisor should be 5 rather than 7. For example, 50 days would produce 10 weeks.

In relation to references to 10 weeks, 15 weeks and 30 weeks in previous sections, parts of weeks cannot be counted.

Study includes learning in the workplace, where that is a course requirement. Please see the definition of learning in the workplace which can be found in the 'Assessing Eligibility' guidance.

6.2 Students on sandwich courses including periods of unpaid service (grants for living costs)

Students who are on certain specified unpaid placements in the public or voluntary sectors are potentially entitled to grants for living costs, subject to income assessment, even if the periods of FT study in the AY are less than 10 weeks (regulation 23(6)(2017) and 44(2018)).

Placements which attract this support are specified in the 2017 Regulations are:

- a. Unpaid service in a hospital or in a public health service laboratory or with a clinical commissioning group in the UK
- b. Unpaid service with a local authority in the UK acting in the exercise of its functions relating to the care of children and young persons, health or welfare, or with a voluntary organisation providing facilities or carrying out activities of a like nature in the UK
- c. Unpaid service with a local authority acting in the exercise of public health functions in the UK
- d. Unpaid service in the prison or probation and aftercare service in the UK
- e. Unpaid research in a UK provider or, in the case of a student attending an overseas provider as a part of his course in an overseas provider
- f. Unpaid service with a Special Health Authority, the NHS Commissioning Board, the National Institute for Care and Excellence, the Health and Social Care Information Centre, a Local Health Board, a Health Board or a Special Health Board in Scotland, or a Health and Social Services Board in Northern Ireland
- g. Unpaid service in the UK Parliament

Placements which attract this support are specified in respect of the 2018 Student Support Regulations are:

- unpaid service in a hospital or in a public health service laboratory or with a primary care trust in the United Kingdom
- unpaid service with a local authority in the United Kingdom acting in the exercise of their functions relating to the care of children and young persons, health or welfare or with a voluntary organisation providing facilities or carrying out activities of a like nature in the United Kingdom
- unpaid service in the prison or probation and aftercare service in the United Kingdom
- unpaid research in an provider in the United Kingdom or, in the case of an eligible student attending an overseas provider as part of the eligible student’s course, in an overseas provider or
- unpaid service with—
 - A Special Health Authority established under section 28 of the National Health Service Act 2006 or section 22 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006
 - An NHS trust established under section 25 of the National Health Service Act 2006 or section 18 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006
 - An NHS foundation trust
 - A Local Health Board established under section 11 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006
 - A Health Board or Special Health Board constituted under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
 - The Regional Health and Social Care Board established under section 7 of the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009
 - The Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being established under section 12 of that Act
 - A health and social care trust (formerly called a health and social services trust) established under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991
 - A special health and social care agency (formerly called a special health and social services agency) established under the Health and Personal Social Services (Special Agencies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990
 - The National Health Service Commissioning Board established under section 1H of the National Health Service Act 2006 or a clinical commissioning group established under section 11 of that Act
 - The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence established under section 232 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012
 - The Health and Social Care Information Centre established under section 252 of that Act.

6.3 Foundation degree courses

Foundation degree courses may be FT, sandwich or PT, and they attract support in the same ways as non-foundation degree courses.

Some foundation degree courses feature learning in the workplace, which should be treated as FT study for the purposes of the definition of a sandwich course and of determining levels of support.

6.4 Healthcare bursary holders

For more information on NHS Support please see the NHS guidance.

6.5 Dance and Drama Award (DaDA)

DaDAs are granted to the most talented students who are likely to succeed in the industry studying at private dance and drama schools in England. All DaDA students study for a Trinity College London Level 5 or 6 Diploma.

DaDAs are funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and managed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Students are assessed for fees and living costs support based on an assessment of family income.

Further information on the DaDA scheme can be found on the website: www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards

6.5.1 Dance and Drama schools offering HE provision

Where the school offers HE provision, students may undertake a course leading to a degree qualification at the same time that they are pursuing their Trinity College Level 5 or 6 qualification. However, students who are offered a DaDA must choose either to take up the DaDA or apply for HE student support instead, they cannot take up both at the same time. Some students may start their courses claiming HE student support and then subsequently transfer to a DaDA. Such students will cease to be eligible for HE student support as soon as they transfer to DaDA funding.

It follows that if SFW receives an application for HE student support from a student for a course which leads to an HE qualification in dance and/or drama and the applicant states that they have been awarded a DaDA, SFW should refuse the application for student support. Also, if a student already in receipt of HE student support reports that they have transferred to DaDA funding, SFW should withdraw the HE support from the date on which the transfer took place.

The Dance and Drama schools who are currently offering HE provision are:

- The Arts Educational School, London

- ALRA, London (South) and Wigan (North)
- Bird College, Kent
- Guildford School of Acting (GSA), Guildford (part of University of Surrey)
- The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts Ltd, London
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London and
- Urdang Academy, London

For enquiries on DaDA courses please contact the ESFA.

Emma Kershaw Tel: 0114 2742656 Email Emma.Kershaw@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please Note: The ESFA can only offer advice on the DaDA scheme. They are not able to offer advice to students who are seeking alternative means of funding, or to students who are applying to schools that are not eligible for Dance and Drama Award funding.

6.5.2 Dance and Drama Schools offering both FE and HE provision

Some schools offer both FE and HE provision. Students who are offered an FE Dance and Drama Award are advised in their award letter that they must choose either to take up their FE Award or to apply for HE support instead, they cannot take up both. Some students may, however, start their courses claiming HE student support and then subsequently transfer to an FE Dance and Drama Award. Such students will cease to be eligible for HE student support as soon as they transfer to a FE Dance and Drama Award.

Applications for a FE Dance and Drama Award should be made to the individual schools. Students should be advised to contact the school directly if they need any information about this fund.

The Dance and Drama schools who are currently offering both FE and HE provision are:

- The Arts Educational School, London
- ALRA, London (South) and Wigan (North)
- Bird College, Kent
- Guildford School of Acting (GSA), Guildford (part of University of Surrey)
- The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts Ltd, London and
- Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London

For enquiries on FE Dance and Drama courses please contact the ESFA in Sheffield.

7 General Income Assessment

7.1 Step 1 – determining household income

Note that all paragraph references in the following section refer to paragraphs in Schedule 5 of the 2017 Student Support Regulations, unless otherwise stated. The steps of the income assessment are conserved in the 2018 Student Support Regulations, with the exceptions of

the points set out below, please see the regulations comparison table in Annex H to read across the 2017 references.

The income assessment comprises four stages:

1. Determine whose income forms part of the household income (always include the student's unearned taxable income).

Student Type	Income to include in the household assessment
Dependent student	Natural / Adoptive parent(s) plus where applicable the parent's: - spouse - civil partner - cohabiting partner of either sex
Independent student	- spouse - civil partner or - cohabiting partner of either sex)
Single independent student (no partner)	Student only

2. Determine the taxable income (as defined in Schedule 5 paragraph 1(n)(2017)) of each person whose income is specified to be part of the household income.
3. Make the permitted deductions from taxable income to arrive at residual income and make any further deduction permitted by paragraph 3(3) (2017). The aggregate is the household income.
4. Calculate entitlement to means tested loan for living costs (and WGLG or SSG) using the relevant tapers.

Once the residual income has been calculated for each person whose income included in the household income, these amounts are aggregated and deductions under paragraph 3(3)(2017) are applied.

Where a child is wholly or mainly financially dependent on the student or the student's parents, step-parents, husband, wife or partner, the child dependant's income is required to assess eligibility for a deduction from household income. Government Child Trust, State Benefit or minimal sums of money from other sources should not be considered when calculating a child dependant's income.

7.1.1 Independent students

Parental income should not be included in the household income in the circumstances listed in paragraph 2(1) (a) to (j)(2017). These include where:

- The student married / entered into a civil partnership before the beginning of the AY for which household income is being assessed. This applies whether or not the marriage/civil partnership is still subsisting (paragraph 2(1)(b))(2017).
- The student's parents have died. This applies immediately, once the student is bereaved of both parents (paragraph 2(1)(c))(2017). Where the household income assessment is based on the income of one parent only and that parent dies, no parental income is required for the whole of the current AY (paragraph 2(1)(h)(2017)), even if the deceased parent has a partner. Where the other parent is still alive, the student is not automatically assessed as independent in the following AY, the student's independent status from that parent (if appropriate) would have to be established at the start of the next AY.
- The student's parents are living outside the European Union and SFE is satisfied that the assessment of a parental income would place them in jeopardy, or that it would not be reasonably practicable for them to send a contribution to the UK (paragraph 2(1)(g)(2017)). Although this provision does not refer to a specific category of students, parents of refugees or those who have been granted exceptional leave to enter or remain in the UK are most likely to fall within its provisions.
- The student has been self-supporting for periods prior to the start of first AY of the course amounting in aggregate to at least three years (paragraph 2(1)(j)(2017)). Periods of self-support may include, for example, paid holidays, breaks between jobs when the person supported himself from savings, and paid periods of experience on a sandwich course (other than the current course). The student must be able to prove that they have earned enough to support themselves during the period in question. A person living in the parental home may not wholly have supported themselves, including paying their share of housing costs, especially where the person is in part-time or temporary employment. A student living with their parents should only be regarded as self-supporting where they can clearly demonstrate that they have contributed appropriately to the household budget. Where SLC is satisfied that the student was self-supporting for a period when payments were received 'in kind', such periods may be counted as self-support.

Notwithstanding the above, a student should be treated as having supported themselves for any period during which they fell into one of the categories listed in paragraph 2(1)(i)(i)– (v)(2017). This includes periods when the student held a State Studentship or comparable award (paragraph 2(1)(i)(iv)(2017)): such awards could include research council studentships and other postgraduate awards to which no parental contribution provisions apply.

- The student has care of a person under the age of 18 on the first day of the AY for which they are applying for support (paragraph 2(1)(i)(2017)). Where the student gains care of a person under 18 after the first day of the relevant AY, they will be assessed as independent from the start of the following AY (assuming they still have care of the person under the age of 18 on the first day of that AY). Once they are

assessed as independent on this basis, the student keeps this status for the remainder of the period of eligibility (paragraph 2(2)(2017)).

- A student can be considered as having care of a person under the age of 18 if they look after the child and the child lives with him, irrespective of his relationship with the child. This might include, for example, a student who is caring for the child of his partner, a student who has adopted a child or a student who has been appointed a guardian of a child. The student should send their child's original birth certificate and also provide evidence that they have care of the child, for example, evidence that they are receiving Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit.

For example:

Freya is a 22-year-old single parent who is living with her one year old daughter and is applying for student support for a three year degree course starting on 1 September 2020. She will be treated as an independent student from the start of her course.

Ben is a 20-year-old unmarried student living away from the parental home with his partner. He is starting a three-year course on 1 September 2020 and will be assessed as a dependent student as he has been self-supporting for less than three years. In November 2020, his partner has a baby. When Ben applies for support for the second year of her course starting on 1 September 2020, he is assessed as an independent student.

Gillian is a 22-year-old unmarried student living away from home. She starts a three-year course on 1 September 2020 and is assessed as a dependent student. In November 2020 she has a baby, but from January 2021 she no longer has care of that child. When she applies for support for the second year of her course starting on 1 September 2021, she will still be assessed as a dependent student.

- The student is irreconcilably estranged from their parents (paragraph (2)(1)(e)(2017)). This would be the case where:
 - they have communicated with neither of their parents for the period of one year before the beginning of the AY for which he is being financially assessed, or
 - they can demonstrate on other grounds that they are irreconcilably estranged from their parents. If they have communicated with either parent during that year, they can nevertheless still be regarded as irreconcilably estranged.

SFW should, as far as possible, satisfy themselves that the estrangement is genuine and that for the time being reconciliation is impossible (or at least highly unlikely). It is not enough that a student does not get on with their parents or that they have had a serious disagreement recently. The fact that a student may choose to live apart from their parents is not itself sufficient evidence of an irreconcilable estrangement.

Similarly irreconcilable estrangement cannot be inferred simply on the ground that a parent refuses to cooperate with SFW in the financial assessment of the student (for example, by not replying to letters or refusing to complete income assessment forms), or does not provide financial support to the student. These factors could, of course, be expected to be present if there has been a genuine estrangement.

It is for SFW to decide in each case whether it has sufficient information and evidence to justify its opinion as to whether or not a student is irreconcilably estranged. In certain cases of estrangement where there has been a serious family breakdown, involving violence or other serious trauma, a student should not be required to resubmit evidence in subsequent years of the course. Other students who provide third party evidence of estrangement for the first AY of their course, who return and apply for support in the following AY of their course and who confirm their situation has not changed, will not generally be asked to provide evidence again.

It is likely to be easier for a student to demonstrate that they are 'irreconcilably estranged' if the estrangement has endured for a significant length of time before the student applies for support. Care is needed where an estrangement is claimed to have started just before the student starts the course or during the course itself. For example, difficulties may arise due to the student's wish to leave the parental home and enter higher education. SFW should decide whether such difficulties are temporary or transitional, or whether a genuine estrangement has occurred. The possibility of fraudulent or unsubstantiated claims of estrangement should always be borne in mind.

Where the estrangement starts or ends during the course of an AY, the household contribution assessed at the beginning of the year stands, as the Regulations do not provide for a student to acquire or lose independent status during an AY.

The student can be assessed as an independent student when they are a care leaver. See the following section for further details on the definition of and treatment of care leavers for financial assessment purposes.

Required supporting evidence is a signed and dated letter from their Local Authority or a letter from a professional person who has known the student for at least 12 months.

If at any point before the start of their course they have been back in the legal care of their parents they are not considered independent. These students are subject to a household income assessment as per non-care leavers.

7.1.2 Care leavers from AY 18/19 – change to definition and income assessment rules

Prior to AY 18/19, a student would be considered to be independent as a care leaver if at any point from the age of 16 to the first day of the first AY of their course, they had not been under the legal care of their parents and for three months or more they had been in the custody or legal care of, or have been given accommodation by, a Local Authority.

The care leaver definition was amended in AY 18/19 to refer to the categories contained within section 104 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The categories are:

- a. category 1 young person - a 16 or 17 year old child who is being looked after by a local authority, and who has been looked after by a local authority for a total period of 13 weeks at any time between the age of 14 and 16
- b. category 2 young person - a 16 or 17 year old child who is not being looked after by a local authority, but immediately before ceasing to be looked after, was a category 1 young person
- c. category 3 young person - a person aged 18 or over who has been a category 2 young person (and would continue to be so if he or she were under the age of 18), or was being looked after by a local authority when he or she reached the age of 18 and, immediately before ceasing to be looked after, was a category 1 young person
- d. category 4 young person - a person under the age of 25 who is a category 3 young person and who has informed the responsible local authority that they are pursuing, or wish to pursue, a programme of education or training
- e. category 5 young person - a person who is 16 but has not yet reached the age of 21, with respect to whom a special guardianship order is in force (or, if the young person has reached the age of 18, was in force when he or she reached that age), and who was, immediately before the making of that order, looked after by a local authority
- f. category 6 young person - a person in Wales, other than a category 5 young person, who has not yet reached the age of 21 and who whilst not currently being, looked after, accommodated or fostered, was so looked after, accommodated or fostered between the ages of 16 and 18

In addition, the previous timeframe of three months or more has also been amended to 13 weeks to reflect the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

In order to minimise complexity the six categories above are simplified for customer facing information. Therefore, the care leaver definition in guidance from AY 18/19 is as follows:

- at any point from the age of 14 to the first day of the first AY of their course they have not been under the legal care of their parents and for 13 weeks they have been under a special guardianship order, or in the custody or legal care of, or have been given accommodation by, a Local Authority.

- if at any point between the ages of 14 and 16 (before the start of their course) they have been back in the legal care of their parents they are still considered a care leaver.

Care leavers and financial entitlement

HE students who started their course in AY 18/19 or later who have been identified as care leavers are not required to provide financial information to be income assessed and will automatically be awarded the support available to students whose household income is under the lower income threshold. This includes care leavers who have a partner or who are married.

Study location	Maximum WGLG	Minimum ML
Parental home*	£6,885	£955
London	£10,124	£1,406
Elsewhere	£8,100	£1,125

*A FT care leaver who has returned to the legal care of their parents, and resides there whilst studying will be awarded, the parental home rate.

Note that this rule also covers SSG and Travel Grant: the maximum SSG will be awarded and the lower Travel grant disregard will be applied where the student is a care leaver.

The following exceptions apply:

- If an HE care leaver is aged 25 or over on the first day of the AY for which they are being assessed, they are treated as a standard independent student and they will need to provide any residual income and partner income (if applicable) which will be subject to an income assessment.
- If a care leaver turns 25 in a subsequent AY of the course, they will be treated as a standard independent student and they will need to provide any residual income and partner income (if applicable) which will be subject to an income assessment. For example:
 - Jennifer is a care leaver and is 24 when she starts her HE course on 1 August 2019. Jennifer is not subject to a household income assessment and is entitled to the maximum maintenance grant and minimum maintenance loan. Jennifer turns 25 during AY 19/20 and in AY 20/21 she needs to provide her residual income for a household income assessment.
- If a care leaver is under 25 when they start their course but during the AY they turn 25 and then transfer to another course, they are still regarded as a care leaver for the duration of that AY as their period of eligibility has not been terminated. It is only when the student applies for the following AY that

they will be treated as a standard independent student who is aged 25, and be subject to an income assessment.

- A care leaver (and their partner if applicable) will still need to provide household income details if applying for grants for dependants).

Care Leavers and benefit entitlement

The entitlement to the maximum grant may have an impact on the benefits the student receives. The only exception is when a FT care leaver receives the SSG element of the FT WGLG as there is no impact on benefits as this amount will be disregarded For instance:

- if a FT care leaver is not entitled to the SSG, they will be entitled to the full WGLG and minimum ML for the applicable rate (parental/London/elsewhere).
- if a FT care leaver is entitled to SSG, they will be entitled to the full SSG entitlement (£5,161) topped up to the applicable maximum WGLG, plus the Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan (RRML) amount for the applicable rate (parental/London/elsewhere).

Care Leavers – cross border scenarios

If a student is domiciled in Wales and the Local Authority care is outside Wales, the student will be treated as ordinarily resident in Wales. For example:

- Hilary lives in Cardiff and is taken into care by Cardiff LA and is placed with foster carers in Bristol. Hilary lives with her foster carers in Bristol until she enters HE at the age of 18. Hilary would be eligible for SFW support as she is under the Welsh LA care when she enters HE.
- Simon lives in Cardiff and is taken into care by Cardiff LA and is placed with foster carers in Bristol. Simon lives with his foster carers in Bristol until the age of 18. He then lives independently in Bristol and enters HE at the age of 23. As Simon is living independently in Bristol, he would apply to SFE for support.

7.1.3 Dependent students

7.1.3.1 Parental income

References to 'parent' throughout this section should be taken to also mean the parent's partner of the student's natural / adoptive parent where applicable.

7.1.3.2 Parents who are separated

Where SFW determines that the student's parents are separated, paragraph 5(9)(2017) and paragraph 6 (3)(2018) allows SFW discretion as to which parent's income should be assessed. This will normally be the parent with whom the student lives. Where parents separate during a year in respect of which income is to be assessed, parental income should be assessed on a pro-rata basis taking the parents' joint income for the time they were living together (paragraph 5(10)(2017) and paragraph 5(2)(2019) Note that where parents separate, but continue to live in the same house, SFW may determine that the parents are now effectively residing in separate households.

7.1.4 Parents with a partner

Where the student's natural/adoptive parents separate and in the same year the parent whose income is to be assessed begins to cohabit with a new partner, the income assessment should include the following:

- the joint income of the natural/adoptive parents for such time as they were living together
- the single income of the natural/adoptive parent who is to be assessed, for such time as that parent was not cohabiting
- the joint income of the natural/adoptive parent who is to be assessed and their cohabiting partner, for such time as they were cohabiting together

7.1.5 Student with a partner

Where an independent student has a spouse, civil partner, or cohabiting partner of the same or the opposite sex, the partner's residual income may be included in the household income assessment (paragraph 3(2)(b)(2017)). Paragraph 6(2017) provides that the partner's residual income is calculated in the same way that a student's parent's residual income is calculated under paragraph 5(2017) (other than sub-paragraphs (9) and (10) of paragraph 5, which do not apply). References to parent(s) in paragraph 5(2017) should be construed as references to the eligible student's partner.

If a student who is cohabiting with a partner (not a spouse or civil partner) turns 25 during the course of an AY, the partner's income will not be taken into account in the current AY, it will only be included in household income from the following AY.

Where an independent eligible student aged 25 or over ceases to cohabit with their partner during an AY, the partner's income for that year is pro-rated in accordance with paragraph 6(3)(2017). The partner's income, as calculated under paragraph 6(1)(2017), is divided by 52 and multiplied by the number of weeks in the AY when the student and the partner are not separated.

A student's spouse or civil partner's residual income is normally taken into account where the student married or the civil partnership was formed before the start of the AY. However, the spouse or civil partner's income is not taken into account where a child of the student (or a child of the student's spouse / civil partner) is an eligible student in respect of whom

household income has been calculated by reference to the residual income of the student, the spouse or civil partner, or both. The income is also not taken into account where SLC determines that they are separated for the duration of the AY.

7.1.5.1 Identifying a cohabiting couple

Where a student declares in the application that they are single, SFW can accept that response and rely on the fact that the student has signed a declaration that the information they have provided is true and accurate. If, however, SFW wish to challenge this declaration, or the student or their parent is unsure of what is meant by 'cohabiting', SFW may take into consideration similar factors to those applied by Local Authorities and Jobcentre Plus on claims for social security benefits, including:

- Does the student / the student's parent normally live in the same household as the person with whom he is in a relationship? If the student, parent or partner has a separate address where he/she usually lives, they should not be considered to be cohabiting.
- Is one partner supported by the other, or are household expenses shared? Where household expenses are shared, it is possible that rigidly sharing bills 50/50 may not imply cohabitation, whereas having a common fund for income and expenditure could.
- Is the relationship stable? An occasional or brief association should not be regarded as cohabiting.
- Does the couple have children? Where a student or a parent and his partner have had a child together and live in the same household there is a strong presumption of cohabitation.
- Does the student share a 'household' with another? Students commonly live in rented accommodation, sometimes with other students, sometimes as lodgers. A house can contain a number of separate households, if one person has exclusive occupation of separate accommodation from another, they will not be considered to be living in the same 'household'. Separate households might also exist if there are independent financial arrangements, or if there are separate commitments for housing costs, even if the liability is to another person in the same premises.

7.2 Step 2 - Determining the taxable income

7.2.1 Year of assessment

- The student's parents (including their partners) or student's partner's income for the tax year prior to the tax year that ended before the start of the AY for which support is being assessed should be taken into account. (Exceptions to this rule are

set out in paragraphs 5(3) – (5)(2017)). See paragraph 1 (2017) for definitions of ‘prior financial year’ and ‘preceding financial year’.

- The student’s income for the AY in respect of which the student is applying for support is taken into account.

7.2.2 What is taxable income for student support?

Paragraph 1(1)(n)(2017) and schedule 3 (9)(2018) defines ‘taxable income’ for the student and, where applicable, the student’s partner, and the student’s natural/adoptive parents (including the parent’s partner) as:

- The total income on which a person is charged to income tax at Step 1 of the calculation in Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007. This means that deductions made from ‘total income’ by HMRC in respect of income tax reliefs at Step 2 of Section 23 (for example, trade losses and pension contributions) and personal reliefs at Step 3 of Section 23 are not made when calculating ‘taxable income’ for student support purposes.

Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007 covering Income Tax Liability can be accessed on the legislation.gov.uk website at:

- The whole amount of a payment or benefit mentioned in Section 401(1) of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 for example, a redundancy payment. Note that, although only the amount of a redundancy payment in excess of £30,000 is included in the total income on which a person is charged to income tax at Step 1 of the calculation in Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007, ‘taxable income’ as defined in paragraph 1(1)(n)(i)(2017) includes the total amount of a redundancy payment.
- Where the income tax legislation of a European Union (EU) member state or states applies, paragraphs 1(1)(n)(ii) and 1(1)(n)(iii)(2017) define taxable income as the total income from all sources determined for the purposes of the legislation of that state, or where the legislation of more than one EU state applies, the state where the total income is the greater.

It follows that income which is wholly exempt from income tax does not count towards taxable income. Where UK tax law applies, exempt income includes:

- Awards for gallantry
- Damages for personal injury
- SAYE interest and bonuses
- Savings certificates and Government securities
- Scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries etc
- Lump sums under term assurance, life, accident or medical insurance policies
- Most social security and other benefits, including child benefit, housing benefit and in most cases income support

- Dividends, interest and bonuses on ISAs, PEPs and TESSAs
- War service pensions
- Premium bond prizes and winnings from gambling, for example football pools and National Lottery
- Long service awards to employees
- Wounds and disability pensions

Note that some registered occupational and personal pension schemes allow members to take all or part of a pension pot as a cash lump sum payment. Such cash lump sum payments may be considered fully non-taxable or taxable only in part – see section 7.2.4 for more information.

A list of what constitutes taxable and non-taxable income can be found in Annexes A to D. This is not an exhaustive list, but is intended to offer guidance on the types of income that fall under these categories.

Where a person is liable for income tax under UK tax law on income from self-employment or income that is not from employment, gross income may be certified by the person's accountant.

Where a person is employed, because the income will have been subjected to tax through Pay As You Earn (PAYE), the gross employment income can be ascertained from the person's PAYE year-end form P60.

'Taxable income' for the purposes of the Regulations shall include income which would not, for the reasons in paragraph 5(6)(2017), form part of the income of the student's parent / partner as calculated for the purposes of the relevant tax legislation. This does not apply to the student.

7.2.3 Income from savings and investments

Where interest paid on bank, building society and authority savings, as well as dividend income from shares or investments is subject to tax, it should be counted as income for the purposes of the assessment. When calculating the interest from a bank or building society, the gross figure before any tax deductions should be counted as income. Dividends and interest from investment schemes should still be counted as income where they are not paid to the recipient at the time they arise but are credited to or re-invested in the person's account with the scheme.

Savings and investment schemes vary considerably in their terms and conditions, and so care is needed in determining when income has actually arisen and its amount. The following guidelines should be observed:

- a. income arises only when it is placed at the disposal of the beneficiary

- b. where a penalty has been incurred by taking income immediately, the amount of the income actually received (for example, gross income less any penalty) should be counted as the income of the beneficiary once it is taken
- c. where such a penalty is avoided by waiting until the income can be taken in full, the income arises when it is at the beneficiary's disposal
- d. if the beneficiary has to give notice before withdrawing interest, the income will be at his/her disposal when that notice has expired
- e. where the rules of the scheme prevent the withdrawal of income for a given period (which may be the full duration of a time-limited scheme), the income will not be at the beneficiary's disposal until the expiry of the period in question. This will be the case even if income is nominally credited to the beneficiary's account in the interim
- f. in the case of accumulation units in Authorised Unit Trusts (AUTs) and Open Ended Investment Companies (OEICs) the income is treated as arising to the beneficiary on the distribution date, even though the income is reinvested

7.2.4 Income from pension lump sums

Although regular pension income is normally treated as earned income and therefore charged to income tax, some registered occupational and personal pension schemes allow members to take all or part of a pension pot as a cash lump sum payment. Such cash lump sum payments may be considered fully non-taxable or taxable only in part.

Any non-taxable element of pension income is not charged to income tax at Step 1 of Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007 and therefore is not required to be declared as income for the purposes of determining household income under the regulations.

The rules for determining the non-taxable element of lump sum pension payments are dependent on an individual's pension scheme. The amount that can be paid as a non-taxable pension lump sum can vary, but it is usually a maximum of 25% of the total value of the individual pension pot. The most common type of non-taxable pension lump sum is the Pension Commencement Lump Sum (PCLS).

Sponsors and students are advised to consult the rules of their individual pension schemes for confirmation of the taxable amount they should declare.

Note that an individual can be a member of more than one private or occupational pension scheme so it is possible for a person to have multiple pension pots and therefore could receive multiple non-taxable pension lump sum amounts, either within the same tax year or in different tax years.

Example:

Sponsor A has a private pension pot worth £80,000. In tax year 18-19 they take 25% of their pension pot as a non-taxable PCLS payment of £20,000. They also receive a regular monthly income from their private pension that totals £5,000 for tax year 18-19 – this regular income is liable for income tax.

In AY20/21 Sponsor A must declare the total private pension income they received in tax year 18-19 that was liable for income tax. This means they must declare the £5,000 they received as regular monthly income. Sponsor A should not declare the PCLS payment.

Sponsor B has an occupational pension pot worth £100,000. In tax year 18-19 they take their whole pension pot as a one off payment - £25,000 of the lump sum payment is non-taxable. The remaining £75,000 is liable for income tax.

In AY20/21 Sponsor B must declare the total occupational pension income they received in tax year 18-19 that was liable for income tax. This means they must declare the £75,000 taxable element of their lump sum payment.

Sponsor C has an occupational pension pot worth £100,000 and another private pension worth £20,000. In tax year 18-19 they receive a non-taxable PCLS payment of £25,000 and regular income totalling £5,000 from their occupational pension. They also decide to take their private pension as full lump sum payment of £20,000 - £5,000 of this payment is non-taxable. The remaining £15,000 is taxable.

In AY20/21 Sponsor C must declare the total income from their occupational and private pensions in tax year 18-19 that was liable for income tax. This means they must declare the £5,000 regular income from their occupational pension as well as the £15,000 taxable element of their lump sum private pension payment. Sponsor C declares a total of £20,000 pension income in AY20/21.

Note that all income from a state pension, both lump sum and non lump sum, is considered as a taxable source of income therefore should be declared as income for the purposes of the household income assessment.

7.2.5 Qualifying care receipts

Qualifying care receipts made to carers for providing care are exempt from income tax under section 803 of the Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 (ITTOIA) if they do not exceed the recipient's qualifying amount. Receipts above the qualifying amount are taxable. Any payments that are regular or paid in a lump sum to the student by their parent(s) and which have been determined in a court of law under Schedule 1 of the Children's Act 1989, are generally exempt from tax under Section 744(1)(i) of ITTOIA 2005. As a result, exempted payments should not be counted as part of the student's income. Further information on qualifying care relief can be found in 'Help Sheet HS236' on the HMRC website (www.hmrc.gov.uk).

7.2.6 University of Buckingham

Assistance to students under the University's fee remission scheme does not constitute a payment or income for the purposes of paragraph 4(1)(2017).

7.2.7 Deductions not to be made in determining taxable income

The definition of taxable income in paragraph 1(1)(n)(i)(2017) is, as previously stated, the total income on which a person is charged to income tax at Step 1 of the calculation in Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007 together with payments set out above. This means that deductions made from 'total income' by HMRC in respect of the following are not made when calculating taxable income for student support:

- Income tax reliefs at Step 2 of Section 23 of the Income Tax Act 2007 (for example, trade losses and pension contributions)
- Personal reliefs at Step 3 of Section 23

The deductions and allowances which are not to be made for student support purposes in determining taxable income are:

- Reliefs provided for at Section 24 of the Income Tax Act 2007 such as trade losses.
- Personal reliefs provided for under Part 3 of the Income Tax Act 2007 or any comparable reliefs in the case of income computed as for the purposes of the tax laws of another EU member state. In respect of UK tax law, these personal reliefs include, at the time of writing:
 - Personal allowances
 - Married couples' allowances for those couples where one partner was born before 6 April 1935
 - Blind person's allowance
 - Any deductions made under paragraphs 4(1) and 5(1) of Schedule 5(2017) (including pension premiums)

Once the taxable income has been determined, the parent's, parent's partner's or student's partner's residual income is calculated by making deductions from it in accordance with paragraph 5(1)(2017). The student's residual income is determined by making deductions from their taxable income in accordance with paragraph 4(1) (2017). A deduction under paragraph 3(3) (2017) may be made from the aggregate of the various amounts of residual income when determining household income (see step 3 below).

7.3 Step 3 - Calculation of residual income and household income

7.3.1 Deductions from students parent's (including their partners) or students partner's taxable income

Paragraph 5(1) lists the deductions that may be made from a parent's taxable income to determine their residual income:

- The gross amount of certain pension premiums (not in respect of pensions payable under a life assurance policy) that qualify for tax relief and certain equivalent payments (paragraph 5(1)(a) and (b) (2017))
- £1,130, where the parent is an eligible student or holds a statutory award (paragraph 5(1)(c) (2017))

Note that:

- Pension income paid to an ex-partner under an attachment order made pursuant either to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 or the Civil Partnership Act 2004 is excluded from taxable income
- Conversely, where the income is received under a pension arrangement made under an attachment order pursuant to the above legislation, it must be included in the taxable income.
- This ensures that only pension income that is available to a household is included in the means test

7.3.2 Deductions from the student's taxable income

Paragraph 4(1) lists the payments that may be deducted from taxable income for the purposes of determining a student's residual income unless they have already been deducted for the purposes of determining taxable income. Deductions from student's taxable income includes:

- Earnings from employment during the AY are deducted (paragraph 4(1)(a) (2017)). However, where the student is on leave of absence from the employer or relieved of their normal duties in order to undertake the course, any wages they receive in respect of those periods should be counted as income for assessment purposes. Note that where the student is only partially released from their employment to undertake the course, it is only the pay they receive for the days on which they are released that should be included in taxable income.
- The gross amount of certain pension payments (apart from pension payments under a life insurance policy) which are subject to tax relief under UK legislation and certain equivalent payments can be deducted from the student's taxable income (paragraph 4(1)(b) (2017)).

7.3.3 7 Initial Teacher Education Incentives

Initial Teacher Education Incentives are available from the Welsh Government. These are available to eligible students on postgraduate courses which lead to qualified teacher status (QTS). Our understanding is that the incentive is not taxable for full-time students. For part-timers, the incentive may be taxable, depending on total taxable income for the financial year. However, students should seek advice from HM Revenue and Customs about their individual position. For other student finance provisions based on household income, an

incentive is not considered as part of a student's income, and should not be included when working out taxable unearned income. Further information about incentives can be found at: <https://www.discoverteaching.wales/>

7.3.4 Financial obligations incurred by the student before the course starts

Financial obligations incurred by the student (before the start of or during the course) are not disregarded.

7.3.5 Maintenance payments received by the household

Maintenance payments received by the household are not normally subject to tax and therefore should not be taken into account when determining taxable income.

Where maintenance payments are paid by the student for the benefit of a child, taxable income should not be reduced to take account of these payments.

Maintenance payments received must still be taken into account in the calculation of dependants' income for the purpose of assessing a student's entitlement to any dependants' grant. Where a student receives maintenance payments under an agreement that requires that the payments are for the benefit of the student's child, this income should be treated as the child's income and taken into account in the dependants' grant means test.

7.3.6 Self-assessment

Self-assessment mainly affects the self-employed, people deriving income as partners in a business, and employees who are higher rate tax payers. Taxpayers are required to preserve the records needed to make a correct and complete tax return for the relevant period. Tax is assessed on the business profits of an accounting period ending in the current tax year rather than the preceding one.

7.3.7 Finalising parental income

SFW should base their determination of the parental income for the financial year on the self-assessment return made by the parent to HMRC and ensure that the income figures submitted to them match those on the return.

The dates for returning the completed tax forms to HMRC are:

- 30 September, (where HMRC is to calculate the tax)
- 31 January (where the taxpayer works out their own tax)

This means that the self-assessed person should have prior year taxable income figures available for use before the start of the AY. For example, for tax year 18-19 (the prior tax

year for AY 20/21), self-assessment must be completed and submitted to HMRC by 31 January 2020, which is before the start of AY 20/21.

7.3.7.1 Treatment of Capital Allowances

Capital allowances enable the costs of capital assets to be written off against a business's taxable profits. The tax allowances may be claimed for expenditure on assets such as industrial and agricultural buildings, and general business equipment such as vehicles and computers. The rate for buildings is normally 4% of the expenditure a year. The rate for plant and machinery is normally 25% a year (reducing balance basis), and there are special incentive rates for smaller businesses. Most capital allowances are claimed in the tax return.

Capital Allowances (excluding plant and machinery allowances for special leasing) are taken into account as a reduction of household income.

Note that Capital Gains, which are usually declared on business accounts or tax returns, are not taxable under the Income Tax Act but are subject to the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 so should not be included in the calculation of household income.

7.3.1 Self-employed parents

Where SFW is satisfied that the parent's income is wholly or mainly derived from the profits of a business or profession, paragraph 5(5) (2017) provides for the prior tax year to be taken as the accounting year which ends in the prior tax year.

For example, a student's AY commences in September 2020 (AY 20/21). Her parents' are self-employed and their accounting year ends on 30 June each year. Their income from the accounting year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is assessed, as this is the accounting year that ends in tax year 18--19 (for example, 6 April 2018 to 5 April 2019).

7.3.2 Current-year assessments

Where SFW is satisfied that the residual parental income in the current tax year (for example, the tax year beginning immediately before the start of the AY to which the support application relates) is likely to be not more than 85% of their residual income in the prior tax year, paragraph 5(3)(2017) allows for the current tax year income to be used. The current-year assessment is necessarily based on an estimate of residual income. Where SFW cannot make a reasonable estimate, a provisional payment or payments may be made until sufficient information is provided to allow a reasonable estimate to be made.

Note that once SFW has exercised its discretion to make a current year assessment, it cannot reverse its decision if it later transpires that the residual parental income in the current tax year is more than 85% of their income in the prior tax year. Any later adjustment made on receipt of more up-to-date income information will still be made on a current year basis.

Where a parental contribution is assessed on a current year basis for one year of the course, income assessment is based on preceding tax year income for the next AY, and on prior tax year income for the third AY (unless there is another drop in income and a new current-year assessment is carried out). This means that the same income is used for three consecutive years. Where a current-year income assessment is requested in two or more consecutive AYs, the current year income in the second or subsequent year will be compared to the previous tax year rather than the prior tax year income in order to ascertain if there has been a 15% drop in income (paragraph 5(4)(2017)).

In all cases where SFW is considering exercising its discretion under paragraph 5(3)(2017) to make a current-year assessment, it should advise the student and his parents of how their contribution is to be assessed and how this will affect the amount of contribution they are assessed to make.

7.4 Step 4 - Calculate any entitlement and / or contribution to student support

Once the residual income has been calculated for each person whose income is included in the household income, each amount of residual income is added together. A deduction of £1,130 is then taken from the aggregate amount under paragraph 3(3) (2017) for each child who is wholly or mainly financially dependent on:

- The student or their partner*
 - The student's parent or their parent's partner* (not the student).
- (*where the residual income of that person is being taken into account)

The resulting household income is used to calculate:

- Entitlement to Maintenance or Special Support Grant
- Assessed contribution towards the student's support

Please note that for 2018 cohort students there is no assessed contribution calculated as part of the income assessment.

Assessed contribution is calculated as follows for pre-2018 cohorts:

2012 cohort students: £1 for every complete £5 by which the household income exceeds £50,753 (paragraph 8(2) (2017)).

2011 cohort students: £1 for every complete £5 by which the household income exceeds £50,488 (paragraph 8(3) (2017)).

For both 2012 and 2011 cohorts, there is no minimum contribution but the maximum contribution is £6,208.

7.4.1 Deducting the contribution from the support

7.4.2 2018 cohort students

No assessed contribution will be applied to any of a student's entitlement. This is a result of the conserved total support model implemented in response to the Diamond Review.

7.4.3 2012 and 2011 cohort students

Assessed contribution is applied under regulation 56(2017), when household income exceeds the relevant threshold for each cohort group, to the following products:

- Grants for dependants (where applicable, and in the following order): adult dependants' grant, childcare grant, parents' learning allowance
- Maintenance loan for living costs (only the first 25% and not if a lower rate of loan applies under regulation 56 (2017))
- Travel grant

The contribution is deducted from the above products until either the contribution or the products are extinguished. Note that contribution cannot cancel out more of the maintenance loan than is indicated above.

7.4.4 Families with two or more award holders (split contributions)

Please note as there is no assessed contribution calculated and applied in the 2018 cohort income assessment, the following only applies to pre-2018 cohorts.

Paragraph 8 provides that total contribution must not exceed £6,208 where:

- A contribution is payable in relation to two or more students in respect of the same parental residual income / parent's partner's residual income, or
- The household income consists of the residual income of an independent eligible student and his partner, and both hold a statutory award

Where the same household income is used to assess the amount of an award for which two people qualify, the contribution payable in respect of the eligible student is divided by the number of such persons (paragraph 9).

Note that where there is more than one statutory award holder in a household, and one withdraws during the AY, the student(s) who remain in higher education are not reassessed.

Therefore, the amount of contribution applied to their means-tested support will not change. The student who has withdrawn from their course will be reassessed as normal.

Where:

- a sibling of the eligible student
- the eligible student's parent, or
- the eligible student's parent's partner

is eligible to apply for an award not paid under the Regulations or the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations 2003 nor section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, the amount of contribution payable in respect of the eligible student will be the proportion of the household contribution calculated under paragraph 8 that SLC considers just.

In any year in which more than one child of the eligible student's parent:

- holds an award under the Regulations or
- is eligible to apply for an award under the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations 2003 or an award under section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968

the contribution payable in respect of the eligible student is the amount of contribution calculated under paragraph 8, divided by the number of children holding relevant awards (paragraph 9). Where there is leftover unapplied contribution in respect of a student, this will not be applied to the remaining means-tested support of any other student in the household.

In any case where:

- the eligible student's parent whose income is assessed under Schedule 5 has a partner
- the parent's income is taken into account in calculating the contribution payable in respect of more than one student child, and
- the amount of contribution payable in respect of each student is different,

the contribution in respect of an eligible student is the amount of contribution calculated under paragraph 8(2017) divided by the number of eligible students in relation to whom a contribution is payable, and the parent's residual income has been taken into account in determining the amount of that contribution.

7.4.5 Contribution payable in respect of an independent eligible student

Please note as there is no assessed contribution calculated and applied in the 2018 cohort income assessment, the following only applies to pre-2018 cohorts.

Where a contribution is payable under paragraph 8 in relation to an independent eligible student with a partner (as defined in paragraph 1(i) of Schedule 5 (2017)) and that partner also holds a statutory award, the contribution payable in respect of the independent eligible student is half of the contribution calculated under paragraph 8.

8 Annex A – Definition of cohorts

'2018 cohort' students are those who:

- started the current FT course on or after 1 August 2018, and are not a '2012 cohort' student, a '2011 cohort' student, a '2010 cohort' student or a 'new system' student who is not a 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2018 cohort student

'2012 cohort' students are those who:

- started the current FT course on or after 1 September 2012 and before 1 August 2018, and are not a '2018 cohort' student, a '2011 cohort' student, a '2010 cohort' student or a 'new system' student who is not a 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2018 cohort student

'2011 cohort' students are those who:

- started the current course on or after 1 September 2011 and before 1 September 2012, excluding 2011 gap year students, certain students starting an 'end-on' course on or after 1st September 2011 and certain students who start the present course on or after 1 September 2011 having had their status transferred to that course from a previous course. In general terms a '2011 cohort' student is not a '2018 cohort' student, a '2012 cohort' student, a '2010 cohort' student or a 'new system' student who is not a 2010, 2011, 2012 or 2018 cohort student.

Please refer to Annex 8 of the AY 20/21 Assessing Eligibility guidance for a full explanation of each Welsh cohort and general support available.

9 Annex B – Travel Grant: case studies

Student A is a 2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider for the first 9 weeks of the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length. Student A is therefore attending the overseas provider for more than 50% of the quarter. Student A is eligible for travel grant in respect of travel expenses which is subject to a disregard. Student A has been income assessed on a household income of £40,000. As this is less than £59,200 then the disregard applied is £303.

Student B is a pre-2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider for the first 9 weeks of the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length. Student B is therefore attending the overseas provider for more than 50% of the quarter. Student B is eligible for travel grant in respect of travel expenses, which is subject to a £303 disregard.

Student C is a 2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider in the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length. Student C attends the first 4 weeks overseas, the next 2 weeks in the UK and the following 5 weeks overseas. Student C is therefore attending the overseas provider for 9 weeks in total - more than 50% of the quarter. Student C is eligible for travel grant in respect of travel expenses, which is subject to a disregard. Student C has been income assessed on a household income of £65,000. As this is greater than £59,200 then the disregard applied is £1000.

Student D is a pre-2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider in the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length. Student D attends the first 4 weeks overseas, the next 2 weeks in the UK and the following 5 weeks overseas. Student D is therefore attending the overseas provider for 9 weeks in total - more than 50% of the quarter. Student D is eligible for travel grant in respect of travel expenses, which is subject to a £303 disregard.

Student E is a pre-2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider for the first 8 weeks of the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18) and the first 7 weeks of the second academic quarter (01/01/19 - 31/03/19). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length and the second academic quarter is 12 weeks and 6 days in length. Student E is not eligible for a travel grant in respect of travel expenses for the first academic quarter because he is not attending the overseas provider for 50% or more of the first quarter. However, he is eligible for a travel grant in respect of travel expenses for the second academic quarter (subject to a £303 disregard) because he is attending the overseas provider for more than 50% of the second academic quarter.

Student F is a pre-2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider for the last 5 weeks of the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18) and the first 5 weeks of the second academic quarter (01/01/19 - 31/03/19). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length and the second academic quarter is 12 weeks and 6 days in length. Student F is not eligible for a travel grant in respect of travel expenses for either the first academic quarter or the second academic quarter, as he is not attending the overseas provider in either quarter for 50% or more of the respective quarter.

Student G is a pre-2018 cohort student attending an overseas provider for the first 10 weeks of the first academic quarter (01/09/18 - 31/12/18) and the first 10 weeks of the

second academic quarter (01/01/19 - 31/03/19). The first academic quarter is 17 weeks and 2 days in length and the second academic quarter is 12 weeks and 6 days in length. Student G is eligible for a travel grant in respect of travel expenses for both academic quarters because he is attending the overseas provider for more than 50% of the respective quarters. His travel grant award in respect of travel expenses will be subject to a single disregard of £303 for the academic year.

10 Annex C – Taxable income and benefits

10.1 Taxable income

Interest from UK banks, building society or unit trusts	Earning from salary/wages
Income from UK life insurance gains, securities and partnerships	Earnings from self-employment after deduction of allowable expenses
Interest from National Savings (other than first £70 of National Savings Ordinary Account interest) and Investments	Income from a state retirement pension
Interest distributions from authorised unit trusts and open-ended investment companies	Income from savings and investments
Income from UK investments and dividends	Other income and lump sums (for example - pensions lump sums* or redundancy payments)
Income from foreign investments and dividends	Income from property lettings
Income from taxable benefits in kind	Income from UK trusts
Private pensions, for example, pensions from previous employers, personal pensions, retirement annuities	Taxable element of cash lump sum payments taken from an occupational or personal pension
Income from an overseas pension	Chargeable event gains from life insurance policies
Foreign income	Other overseas income and gains
Share of joint income	

10.2 Taxable state benefits

Bereavement Allowance – (replaced Widow's Pension from 09/04/01 although WP is still paid to widows whose entitlement arose before 09/04/01)	Jobseeker's Allowance
Carer's Allowance	Statutory Adoption Pay
Contribution based Employment and Support Allowance	Statutory Sick Pay
Graduated retirement benefit	Statutory Maternity Pay
Income Support when paid to strikers or people involved in a trade dispute	Statutory Paternity Pay
Incapacity Benefit after 28 weeks of	Widowed Parent's Allowance

incapacity	
Pensions payable under the Industrial Death Benefit Scheme	Industrial Death Benefit

11 Annex D – non-taxable income and benefits

11.1 Non-taxable income

Income from tax-free National Savings and Investments, for example, savings certificates	Interest and terminal bonuses under Save As You Earn schemes
Interest, dividends and other income from investments held in a Personal Equity Plan, (PEP)	Premium Bonds, National Lottery winnings or gambling prizes
Interest, dividends and bonuses from a Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (TESSA), unless it was closed before the five years were up	Child and Working Tax Credits
Interest, dividends and other income from an Individual Savings Account (ISA)	Income from a scholarship, exhibition, bursary or similar educational endowment
Non-taxable element of cash lump sum payments taken from an occupational or personal pension, for example, a Pension Commencement Lump Sum (PCLS) payment	

11.2 Non-taxable state benefits and credits

Attendance Allowance	Housing Benefit
Back to Work Bonuses	Incapacity Benefit for the first 28 weeks of entitlement
Bereavement Payment – replaced Widow’s Payment from 09/04/01	Income Support – most payments
Child Benefit	Industrial Injuries Benefit – a general term covering industrial injuries pension, reduced earnings allowance, retirement allowance, constant attendance allowance and exceptionally severe disablement allowance
Child’s Special Allowance	Invalidity Benefit – replaced by Incapacity Benefit from April 1995 but still payable where invalidity commenced before April 1995
Cold Weather Payments	Maternity Allowance

Council Tax Benefit – administered by local authorities (to be abolished in April 2013 and replaced by local arrangements)	Pensioner’s Christmas Bonus
Constant Attendance Allowance – see industrial disablement benefit	Social Fund payments to people on a low income to help with maternity expenses, funeral costs, financial crises and community care grants and any interest free loans paid out (arrangements to change from April 2013)
Disability Living Allowance	War widow’s pension
Disabled Person’s Tax Credit, now part of Working Tax Credit	Winter Fuel payment
Employment Support Allowance (Income based only)	Armed Forces Independence Payment (from April 2013)
Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance	Personal Independence Payments (from April 2013)
Guardian’s Allowance	Universal Credit (introduced from April 2013)

12 Annex E – Contribution case studies (single student)

2012 cohort students

Student A

Student A is 21 year old and started a five year BA Honours degree in September 2017. She lives away from home and is studying at an HE provider in London. She has no previous study. Her mother is a single parent and has an income of £61,000. Student A has no income of her own and no siblings.

Step 1 – Determine whose income should be included in the household income assessment
Student and her mother

Step 2 – Determine the taxable income of those assessed for a contribution – in this case the student (£0) and her mother (£61,000)

Step 3 – Make permitted deductions – No deductions are applicable

Step 4 – Calculate contribution based on the household income of £61,000

Contribution towards loan for living costs

$$£61,000 - £50,753 = £10,247$$

$$£10,247 / £5 = £2,049$$

This contribution reduces the income assessed entitlement to the loan (maximum of £2,646) to £597. She will receive £8,535 (the 75% non-means tested element of the full-year London rate of loan of £7,938 plus £597).

Student B

Student B is 19 years old and started a five year BA Honours degree in September 2017. He has no previous study. He lives at home with his parents who have a joint income of £58,000. They contribute £3,000 a year into a stakeholder pension and have no other children. Student B has no income of his own.

Step 1 – Determine whose income should be included in the household income assessment
Student and his parents

Step 2 – Determine taxable income of those assessed for a contribution – in this case, the student (£0) and his parents (£58,000)

Step 3 – Make permitted deductions - pension premium of £3,000

$$\text{Parents } £58,000 - £3,000 = £55,000$$

Step 4 – Calculate contribution based on the household income of £55,000.

Contribution towards loan for living costs

$$£55,000 - £50,753 = £4,247$$

$$£4,247 / £5 = £849$$

This contribution reduces the income assessed element of the loan (£1,462) to £613. He will receive £4,999 (the 75% non-means tested element of the 'parental home' rate of loan £4,386 plus £613).

2011 cohort student

Student A

Student A is 23 years old and started a Honours Degree in September 2011, she enters the final year of the course in AY 18/19. The student lives away from home, outside London and has no income. The student's parents have joint earnings of £65,000. They contribute £4,000 a year into a stakeholder pension and have no other children.

Step 1 – Determine whose income should be included in the household income assessment
Student and parents

Step 2 – Determine taxable income of those assessed for a contribution – in this case, the student (£0) and parents (£65,000)

Step 3 – Make permitted deductions – pension premium of £4,000

$£65,000 - £4,000 = £61,000$

Step 4 – Calculate contribution based on household income

$£61,000 - £50,488 = £10,512$

$£10,512 / 5 = £2,102.40$

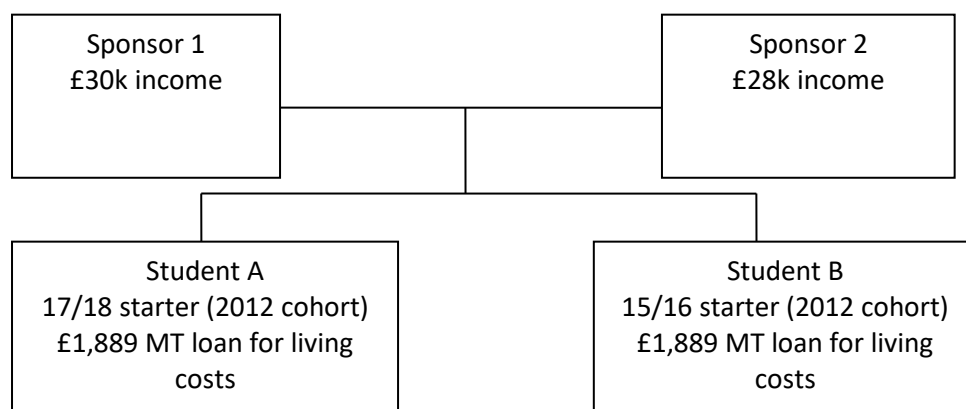
The assessed contribution for Student A will be £2,102 (rounded down to the nearest pound)

Student A will receive an 'elsewhere' final year rate of loan for living costs of £5,207 (£6,412 - £1,205). The 25% income assessed loan of £1,205 has been assessed away, and the remaining contribution is discarded.

13 Annex F – Split contribution case study

Case Study 1

Parent and step-parent with two student children, both are 2012 cohort students.
‘Elsewhere’ non final year loan rate is used.



Student A and B parental contribution

$£58,000 - £1,130$ (disregard for additional eligible student) = $£56,870$

Contribution to means tested loan for living costs:

$£56,870 - £50,753$ income threshold = $£6,117$

Contribution rate is £1 for every £5 above the income threshold:

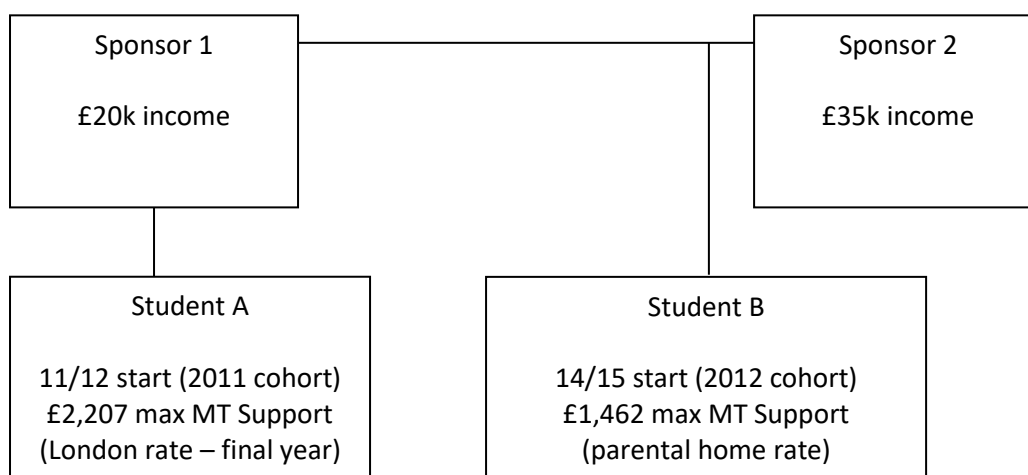
$£6,117 / £5 = £1,223$

	Student A	Student B
Parental contribution to means tested loan for living costs ($£1,223 / 2$)	£611	£611
Means tested loan for living costs remaining ($£1,889 - £611$)	£1,278	£1,278

Assessed contribution of £611 is applied to each student's means tested element of loan for living costs, leaving each with £1,278 means tested loan in addition to the £5,666 non-income assessed loan entitlement.

Case Study 2

Two students, one studying in London, the other living at home, one is 2012 cohort and the other is 2011 cohort.



Assessed contribution

£55,000 (less £1,130 disregard for additional eligible student) = £53,870

Students A (2011 cohort)

£53,870 - £50,488 = £3,382

£3,382 / 5 = £676 contribution.

Students A and B (2012 cohort)

£53,870 - £50,753 = £3,117

£3,117 / 5 = £623 contribution.

	Student A	Student B
Parental contribution, student A (£676)	£338	£338
Parental contribution, student B (£623)	£311	£311
Maximum means-tested support	£2,207	£1,462
Total contribution applied (£676)	£338	£311
Means-tested support remaining	£1,869	£1,151

14 Annex G – Extra weeks loan calculations

Regulation 50(2017) and 57(2018) provides for students to receive an extra amount of loan when a student attends their course for more than 30 weeks and 3 days. The loan amount is increased for each week or part week of attendance after the student has attended for 30 weeks and 3 days. (The short vacations should not be included in the calculation of extra weeks loan.)

The following table sets out the number of weeks for which the extra loan should be paid when a student attends full or part weeks after 30 weeks and 3 days attendance.

Full weeks attended	Part weeks attended	No. of weeks for
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	(after 30 weeks and 3 days attendance)	which extra loan is payable
Between 30 weeks 4 days and 31 weeks 3 days	Between 1 and 7 days	1 week
Between 31 weeks 4 days and 32 weeks 3 days	Between 8 and 14 days	2 weeks
Between 32 weeks 4 days and 33 weeks 3 days	Between 15 and 21 days	3 weeks
Between 33 weeks 4 days and 34 weeks 3 days	Between 22 and 28 days	4 weeks
Between 34 weeks 4 days and 35 weeks 3 days	Between 29 and 35 days	5 weeks
Between 35 weeks 4 days and 36 weeks 3 days	Between 36 and 42 days	6 weeks
Between 36 weeks 4 days and 37 weeks 3 days	Between 43 and 49 days	7 weeks
Between 37 weeks 4 days and 38 weeks 3 days	Between 50 and 56 days	8 weeks
Between 38 weeks 4 days and 39 weeks 3 days	Between 57 and 63 days	9 weeks
Between 39 weeks 4 days and 40 weeks 3 days	Between 64 and 70 days	10 weeks
Between 40 weeks 4 days and 41 weeks 3 days	Between 71 and 77 days	11 weeks
Between 41 weeks 4 days and 42 weeks 3 days	Between 78 and 84 days	12 weeks
Between 42 weeks 4 days and 43 weeks 3 days	Between 85 and 91 days	13 weeks
Between 43 weeks 4 days and 44 weeks 3 days	Between 92 and 98 days	14 weeks
Between 44 weeks 4 days and 44 weeks and 6 days	Between 99 and 101 days	15 weeks
45 weeks and over	102 days +	22 weeks

15 Annex H – Regulations Comparison

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
Regulation 1 Title, commencement and application	Regulation 1 Title and Commencement Regulation 2 Application
Regulation 2 Interpretations	No equivalent regulation in 2018 – interpretations have been included in the main body of the regulations. Schedules 1 and 7 will aid in locating where definitions are included
Regulation 3 Revocation, savings and transitional provisions	There is no equivalent regulation as these regulations do not revoke 2017 or earlier regulations
Regulation 4 Eligible students	Regulation 9 Eligible students Regulation 10 Eligible students – exceptions Regulation 11 Eligible students continuing on a course
Regulation 5 Designated courses	Regulation 5 Designated courses Regulation 6 Designated courses conditions Regulation 7 Designated courses – exceptions Regulation 8 Designation of other courses
Regulation 6 – Period of eligibility	Regulation 12 Period of eligibility – general rule
No equivalent regulation	Regulation 13 – Part-time courses – no eligibility for years of low intensity study
Regulation 6 (8) Period of eligibility	Regulation 14 – Maximum period of eligibility – tuition fee loans and grants for new students
Regulation 6 (9) Period of eligibility	Regulation 15 – Maximum period of eligibility – tuition fee loans and specified grants for students who undertook a previous course
Regulation 6 (10) and (11) Period of eligibility	Regulation 16 – Maximum period of eligibility – tuition fee loans and grants for certain continuing students
Regulation 6 paragraphs (13) (b) and (14) Paragraphs (17) to (21)	Regulation 17 – Maximum period of eligibility – interpretation Paragraphs (1) and (2) Paragraphs (3) to (7)

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
Regulation 6 (paragraph 22)	Regulation 18 – Extension of maximum period where student receives incorrect notification.
Regulation 7 - Previous study	Section 4 – Previous study Regulation 24 – FT students – restrictions on support for honours graduates
Regulation 7 – paragraph (7)	Regulation 26 – Restrictions lifted where incorrect notification received
Regulation 8 – Transfer of status Regulation 8 – Paragraphs (3) to (5)	Section 5 Transfers and Conversions Regulation 28 – Transfer of status 2018 regulations have been further clarified so although not an exact match refer to Regulation 29 – Effect of transfer – tuition fee loans Regulation 30 – Effect of transfer – grants and maintenance loans
Regulation 9 Applications for Support	Regulation 32 – Requirement to apply for support
Regulation 10 – Time Limits	Regulation 33 – Time limit for making applications Table 1
Regulation 11 – Information	No exact match but refer to Regulation 35 Requirements on eligible students to provide information
Regulation 12 – Requirement to enter into a contract for a loan	Regulation 36 – Requirement to enter into a contract for a loan
Regulation 13 – Fee support generally	Not a direct match as such but Regulation 39 – Qualifying conditions for tuition fee loan
Regulation 14 – Students becoming eligible during the course of an academic year	Regulation 80 (1)– Qualifying for support during the academic year Regulation 81 (1)– Qualifying for grants or maintenance loan during the academic year
Regulation 15 – Events	Regulation 80 (2)– Qualifying for support during the academic year Regulation 81 (3)– Qualifying for grants or maintenance loan during the academic year
Regulation 16 – New fee grant	No match as no fee grant from 18/19
Regulation 17 –General qualifying conditions for fee loan	Regulation 39 – Qualifying condition for a fee loan

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
<p>Regulation 18 – Fee loans in respect of courses beginning before 1 September 2012: eligible student who is a 2010 cohort student or a 2011 cohort student</p> <p>Regulation 19 – New fee loan in respect of courses beginning on or after 1 September 2012</p> <p>Regulation 20 Additional fee loan in respect of courses beginning on or after 1 September 2012</p> <p>Regulation 21 New private institution fee loan</p> <p>Regulation 22 Accelerated graduate entry fee loan</p>	<p>Regulations regarding fee support have been simplified and as 2018/20 Regulations are only relating to 2018 cohort onwards, please refer to</p> <p>Regulation 40 – Amount of tuition fee loan and Table 2</p> <p>Regulation 41 Amount of fee loan for less than the maximum amount</p> <p>Regulation 42 Further application for tuition fee loan up to maximum amount</p>
<p>Regulation 23 General qualifying conditions for grants for living costs</p>	<p>Regulation 44 – Qualifying conditions for base grant and maintenance grant</p> <p>Regulation 62 – Qualifying conditions for disabled student’s grant</p> <p>Regulation 69 – Qualifying conditions for grants for dependants</p>
<p>Regulation 24 Grants for Disabled Students’ living costs</p>	<p>Regulation 63 – Amount of disabled student’s grant</p>
<p>Regulation 25 – Grants for dependants – general</p>	<p>Regulation 68 – Grants for dependants</p>
<p>Regulation 26 – Grants for dependants – Adult dependant’s grant</p>	<p>Regulation 71 – Adult dependants grant</p> <p>Regulation 72 – Maximum amount of adult dependants grant</p>
<p>Regulation 27 – Grants for dependants – childcare grant</p>	<p>Regulation 75 – Childcare grant</p> <p>Regulation 76 – Maximum amount of childcare grant</p>
<p>Regulation 28 – Grants for dependants – parents’ learning allowance</p>	<p>Regulation 73 – Parents’ Learning Grant</p> <p>Regulation 74 – Maximum amount of parents’ learning</p>
<p>Regulation 29 – Grants for dependants – calculations</p> <p>Regulation 29 (8) and (9)</p>	<p>Regulation 77 – Grants for dependants: calculating the amount payable</p> <p>Regulation 78 – Amount of adult dependant’s grant and childcare grant: eligible student’s partner is an eligible student</p>
<p>Regulation 30 – Grants for dependants interpretation</p> <p>“Adult dependant”</p> <p>“Child”</p> <p>“Dependant”</p> <p>“Dependent”</p>	<p>Regulation 70 (1)</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Not defined</p>

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
"Dependent child" "Financial Year" "Lone parent" "Member State" "Net income" "Partner" "Preceding Financial Year" Prior Financial Year" "Relevant Year" "Residual Income" "Taxable income"	Regulation 70 (1) Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) Regulation 70 (1) Not defined Schedule 3, Part 5 Regulation 70 (2) for the purposes of determining a student's entitlement to GfD Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) (PY) Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) (PY-1) Schedule 3 , paragraph 21 (3) Schedule 3 – Part 4 Schedule 3 – Part 9
Regulation 31 – Interpretation of regulations 32-34 (re travel grant)	Not an exact match but see Regulation 64 Grant for travel
Regulation 32 (1)– Qualifying conditions for the travel grant Regulation 32 (2) Regulation 33 – Amount of the grant for travel Regulation 34 – Deductions from the grant for travel	Regulation 65 – Grant for travel for medical students Regulation 66 – Grant for travel for study or work overseas
Regulation 35 Maintenance grant	Regulation 45 – Amount of base grant Regulation 46 – Amount of maintenance grant: FT students / Table 4
No equivalent regulation	Regulation 49 – Meaning of care leaver
Regulation 36: Maintenance grant – eligible students who are 2010 cohort students or 2012 cohort students	No equivalent regulation as 2018 Regulations are for 2018 cohort onwards
Regulation 37: Maintenance grant – eligible students who are 2011 cohort students	No equivalent regulation as 2018 Regulations are for 2018 cohort onwards
Regulation 38 Special support grant	Regulation 50 – Special support payment Regulation 51 Special support payment: qualifying conditions Regulation 52 – Maximum amount of maintenance grant treated as special support payment
Regulation 39 Special support grant – eligible students who are 2010 cohort students or 2012 cohort students Regulation 40 Special support grant – eligible students who are 2011 cohort students	No equivalent regulation as 2018 Regulations are for 2018 cohort onwards
Regulation 41 – Qualifying conditions for	Regulation 53 – Maintenance loan

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
loans for living costs	Regulation 54 – Qualifying conditions for a maintenance loan
Regulation 43 – Maximum amount of loans for eligible students with full entitlement who are 2010 cohort students, 2012 cohort students or 2012 accelerated graduate entry students undertaking their first year of study Regulation 44 – Maximum amount of loans for eligible students with full entitlement who are 2011 cohort students Regulation 45 – Students with reduced entitlement	Regulation 55 – Amount of maintenance loan: FT students / Table 7
No equivalent regulation	Regulation 56 Amount of maintenance loan payable FT students to whom special support payment payable
Regulation 46 – Students residing with parents	No equivalent match
No equivalent regulation as new provision in 2018	Regulation 58 Amount of maintenance loan – part-time students
No equivalent regulations	Regulation 59 Applying for maintenance loan for less than the maximum amount
Regulation 47 – Loans for living costs payable in respect of three quarters of the academic year	No equivalent regulation
Regulation 48 – Students falling into more than one category	Regulation 86 Students living in more than one location
Regulation 49 Students becoming eligible during the course of an academic year	Regulation 81 – Qualifying for grants or maintenance loan during the academic year
Regulation 50 – Increases in maximum amount	Regulation 57 Increased maintenance loan for FT students in extended years
Regulation 51 Deductions from loans for living costs	No equivalent regulation
Regulation 52 – Interpretation of Part 6	Table 7
Regulation 53 – Additional amount of loans	Regulation 60 Further application for maintenance loan up to maximum amount
Regulation 54 College fee loans	No equivalent regulation but refer to Schedule 5 Oxbridge college fee loan
Regulation 55 Calculation of contribution Regulation 56 Application of contribution	No equivalent regulations as we've moved away from household contribution

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
Regulation 57 – Payment of grants or loans for fees for eligible students Regulation 57 (3) Regulation 57 (6)	Regulation 83 Payment of tuition fee loan Regulation 84 Requirements for payment of tuition fee loan Regulation 37 Requirement on academic authority to notify when a student leaves the course
Regulation 58 Payments of grants for living costs	Regulation 85 Payment of grants and maintenance loan
Regulation 59 Provision of United Kingdom national insurance number	Regulation 96 Requirement to provide national insurance number
Regulation 60 Information requirements	Regulation 97 Information requirements relating to a loan
Regulation 61 Payment of loans for living costs	Regulation 85 Payments of grants and maintenance loans
Regulation 62 Overpayments Regulation 62 (3) Regulation 62 (10)	Regulation 89 – Overpayments – general Regulation 90 Recovery of overpayments of grants Regulation 91 Recovery of overpayments of maintenance loans
Regulation 63 Payments – interpretation “attendance confirmation” “payment period”	Regulation 87 Confirmation of attendance Regulation 95 (9) Payments when period of eligibility ends or is terminated
Part 11 Support for FT distance learning courses Regulation 64 to Regulation 80	No equivalent section as largely now redundant provision – only applicable to courses started prior to 1 September 2012
Regulation 81 Eligible part-time students	Regulation 9 Eligible students Regulation 10 Eligible students – exceptions Regulation 11 Eligible students continuing on a course
Regulation 82 Students becoming eligible during the course of the academic year	Regulation 80 - Qualifying for support during the academic year Regulation 81– Qualifying for grants or maintenance loan during the academic year
Regulation 83 Designated part-time courses	Regulation 5 Designated courses Regulation 6 Designated courses conditions Regulation 7 Designated courses – exceptions Regulation 8 Designation of other courses

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
Regulation 84 Period of eligibility	Regulation 12 Period of eligibility – general rule Regulation 13 – Part-time courses – no eligibility for years of low intensity study
Regulation 85 Support for part-time courses beginning before 1 September 2014 (fee grant and grant for books, travel costs and other expenditure)	No equivalent regulation as products do not exist in 18/19 for new students
Regulation 86 New part-time fee loan	Regulations regarding fee support have been simplified and as 2018/20 Regulations are only relating to 2018 cohort onwards, please refer to Regulation 40 – Amount of tuition fee loan and Table 2 Regulation 41 Amount of fee loan for less than the maximum amount Regulation 42 Further application for tuition fee loan up to maximum amount
Regulation 87 New part-time course grant	No equivalent regulation as no course grant from 18/19 Part-time students will be eligible to apply for base/maintenance grant and a maintenance loan Please refer to Regulation 45 – Amount of base grant Regulation 47 – Amount of maintenance grant: part-time students / Table 5 Regulation 53 – Maintenance loan Regulation 54 – Qualifying conditions for a maintenance loan Regulation 58 Amount of maintenance loan: part-time students
Regulation 88 Grants for disabled part-time students' living costs	Regulation 63 Amount of disabled student's grant
Regulation 89 Part-time grants for dependants – general	Regulation 69 Qualifying conditions for grants for dependants
Regulation 90	Regulation 68 Grants for dependants
Regulation 91 Part-time adult dependants' grant	Regulation 71 – Adult dependants grant Regulation 72 – Maximum amount of adult dependants grant
Regulation 92 Part-time childcare grant	Regulation 75 – Childcare grant Regulation 76 – Maximum amount of

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
	childcare grant
Regulation 93 Part-time parents' learning allowance	Regulation 73 – Parents' Learning Grant Regulation 74 – Maximum amount of parents' learning grant
Regulation 94 Part-time grants for dependants – initial calculations	Regulation 77 – Grants for dependants: calculating the amount payable Regulation 78 – Amount of adult dependant's grant and childcare grant: eligible student's partner is an eligible student
Regulation 95 Part-time grants for dependants – interpretations "Adult dependant" "Child" "Dependant" "Dependent" "Dependent child" "Financial Year" "Lone parent" "Member State" "Net income" "Partner" "Preceding Financial Year" Prior Financial Year" "Relevant Year" "Residual Income" "Taxable income"	 Regulation 70 (1) Not defined Not defined Not defined Regulation 70 (1) Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) Regulation 70 (1) Not defined Schedule 3, Part 5 Regulation 70 (2) for the purposes of determining a student's entitlement to GfD Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) (PY) Schedule 3 – paragraph 23 (2) (PY-1) Schedule 3 , paragraph 21 (3) Schedule 3 – Part 4 Schedule 3 – Part 9
Regulation 96 Part-time grants for dependants - calculation of contribution	No equivalent regulation as we've moved away from household contribution
Regulation 97 Part-time grants for dependants – application of contribution	No equivalent regulation as we've moved away from household contribution
Regulation 98 Part-time grants for dependants – final calculation	Regulation 77 – Grants for dependants: calculating the amount payable Regulation 78 – Amount of adult dependant's grant and childcare grant: eligible student's partner is an eligible student
Regulation 99 Applications for support	Regulation 32 – Requirement to apply for support Regulation 33 Time limit for making an application
Regulation 100 Assistance with fees in respect of attendance on part-time courses	No equivalent regulation as does not apply to 2018 cohort

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
in England, Northern Ireland or Scotland beginning before 1 September 2014	
Regulation 101 Information and other matters	Regulation 35 Requirements on eligible students to provide information Regulation 37 Requirement on academic authority to notify when a student leaves the course
Regulation 102 Transfer of status	Section 5 Transfers and Conversions Regulation 28 – Transfer of status 2018 regulations have been further clarified so although not an exact match refer to Regulation 29 – Effect of transfer – tuition fee loans Regulation 30 – Effect of transfer – grants and maintenance loans
Regulation 103 Conversion of status	Regulation 31 Transfers involving conversions between part-time and FT study
Regulation 104 Payment of support to eligible part-time students	Regulation 85 Payment of grants and maintenance loans
Regulation 105 (relating to payment of part-time grants for dependants)	Regulation 85 Payment of grants and maintenance loans
Regulation 106 Interpretation “attendance confirmation” “payment period”	Regulation 87 Confirmation of attendance Regulation 95 (9) Payments when period of eligibility ends or is terminated
Regulation 107 Payment of grants or fees in respect of designated part-time courses beginning before 1 September 2014	No equivalent regulations – only applicable to continuing students so refer to 2017 regulations
Regulation 108 Payment of new part-time fee loan	Regulation 83 Payment of tuition fee loan Regulation 84 Requirements for payment of tuition fee loan
Regulation 109 Overpayments	Regulation 89 Overpayments –general Regulation 90 Recovery of overpayments of grants Regulation 91 Recovery of overpayments of maintenance loans
Regulation 110 Eligible postgraduate students Regulation 110 (11) and (12)	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student’s grant Paragraph 4 Eligible postgraduate students Paragraph 12 Refugees who cease to have leave to remain Paragraph 13 Other persons who cease to

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
	have leave to enter or remain
Regulation 111 Students becoming eligible during the course of an academic year	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 14 Students becoming eligible during the course of an academic year
Regulation 112 Designated postgraduate courses	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 2 Designated postgraduate courses Paragraph 3 Designation of other postgraduate courses
Regulation 113 Period of eligibility	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 7 – Period of eligibility Paragraph 8 – Part-time courses – no eligibility for years of low intensity study Paragraph 9 Early termination of eligibility Paragraph 10 Termination due to misconduct or failure to provide accurate information Paragraph 11 Reinstatement of eligibility after termination
Regulation 114 Transfer of status	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 15 Transferring between postgraduate courses Paragraph 16 Effect of transfer
Regulation 115 Applications for support	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 17 Applications and decisions Paragraph 18
Regulation 116 Information	Not an equivalent match but refer to Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 19 Requirements on eligible postgraduate students to provide information
Regulation 117 Amount of grant	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 20 Amount of disabled postgraduate student's grant
Regulation 118 Payment of grant	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
	grant Paragraph 21 Payment
Regulation 119 Overpayments	Schedule 4 Disabled postgraduate student's grant Paragraph 22 Overpayments
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 1) Interpretation EEA frontier self-employed person EEA frontier worker EEA Migrant worker EEA National EEA self-employed person Employed person European Economic area Family member Self-employed person Swiss employed person Swiss frontier employed person Swiss self-employed person Worker	Schedule 2 Categories of eligible student 4. Category 4
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 1) Interpretation Settled Swiss agreement	Schedule 2 Interpretation 11
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 1) Interpretation EEA state	Not defined
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 2) Parent	Schedule 2 Interpretation 11.
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 3)	Schedule 2, Paragraph 9 (sub-paragraph 1)
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 4)	Schedule 2, Paragraph 9 (sub-paragraph 2)
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 5)	Schedule 2, Paragraph 9 (sub-paragraph 3)
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 6)	Schedule 2, Paragraph 9 (sub-paragraph 5)
Schedule 1, Part 1 (Paragraph 7)	Schedule 2, Paragraph 9 (sub-paragraph 4)
No similar provisions as support for care-leavers is new in 2018	Schedule 2, Paragraph 10 – Further provision on ordinary residence: care leavers
Schedule 1, Part 2 Categories	Schedule 2 Categories of eligible student

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
2. Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom	Category 1 (sub-paragraph 1) Persons settled in the United Kingdom
3. Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom by virtue of having acquired the right to permanent residence	Category 1 (sub-paragraph 2) Persons settled in the United Kingdom
4. Refugees and their family members	Category 2 Refugees and their family members
5. Persons with leave to enter or remain and their family members	Category 3 – Persons with leave to enter or remain and their family members
6. Workers, employed persons, self-employed persons and their family members	Category 4 (Sub-paragraph 1)– Workers, employed persons, self-employed persons and their family members
7. Workers, employed persons, self-employed persons and their family members	Category 4 (Sub-paragraph 2)– Workers, employed persons, self-employed persons and their family members
8. Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom and have exercised a right of residence elsewhere	Category 5 Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom and have exercised a right of residence elsewhere
9 EU Nationals	Category 6 (sub-paragraph 1) EU Nationals
10. EU Nationals (with 3 years residency in the UK (ie BIDAR)	Category 6 (sub-paragraph 2) EU Nationals
11. Children of Swiss nationals	Category 7 Children of Swiss nationals
12. Children of Turkish Worker	Category 8 Children of Turkish workers
Schedule 2 Designated courses	Regulation 6 Designated courses – conditions
Schedule 3 – Information	Regulation 35 (although much of this is new for clarity)
Schedule 4 – College Fee Loans	Schedule 5 – Oxbridge College Fee Loans

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
<p>Schedule 5 Financial Assessment</p> <p>1 Definitions</p> <p>“financial year”</p> <p>“household income”</p> <p>“independent eligible student”</p> <p>“Member State”</p> <p>“New eligible student”</p> <p>“Parent”</p> <p>“Parent student”</p> <p>“Partner”</p> <p>“Preceding financial year”</p> <p>“Prior financial year”</p> <p>“Relevant year”</p> <p>“Residual income”</p> <p>“Taxable income”</p> <p>2 Independent eligible student</p> <p>3. Household income</p> <p>4. Calculation of eligible student’s residual income</p> <p>5. Calculation of parent’s residual income</p> <p>6. Calculation of eligible student’s partner’s residual income</p> <p>7. Calculation of parent’s partner’s residual income</p> <p>8. Calculation of contribution – eligible students</p> <p>9. Split contributions</p>	<p>Schedule 3 Calculation of income</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 23 (2)</p> <p>Schedule 3, Part 2</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 4</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Not defined</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 23 (1)</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 23 (2) (PY)</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 23 (2) (PY-1)</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 21 (3)</p> <p>Schedule 3, Part 4</p> <p>Schedule 3, paragraph 9</p> <p>4. Independent eligible students</p> <p>Part 2 Household income</p> <p>Part 4 Residual income</p> <p>Paragraph 10 Calculation of eligible student’s residual income</p> <p>Part 4 Residual income</p> <p>Paragraph 14 Calculation of residual income of persons other than eligible student</p> <p>Paragraph 14 Calculation of residual income of persons other than eligible student</p> <p>Paragraph 14 Calculation of residual income of persons other than eligible student</p> <p>No corresponding regulation as concept of contribution does not apply to 2018 cohort</p> <p>Not applicable in 2018</p>

2017 Regulation Reference	2018 Regulation Reference
Schedule 6 Financial Assessment – Part-time Grants for Dependants 1. Definitions 2. Household income 3. Calculation of eligible part-time student’s residual income 4. Calculation of eligible part-time student’s partner’s residual income 5. Calculation of contribution 6. Split contributions	Schedule 3 Calculation of income As above

16 Annex I – Updates log

Date	Updates
10/01/2020	Calculations corrected Figures updated Formatting amended
13/11/2019	Figures updated from AY 20/21 memo. Added addition information on taxable pension lump sums in the Annex. Text. Layout enhancements throughout the document.