



Financial help for part-time students 2010/2011

Government-funded help

The student loan and maintenance grants are only available for full-time higher education students, but if you're starting a part-time course in higher education, you may still be eligible for financial help.

The two main sources of government-funded help for part-time students are:

- **The Fee Grant**, to help with tuition fees. The maximum amount of Fee Grant available depends on how long it takes to complete your course compared with an equivalent full-time course. To apply for this your course must last at least one year and not take more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course.
- **The Course Grant**, to help with study costs such as books, materials and travel. and other course-related expenses. You can apply for the Course Grant no matter what the intensity of your course.

For the most intensive courses, the maximum available through the Fee Grant and Course Grant combined was £1,470 for 2009/10, and will be £1,495 for 2010/11.

If you're getting certain benefits, you'll qualify for the maximum automatically. Otherwise, how much you can get depends on your personal circumstances and household income. Any help you get through the Fee Grant or Course Grant does not have to be paid back.

Before you apply, it's worth checking that you're eligible for the Fee Grant and Course Grant. Follow the link below for information on eligibility – and for an idea of how much you could get:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Applyingfortheirsttime/DG_171530

Application forms for the Fee Grant and Course Grant for 2010/11 for students applying for the first time will be available to download in summer 2010 from www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Applyingfortheirsttime/DG_171529

Continuing students should go to:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Afteryourfirstyear/DG_171585

Full details of what to do with the form once you have completed it are given on the direct.gov website when you download the form. These should be followed carefully otherwise, Student Finance England won't be able to process your application.

Other sources of help

You may also be able to apply for more help, through your university or college, from two further sources:

- The Access to Learning Fund. Apply for this through your college or university. You can get money to help pay for things like books, childcare and equipment.
- The Additional Fee Support Scheme. If you receive a fee grant that does not cover the fees charged to you, your college may be able to give you further help through this scheme. Ask for more information from the student support office at the college or university where you intend to apply.

Extra financial help is available for students in particular circumstances.

- Students with a disability, mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty. Provided you are studying at least 50% of the full-time equivalent, you can apply for extra help from the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) or the Access to Learning Fund.
- Students with children or adult dependants.
- Students claiming benefits. As a part-time student, you may be able to claim income-related benefits. Any Fee Grant, Course Grant, or help from the Access to Learning Fund you receive is not counted as income when working out your benefit entitlement.
- Students with the Open University (OU). The OU deals with applications for the Fee Grant and the Course Grant from its own students. Contact the OU for further information on 01908 653411, or by email at reg-fees@open.ac.uk.

Contact details for student support

The Student Loans Company has responsibility for providing Information, Advice and Guidance for students commencing a new course of study from September 2009 onwards and so all enquires should be directed to:

Student Finance England
PO Box 210
Darlington
DL1 9HJ

Telephone: 0845 300 50 90

or visit **Student Finance England** at:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance