

STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE

**STUDENT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC
YEAR 2016/17 – NEW AND CONTINUING FULL-TIME
STUDENTS.**

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 02/16

04 August 2015

Dear colleague

**STUDENT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17: NEW AND
CONTINUING FULL-TIME STUDENTS.**

New students starting to attend full-time courses from 1st August 2016 onwards, the 2016/17 academic year, will be identified as **2016 cohort students** in an amendment to the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 for 2016/17. These are planned to be laid in Autumn 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Student Support Information Note 01/06 on the Student Finance England Practitioners' website sets out the student support arrangements for new and continuing students in detail for 2016/17. This separate information note (02/06) identifies which full-time students will be subject to the student support arrangements for new full-time students in 2016/17 and which full-time students will continue in 2016/17 under the arrangements that apply in 2015/16.

2016 Cohort

The following categories of full-time student will be part of the 2016 cohort in 2016/17 and will be subject to the student support arrangements applying to new full-time students in the 2016/17 academic year. They will no longer qualify for a maintenance grant or, in the case of students eligible for benefits, for a special support grant in 2016/17 but will instead qualify for an increased loan for living costs.

- (i) new students starting to attend a full-time course for the first time on or after 1 August 2016.
- (ii) students starting to attend a full-time course on or after 1 August 2016, having withdrawn from a previous HE course in 2015/16 (or an earlier academic year).

- (iii) students starting to attend a full-time course on or after 1 August 2016, having abandoned a previous HE course in 2015/16 (or in an earlier academic year).
- (iv) students starting to attend a full-time course on or after 1 August 2016, having transferred from a previous part-time course or full-time distance learning course starting before 1 August 2016. This group of students will be changing their mode of study and applying for living costs support for the first time in 2016/17.
- (v) students starting to attend a full-time honours degree course on or after 1 August 2016, having achieved a full-time lower level qualification which started before 1 August 2016, where the gap between the two courses is more than 5 months – i.e. the student is not treated as immediately going onto the honours course (excluding an intervening vacation).
- (vi) students starting to attend a full-time honours degree course on or after 1 August 2016, having achieved a part-time or full-time distance learning lower level qualification which started before 1 August 2016. This group of students will be changing their mode of study and applying for living costs support for the first time in 2016/17.
- (vii) students starting a full-time PGCE or equivalent course of initial teacher training on or after 1 August 2016.
- (viii) students who initially apply to start a full-time course in the 2015/16 year who subsequently agree with their institution to defer starting their course until 2016/17.

2012 Cohort

The following categories of full-time student will be part of the 2012 cohort in 2016/17 and will be subject to the student support arrangements that apply to 2012 cohort students in the 2015/16 academic year. They will continue to qualify for a means-tested maintenance grant, or in the case of students eligible for benefits, for a means-tested special support grant in 2016/17.

- (i) students who started attending a full-time course on or after 1 September 2012 who are continuing to attend that course on or after 1 August 2016.
- (ii) students starting to attend a full-time course on or after 1 August 2016, having transferred from a full-time course/courses that started on or after 1 September 2012 and before 1 August 2016. The mode of study for this group of students will remain the same.
- (iii) students starting to attend a full-time honours degree 'end-on' course on or after 1 August 2016 immediately after (excluding an intervening vacation) achieving a lower level full-time qualification that started on or after 1 September 2012 and before 1 August 2016.

2009 Cohort

The following categories of full-time student will be part of the 2009 cohort in 2016/17 and will be subject to the student support arrangements that apply to 2009 cohort students in the 2015/16 academic year. They will continue to qualify for a means-tested maintenance

grant, or in the case of students eligible for benefits, for a means-tested special support grant in 2016/17.

- (i) students who started attending a full-time course on or after 1 September 2009 and before 1 September 2012 who are continuing to attend their full-time course on or after 1 August 2016.
- (ii) students starting to attend a full-time course on or after 1 August 2016, having transferred from a full-time course/courses that started on or after 1 September 2009 and before 1 September 2012. The mode of study for this group of students will remain the same.

The main changes to the student support package for the 2016/17 academic year are expected to be laid in Autumn 2015 through a separate set of amendment regulations to the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011.

Enquiries:

If you have any queries about the Student Support Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team – telephone 0845 6020583; email SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk