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Financial Support For Part-time Higher Education Students

At present, part-time students get the following financial support

Help with fees

You can get a non-repayable grant of up to £885 for course fees if you are:

- On a low income
- Studying the equivalent of at least 50% of a full-time course

The amount awarded depends upon the proportion of the course you are doing.

Help with course costs

You can get a non-repayable grant of up to £250 towards the cost of books, travel and course expenses if you are:

- On a low income
- Studying the equivalent of at least 50% of a full-time course

Additional support

Part-time students who meet the criteria may also apply for additional help from the Access to Learning Fund for help with costs such as childcare.

For certain students on a low income studying between 10% and 50% of a full-time course, a discretionary fee waiver may be available through the university/college.

Help for disabled students

If you are a part-time student with a disability and are studying at least 50% of a full-time course, you may qualify for help with a Disabled Students' Allowance.

Further information

Speak to the Welfare Adviser at the university/college

Read the guide, "*Financial support for part-time students in Higher Education*", available from your Local Education Authority

Tel: 0800 731 9133 or from the website:
www.dfes.gov.uk/studentsupport

There are no changes planned in the support for part-time students for 2006.

Details are correct at time of print 06/05.

Aimhigher West Midlands: Wolverhampton Science Park, Wolverhampton WV10 9RU
E: aimhigherwm@wlv.ac.uk

www.aimhigherwm.org

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Financial Support For Full-time Higher Education Students – 2005

While studying you may have two main costs to pay:

- › Your contribution to tuition fees
- › Your living costs

Tuition fees

For 2005-2006 the most you will have to pay towards tuition fees is £1175 pa.

Full-time students may get all, or part of their tuition fees paid depending on their household income

Help towards living costs

a) Higher Education Grant

Depending on your household income, you can get up to £1000.

b) Student Loans

You can get up to £4195 in 2005/2006 (£5175 in London and £3320 for those living at home).

25 % of the loan is assessed on your household income.

c) Other sources of funding for certain full-time students

- › Childcare Grant
- › Parents Learning Allowance
- › Child Tax Credit (from Inland Revenue)
- › Adult Dependants Grant

- › Disabled Students Allowances
- › Care Leavers Grant (if you were in care before 2001)
- › Access to Learning Fund
- › Help for those studying specific subjects e.g. teaching, medicine, dentistry, health professional courses, social work

Further information

This is a brief summary of finance for full-time Higher Education students in 2005. However, this information may be subject to change. You can get up-to-date information and advice from:

- The Welfare Adviser at the college/university
- Your Local Education Authority (LEA). These are listed on the website: www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport/students
The DfES helpline – 01325 392822 between 10am and 4pm Monday-Friday

Applying for finance

To apply on-line go to www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk or contact the Student Loans Company Customer Support Office on 08456 077577 between 6am and midnight every day.

For a paper copy of the application form, contact your LEA.

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Financial Support For Full-time Higher Education Students – 2006

While studying you may have
two main costs to pay:

- Your contribution to tuition fees
- Your living costs

Tuition fees

- Full-time students entering higher education in 2006 may be charged up to £3000 per year for tuition fees, but you will not have to pay these fees before you start the course, or while you are studying.
- You will be able to take out a student loan for course fees.
- You will be required to repay your loan when you have left university and are earning over £15,000 pa.

Maintenance Grant

- Students from lower income households will be able to apply for a non-repayable maintenance grant of up to £2,700.
- The amount awarded will depend on your income and that of your household income. For example, if that income is around £17,000 pa. or less you are likely to be eligible for a full grant worth £2,700 per academic year.

Bursaries

- Universities and colleges wishing to charge the maximum fee of £3,000 a year will have to provide at least £300 a year in non-repayable financial support, such as bursaries to students on courses who are receiving the full £2,700 maintenance grant.
- Students receiving the full maintenance grant will get a package of non-repayable support of at least £3,000 a year.
- Many university bursary schemes will also help students who get less than the full £2700 grant.

Student Loans

Student loans only become repayable when you leave college or university and are earning more than £15,000 per year.

- a) Student Loan for fees
You can apply for the exact amount your university or college charges for your course and the money will be paid directly to your university/college to cover the cost of your fees.
- b) Student Loan for maintenance
In 2006 loan rates will be increased to above the level of inflation.

Example:

In 2004/5, a student living away from home could borrow up to £4,095 depending on household income.

All eligible students are entitled to 75% of the maximum figure. The remaining 25% of the loan is means-tested.

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Useful Contacts

There's a whole host of people out there ready and willing to give you their help and support. So we've prepared this handy list of contacts for you, split into their various areas and specialities. Just get in touch and they'll answer your questions or point you in the right direction.

Finance

www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk
www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport
www.aimhigher.ac.uk
www.studentmoney.org
www.connexions-direct.com
www.slc.co.uk

Foundation Degrees

www.foundationdegree.org.uk
www.fdf.ac.uk

Student Information

www.nusonline.co.uk
www.uni4me.co.uk
www.studentzone.org.uk
www.virginstudent.co.uk
www.studentuk.com

Course Information

www.ucas.com
www.foundationdegree.org.uk
www.fdf.ac.uk
www.he.courses-careers.com
www.hotcourses.co.uk
www.he.courses-careers.com
www.aimhigherwm-alps.org

Careers Information and Guidance

www.connexions-direct.com
www.nextstep.org.uk
www.prospects.ac.uk
www.worktrain.gov.uk

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