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Coverage: Wales

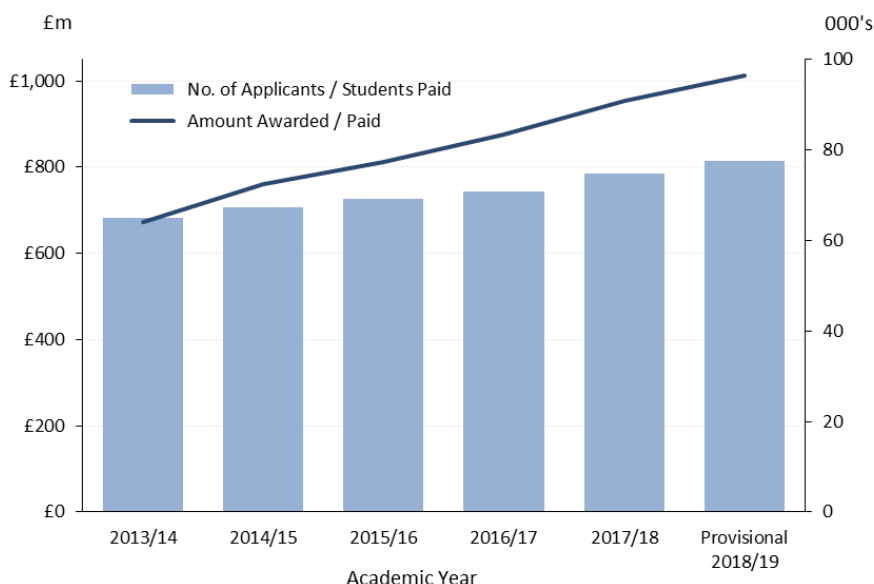
Theme: Children, Education
and Skills

Student Support for Higher Education in Wales 2019:

2018/19 Full Year and 2019/20 Early In Year

Higher Education student support reaches £1 billion for Academic Year 2018/19

Figure 1: Number of students domiciled in Wales and EU (Outside UK) receiving Higher Education Support and Amount Paid / Awarded



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The amount paid out in supporting Higher Education students reached £1.0 billion in Academic Year 2018/19, up 6.2 % from £952.6 million in 2017/18. The number of students receiving funding also increased with 77,600 students paid / awarded funding, a 3.9% increase from 74,700 in Academic Year 2017/18.

Overall the amount paid / awarded in Higher Education funding has increased by 50.6% since Academic Year 2013/14 (from £671.6 million) and the number of students paid / awarded by 19.5% (from 65,000).

Following the Diamond Review, changes were made to student funding in Academic Year 2018/19. This shifted the balance of Full Time Maintenance support between Full Time Maintenance Loans and the Welsh Government Learning Grant. Full Time Tuition Fee support was also revised with Full Time Tuition Fee Grants being discontinued for new students and replaced with increased Full Time Tuition Fee Loans.

Table of Contents [\(click for hyperlink\)](#)

Introduction	3
What can you use these statistics for?	3
Things you need to know	3
Overview of Standard Student Funding Package - Academic Year 2018/19	4
Undergraduate Maintenance Loans	5
Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loans	6
Welsh Government Learning Grant	9
Postgraduate Loans	10
Disabled Students Allowance	11
Summary of Policy Changes – Academic Year 2018/19	12
Summary of Policy Changes - Academic Year 2019/20	13
Definitions	14
Additional Information	15

Introduction

This statistics publication presents figures and observations on the student support awarded to applicants and paid to students or their Higher Education Provider. Payment figures are shown for the six academic years up to and including 2018/19. Section 7 gives an early indication of emerging trends of new policy products for Academic Year 2019/20.

The publication covers applicants and students domiciled in Wales taking a designated Higher Education (HE) course at a University, Further Education (FE) College or Alternative Provider in the UK, as well as EU (Outside UK) applicants and students taking a designated course in Wales.

What can you use these statistics for?

These statistics can be used as a reference to the number of students awarded / paid and the amount awarded / paid out by the Students Loans Company for students studying in Higher Education between Academic Years 2013/14 and 2018/19.

The data used in this publication is from Student Loans Company's administrative systems. These systems only hold information on students who have applied for and / or receive funding. Due to this, these statistics cannot be used to analyse trends or to draw conclusions regarding the full UK student population.

Things you need to know

Payments vs. Awards

The main aim of this publication is to measure payments to student support recipients funded by Wales over the course of each academic year. This is effectively what is paid in regard to Maintenance Loans, Tuition Fee Loans, Postgraduate Loans and targeted support such as Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

Awards differ from payments as they refer to the amount which will be paid if the applicant's attendance is confirmed for the full academic year. As payments refer to the actual amounts received by students, they can be lower if the student is not in attendance for the full academic year, if the applicant does not attend at all, or if they do not draw down the full amount which was awarded (e.g. they drop out mid-year).

There are data reporting limitations in regard to separating out grant payments by product; for this reason the breakdowns of spend allocations of Maintenance Grants and other 'Targeted Support' products e.g. Child Care Grant etc. are reported as awards.

For all new types of support an early indication of what has been paid / awarded two months into the latest academic year, in this publication, 2019/20 is provided in Section 7 of the Tables. The number of payments / awards made will change markedly between this point and the end of the academic year as additional students apply for student support.

Rounding, Totals and Averages

All student numbers and amounts have been rounded to the nearest 100 and £100,000 unless specified otherwise. Some totals and averages are calculated from un-rounded numbers.

Overview of Full Time Undergraduate Student Funding Package Academic Year 2018/19

Figure 2: Maximum rates of Maintenance Grant, full year Maintenance Loan and Tuition Fee Loans available to Full Time Undergraduate students domiciled in Wales

Academic Year	Rates	Maximum Welsh Government Learning Grant [4]	Maximum amount of Maintenance Loan	Welsh Government Learning Grant plus Maintenance Loan [4]	Maximum Tuition Fee Loan
2018/19 (Funding arrangement introduced from 2018/19)	Elsewhere	8,100	8,000	9,000	9,250
	London	10,124	10,250	11,250	9,250
	Home	6,885	6,650	7,650	9,250
(Funding arrangement introduced from 2012/13)	Elsewhere	5,161	7,143	9,724	9,250
	London	5,161	10,007	12,588	9,250
	Home	5,161	2,529	8,110	9,250

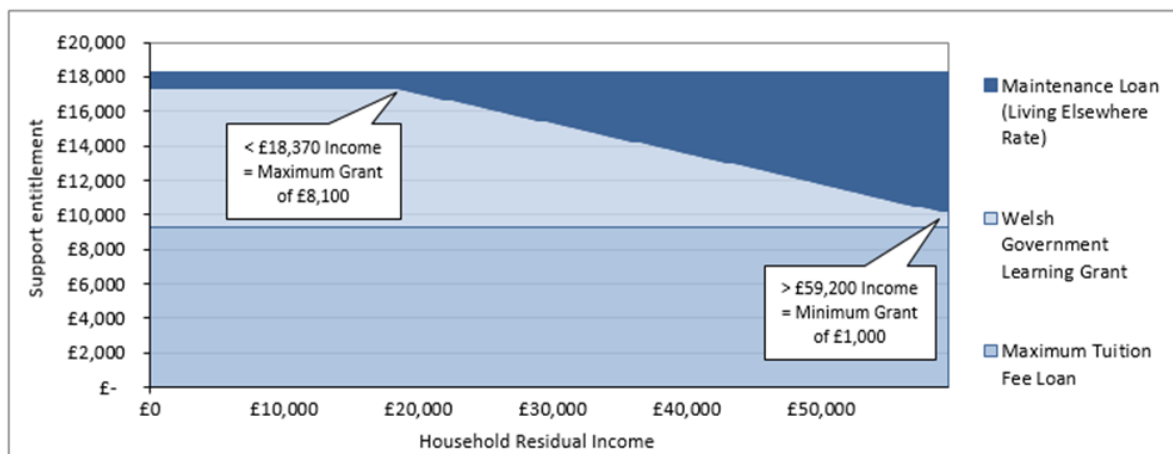
Source: Welsh Government / Student Loans Company (SLC)

Figure 3: Student Support available to Full Time students domiciled in Wales

For new students entering in 2018/19, living away from home and attending an institution outside London i.e. 'Elsewhere' rate.

Household Residual Income	Tuition Fee [6]		Maximum Tuition Fee Loan Available [6]	Maximum Welsh Government Learning Grant Available [4]	Maximum Amount of Maintenance Loan Available [7]	Maximum Total Maintenance Package [7]
	Provider in Wales	Rest of UK				
£ 18,370	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 8,100	£ 900	£ 9,000
£ 20,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 7,817	£ 1,183	£ 9,000
£ 25,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 6,947	£ 2,053	£ 9,000
£ 30,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 6,078	£ 2,922	£ 9,000
£ 35,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 5,208	£ 3,792	£ 9,000
£ 40,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 4,339	£ 4,661	£ 9,000
£ 45,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 3,469	£ 5,531	£ 9,000
£ 50,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 2,600	£ 6,400	£ 9,000
£ 55,000	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 1,730	£ 7,270	£ 9,000
£59,200 and over	£ 9,000	£ 9,250	£ 9,250	£ 1,000	£ 8,000	£ 9,000

Source: Welsh Government



[4]	For 2018/19, for income between £18,370 and £59,200, the WGLG is reduced by £1 for every complete £6.937 for students living at home, by £4.475 for students studying in London, and by £5.750 for students studying elsewhere. A student whose household residual income is £59,200 will be eligible for the minimum grant of £1,000.
[6]	The amount of Tuition Fee Loan is equivalent to the maximum fee which Higher Education Institutions can charge. In 2018/19 and 2019/20 this is £9,000 in Wales and £9,250 for the rest of UK.
[7]	Based on the 'Elsewhere' rate of loan.

Details of the amounts of loans and grants available to students are publicly available at the [Guide to Student Finance](#) section on the GOV.UK web site.

Undergraduate Maintenance Loans

An Undergraduate Maintenance Loan is funding to help with day-to-day costs, such as rent or food, whilst studying. These loans are available to those studying an eligible Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Training or Postgraduate Certificate of Education course, at an eligible Higher Education Provider on a Full or Part Time basis. The amount awarded is dependent on household residual income.

Amount paid in Full Time Maintenance Loans decreases, offset by an increase in Welsh Government Learning Grant payments

Figure 4: Number of students domiciled in Wales receiving Full Time Maintenance Loans and Amount Paid

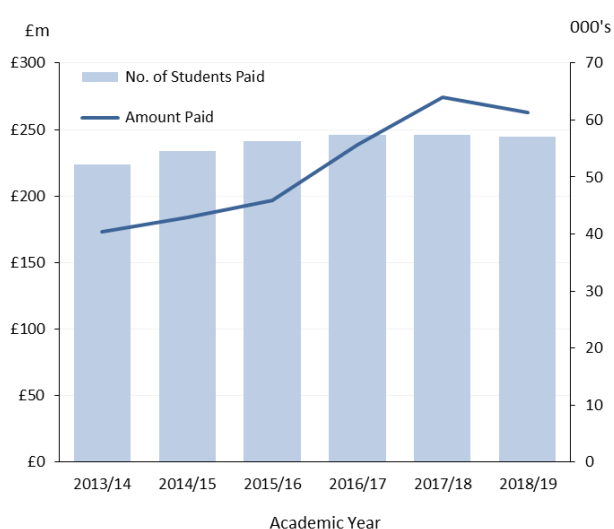
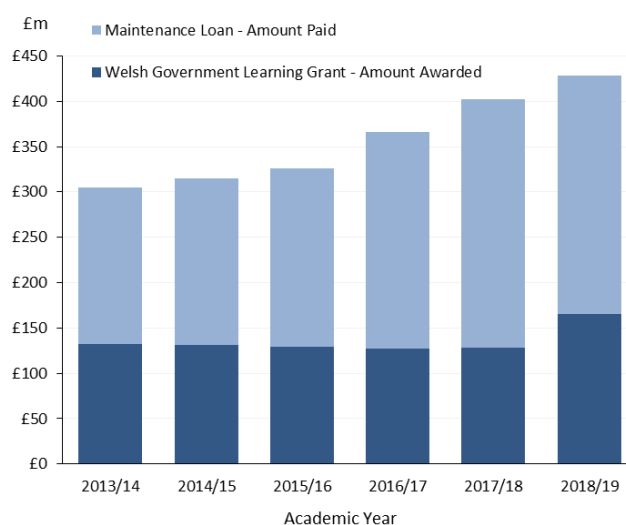


Figure 5: Amount Paid in Full Time Maintenance Loans Vs. Amount Awarded in Full Time Welsh Government Learning Grant



Academic Year 2018/19 saw a change in trend for Undergraduate Maintenance Loan payments. Payments decreased 4.1% on the previous year, whereas the number of students taking out Maintenance Loans remained relatively stable (-0.6%). Maintenance Loans paid out to Welsh domiciled students reduced from £274.0 million in Academic Year 2017/18 to £262.9 million in 2018/19.

This is predominantly as a result of a policy change in 2018/19 following the Diamond Review of Welsh student funding which saw reduced Maintenance Loan amounts, offset by increased Welsh Government Learning Grants (WGLG). This is evident in the amount awarded in WGLG in 2018/19 being 29.7% higher than that in the previous academic year.

Overall Maintenance Loan payments have increased by 52.1% since 2013/14, peaking in 2017/18. The number of students taking out a Maintenance Loan has increased by 9.5% since Academic Year 2013/14.

New Part Time Maintenance Loans introduced in Academic Year 2018/19

Maintenance Loans for Part Time Higher Education students were introduced for new students domiciled in Wales. Combined with Part Time Welsh Government Learning Grants this made up the post-2018/19 maintenance package for Welsh Part Time students, up to a maximum of £4,987.50.

In Academic Year 2018/19, 3,000 Part Time students received a Maintenance Loan, totalling £4.2 million.

Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loans

An Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan covers the cost of the tuition fees charged by the university or college. These loans are available to those studying an eligible Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Training or Postgraduate Certificate of Education course, at an eligible Higher Education Provider on a Full or Part Time basis. Tuition Fee Loans are not dependent on household residual income.

Amount paid in Full Time Tuition Fee loans increase offset by a decrease in Tuition Fee Grant payments

Figure 6: Number of students domiciled in Wales and EU (Outside UK) receiving Full Time Tuition Fee Loans and Amount Paid

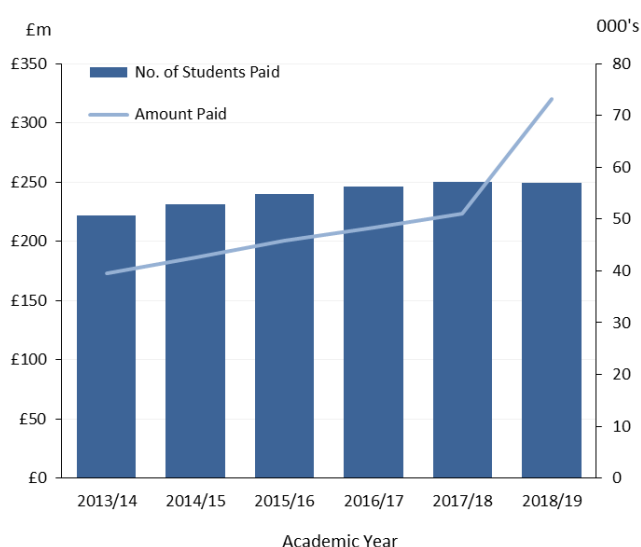
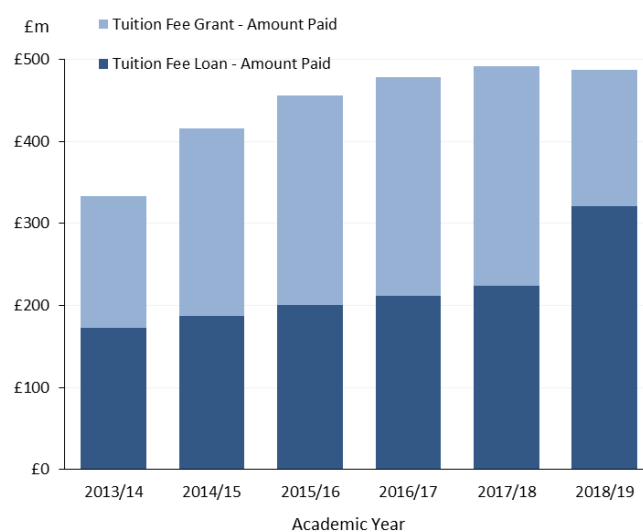


Figure 7: Amount Paid in Full Time Tuition Fee Support split by Tuition Fee Loan and Tuition Fee Grant



In Academic Year 2018/19 the total amount of Full Time Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan payments increased by 43.3% from £223.6 million in 2017/18 to £320.5 million. This is as a direct result of Tuition Fee Grants being discontinued for new students.

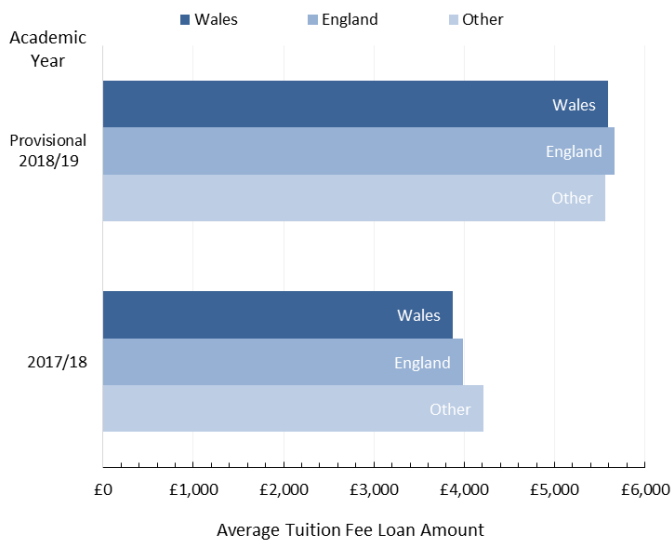
The actual amount paid out in Tuition Fee support to Higher Education providers in regard to Full Time courses remains constant, however this is now made up of a higher percentage of loans than in previous academic years.

The number of students receiving Tuition Fee Loans remain relatively stable with a slight decrease of 50 to 57,000 compared to Academic Year 2017/18. Overall the number of students taking out Full Time Tuition Fee Loans has risen 12.8% from 2013/14.

Since Academic Year 2013/14, payments in regard to Full Time Tuition Fee Loans has increased by 85.7% from £172.6 million.

Average amounts paid in Tuition Fee Loans increase across all countries of study

Figure 8: Average Full Time Tuition Fee Loans funded by Student Finance Wales by Country of study



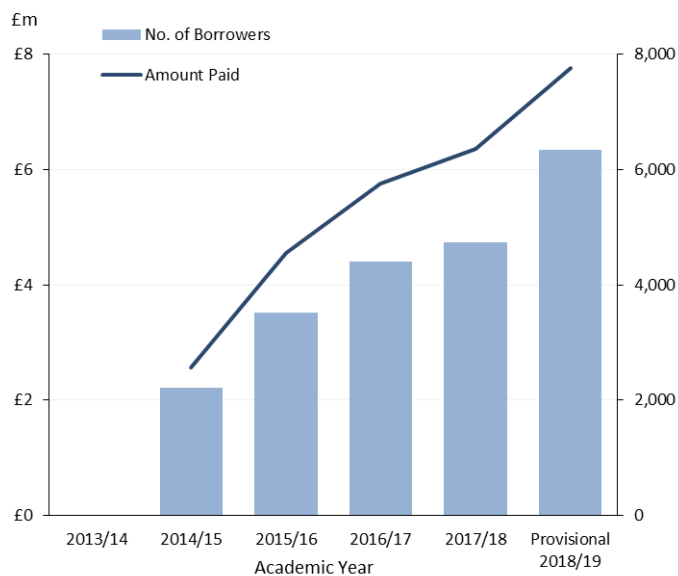
The average amount paid in Full Time Undergraduate Tuition Fee Loans differs dependent on the country and type of provider that the student chooses to study in. This is due to differing amounts that each country / provider type in the UK charge for Tuition Fees.

The average amounts across all countries of study increased from £3,920 in Academic Year 2017/18 to £5,620. This is likely to be attributed to the increase in Tuition Fee Loans as a direct result of the removal of Tuition Fee Grants in Academic Year 2018/19.

In Academic Year 2018/19, the highest average Tuition Fee Loan was paid to students studying in England, amounting to £5,660 for the year.

Part Time Tuition Fee Loan uptake continues to increase

Figure 9: Number of students domiciled in Wales and EU (Outside UK) receiving Part Time Tuition Fee Loans and Amount Paid



The number of students accessing Part Time Tuition Fee Loans have increased by 33.8% in comparison to Academic Year 2017/18.

In Academic Year 2018/19, 6,300 Part Time students received a Tuition Fee Loan compared to 4,700 in the previous year. The total amount paid out totalled £7.8 million, up 22.1% on the previous year. This could be partially attributed to the decrease in access to Part Time Tuition Fee Grants.

The overall uptake in Part Time Tuition Fee Loans has near trebled since their introduction in Academic Year 2014/15.

Welsh Government Learning Grant

The Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) is funding to help with day-to-day costs, such as rent or food, whilst studying. WGLG's are available to both Full Time and Part Time Higher Education students studying at an eligible Higher Education Provider and are studying an eligible Undergraduate, Initial Teacher Training or Postgraduate Certificate of Education. The amount awarded is dependent on household residual income and is a non-repayable grant. Students can take both WGLG and a Maintenance Loan as a combined maintenance package to cover living expenses.

Welsh Government Learning Grant payments for Full Time students increases as every student is awarded £1,000 regardless of household residual income

Figure 10: Number of students domiciled in Wales receiving Full Time Welsh Government Learning Grant and Amount Paid

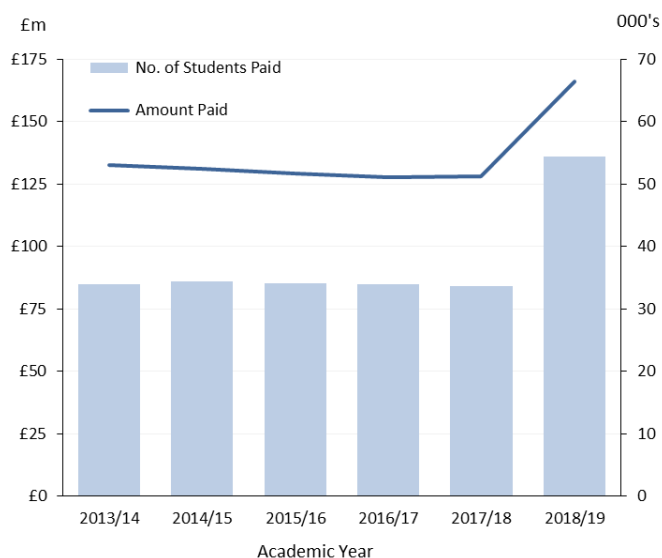
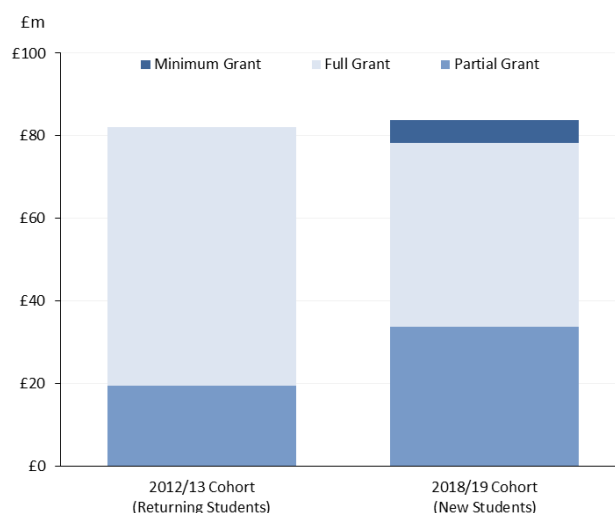


Figure 11: Amount paid in Welsh Government Learning Grant in Academic Year 2018/19 by Level of Grant Support



As a result of the Diamond Review of Welsh student funding, a minimum amount of £1,000 in WGLG was awarded to every new Full Time student regardless of their household residual income. As a result, WGLG payments have increased by 29.7% reaching £165.9 million in 2018/19. The number of students in receipt of WGLG payments has risen from 33,700 to 54,400 also due to the minimum award for each student being implemented. The new minimum Grant bracket amounted to £5.6 million, 6.6% of the amount paid out for the 2018/19 cohort of students (new students in 2018/19) and 3.3% of all students paid.

Welsh Government Learning Grant introduced in 2018/19 for Part Time students

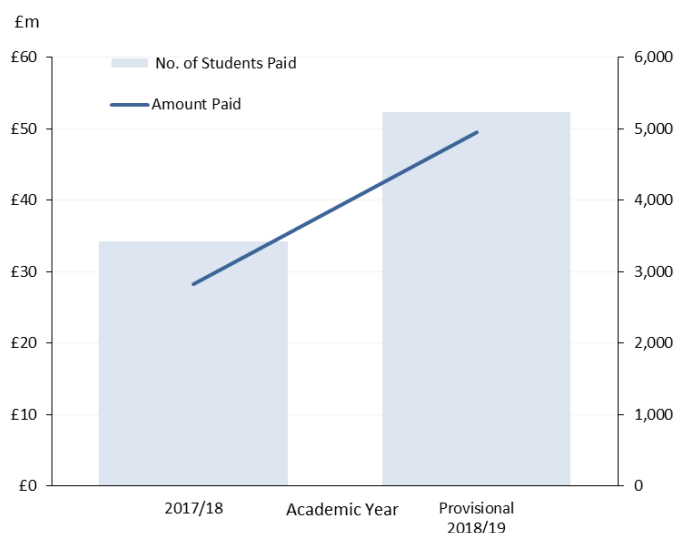
Welsh Government Learning Grants (WGLG) for Higher Education Part Time students were introduced for new students domiciled in Wales. A maximum amount a student can be awarded in Part Time WGLG is £4,500 and is combined with Part Time Maintenance Loans to a maximum maintenance support offering of £4,987.50. The amount awarded is dependent on household residual income and course intensity. In Academic Year 2018/19, 4,500 students were awarded Part Time WGLG amounting to £10.0 million. 50.2% of the students awarded WGLG received the full entitlement of £4,500.

Postgraduate Loans

A Postgraduate Master's or Doctoral Loan is funding to help with course and living costs whilst studying an eligible postgraduate level course. They are paid directly to the student and are not based on their income or the residual income of their household. Students studying either a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or an Initial Teacher Training course are not eligible for Postgraduate funding, they can alternatively apply for Undergraduate finance.

Postgraduate Master's Loan numbers increase following introduction in 2017/18

Figure 12: Number of students domiciled in Wales and EU (Outside UK) receiving Postgraduate Master's Loans and Amount Paid



The number of Postgraduate Master's loans issued in Academic Year 2018/19 was 52.6% higher than in the previous year – reaching 5,200.

It is typical for new products to show this level uplift in their second year, as they increase in popularity.

The amount paid out was 75.3% greater than in Academic Year 2017/18 – an increase of £21.3 million.

A 34.2% rise was evident within EU (Outside UK) domiciled students, increasing their borrower numbers to 200. Payments increased by 64.2% to £2.3 million.

New Postgraduate Doctoral Loans introduced in 2018/19

In Academic Year 2018/19, Postgraduate Doctoral Loans were made available to both Wales and EU (Outside EU) domiciled students who commenced an eligible doctoral degree. Students must be undertaking a full Level 8 Doctoral course which must last between 3 and 8 academic years

The loan support is up to a maximum of £25,000 for new students, however, the capped amount per academic year is £10,609 which means that students who wait until their final year to apply will not receive the full amount available. These loans are non-means tested, paid directly to the student and can be used for both tuition and / or maintenance costs.

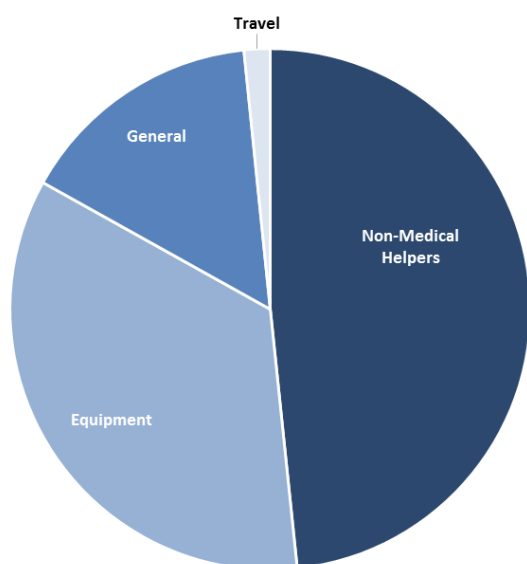
Provisional first year figures indicate that by 31st August 2019, 137 students were in receipt of such loans, at an average of £5,820 per student. This amounted to £797,200 being paid out in total for Academic Year 2018/19.

Disabled Students Allowance

Disabled Students Allowances help pay for extra costs a student might incur as a direct result of their disability. This also includes long-term health conditions such as mental-health illnesses, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia etc. The individuals' condition must meet the definition of a disability under the Equality Act 2010. Disabled Students' Allowances does not usually have to be repaid, unless the student leaves their course early.

Over half of Undergraduate Disabled Students Allowance spend attributed to Non-Medical Helpers in Academic Year 2017/18

Figure 13: Amount Paid in Full & Part Time Disabled Students Allowance by Category Academic Year 2017/18



'Non-Medical Helpers' allowance is one of the four categories of Disabled Student Allowance (DSA). It is used to help pay for support workers such as British Sign Language interpreters, mobility trainers etc. Helpers can provide course-specific assistance with library support, typists, readers etc.

This category accounted for over half (58.7%) of the overall Full and Part Time Undergraduate DSA spend in Academic Year 2017/18. Claims amounted to £5.0 million of the total amount of £8.4 million paid out.

The number of students claiming Non-Medical Helpers allowance reached 2,840 in 2017/18, 77.8% of the 3,650 claiming DSA in that academic year.

As at the 31st August 2019, a total of £8.7 million has been paid for Academic 2018/19 for both Full and Part Time students. This is 11.3% higher than at the same point in 2017/18.

Generally, Disabled Students Allowances are paid direct to the suppliers of equipment and services covered by the allowance although students may receive some funding paid directly to them, depending on their circumstances.

The vast majority are paid to suppliers once Student Loans Company receives the invoices for equipment or services. Invoices continue to be received well after the end of the academic year which is why we quote figures a year later.

Also, the majority of DSA applications are received after the term starts as many students do not become aware that they are entitled to support until they have started their course.

Summary of Policy Changes – Academic Year 2018/19

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loan** – Full time students commencing their courses in Higher Education on or after 1 August 2018 did not receive a grant towards their course fees. Students who normally live in Wales and study on a designated course at a Public Provider had access to a non-means tested Tuition Fee Loan to cover the full fee charged. The maximum fee which Higher Education Institutions can charge in Academic Year 2018/19 is £9,000 (Wales) or £9,250 (rest of UK).
- **Full Time Maintenance Package** – Students commencing their courses on or after 1 August 2018 were entitled to support for living costs, by means of a Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG) and a loan. All full-time students eligible for the full maintenance package were entitled to a non-means tested minimum level of £1,000 of WGLG. Those with a household residual income of £59,200 or above receive the minimum. The level of further grants and loans are dependent on where the student is living and studying, and their household residual income e.g. 'Elsewhere' rate: The maximum WGLG available is £8,100. This reduces with household residual income down to the minimum £1,000. The balance to the maximum package amount of £9,000 can be taken as a loan.
- **Part Time Tuition Fee Loan** - New part time students who started a course on or after 1 August 2018 were eligible to apply for a loan of £2,625 for study at an institution in Wales (or at the Open University) or up to £6,935 for study elsewhere in the UK. Part time students were no longer eligible for a Course Grant.
- **Part Time Maintenance Package** – In Academic Year 2018/19, a new package of support for living costs for Part Time Undergraduates was made available to eligible students starting courses on or after 1 August 2018. All eligible students were entitled to the same package of Grant and Loan support as Full Time, pro-rated according to their intensity of study. The intensity of study will be based on the number of credits that the student intends to complete in a given academic year. Students will be supported for no more than four times the length of a full time equivalent course, capped at 16-years maximum.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** – No changes since Academic Year 2017/18:
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance was maintained at £21,181, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,332, the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,785.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance was maintained at £15,885, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,332 and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,338.
 - The maximum Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) for Postgraduate courses remained at £10,590.
- **Postgraduate Master's Loan** - The maximum loan available for the duration of the course was increased to £13,000 for eligible students starting on or after 1 August 2018.
- **Postgraduate Doctoral** - New for Academic Year 2018/19. Students who started an eligible Doctoral course in 2018/19 could apply for up to £25,000 during their Postgraduate Doctoral course. They can apply in any year of their course, but they may not receive the maximum loan amount if they apply after their first year.

Changes in policy occurring in 2017/18 and in previous years can be found on our gov.uk [statistics page](#).

Summary of Policy Changes – Academic Year 2019/20

- **Full Time Maintenance Loans** – Maximum loans for living costs for new and continuing Full Time students who started their courses on or after 1 August 2019 increased in Academic Year 2018/19. For those students living away from home and studying outside London the loan was increased to £8,225, for students living away from home and studying in London to £10,530 and for students living at home to £6,840.
- **Part Time Maintenance Loans** - Loans for living costs for new and continuing full time students were introduced for those starting their courses on or after 1 August 2019. All eligible students were entitled to the same package of Grant and Loan support, pro-rated according to their intensity of study.
 - Students living at home were entitled to a maximum amount of £7,840. The maximum grant is £6,885. The balance to the maximum amount of £7,840 could have been taken as loan.
 - Students studying away from home, in London, were entitled to a maximum amount of £11,530. The maximum grant is £10,124. The balance to the maximum amount of £11,530 could have been taken as loan.
 - Students studying away from home, outside London, are entitled to a maximum amount of £9,225. The maximum grant is £8,100. The balance to the maximum amount of £9,225 could have been taken as loan.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** – Increase on Academic Year 2018/19.
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £22,472, the Specialist Equipment Allowance to £5,657, and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) to £1,894.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £16,853, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,657 and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,420.
 - The maximum Disabled Students Allowance for those on Postgraduate courses increased to £20,000.
- **Postgraduate Master's** - From 1 August 2019, Postgraduate students are entitled to a combination of loan and grant. The grant element is means-tested, with the appropriate amount of loan available up to the maximum total support level. Up to £17,000 as a combination of loan and grant for the duration of the course is available.
- **Postgraduate Doctoral** – No change from Academic Year 2018/19. A maximum of £25,000 was available for the duration of the Doctoral course.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Alternative Provider	An Alternative Provider is any provider of Higher Education (HE) courses which is not in direct receipt of recurrent funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (OfS) or from equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations; or does not receive direct recurrent public funding (for example, from a local authority, or from the Secretary of State for Education); and is not a further education college. Only providers with courses designated for student support are included in the statistics.
Applicant	This is a person applying for student support. Not all applicants take up a place. Applicants become students once they take up a place and the Student Loans Company has received a confirmation of their attendance.
Award	If an applicant for student finance is assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria as stipulated within the student finance regulations then they will be awarded student support. Awards will be paid on condition that the applicant subsequently attends the Higher Education (HE) Provider at which point they will be considered a student and payments will be released according to the payment schedule for the support types awarded.
Country of Study	The country in which the Higher Education (HE) Provider is located and where which the applicant intends to / is studying at.
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)	Disabled Students' Allowances help pay for extra costs a student might incur as a direct result of their disability. This also includes long-term health conditions such as mental-health illnesses, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia etc.
Domiciled	The country in which the applicant would normally reside in the three years prior to the start of the course. This publication covers those students domiciled in Wales who study anywhere in the UK and EU (Outside UK) students studying in Wales.
Estimated Eligible Population	The numbers of students that are eligible to apply for student finance including those who do not apply. Figures for the estimated eligible population are supplied by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government use data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and other sources with the closest approximation of eligibility criteria available from those sources.
Entry Cohort	Grouping of applicants according to the Education (Student Support) Regulations against which the applicant was assessed for support. Student finance applicants are generally covered by transitional protection which means they continue to be assessed against the regulations in place for their first year of study, but this is not always the case.
Final Figures	The final position refers to statistics in a steady state. Final figures are not expected to change significantly and should represent the final outcome.
Full Time	This refers to the mode of study for which student support is being paid, primarily to undergraduate students. For the purposes of this publication, the full time data also includes part time and flexible ITT students who started their courses before 2010/11, as these students were also eligible for full time student support. Students starting the same courses after 2010/11 are not included.

Term	Definition
Full Year Maintenance Loan	The amount of Maintenance Loan available to students varies between those studying in their final year and those studying in an earlier year of their course. Students in their final year will be entitled to a reduced amount to reflect the reduced length of time in attendance at their university over which maintenance support is required
Higher Education Provider	For the purpose of this publication it is an organisation designated for student support and can include Universities which receive the bulk of their funding from public sources, Further Education Colleges, and Alternative Providers.
Household Residual Income	This is the income associated with the household where the applicant normally resides. It comprises of the taxable earned and unearned incomes of the applicant or those of the applicant's parents' minus any allowable deductions.
Level of Support	Identifies if the applicant was awarded the full level of means tested grant, the partial level or no grant at all.
Maintenance Loan Rate	Applicants are entitled to a different amount of Maintenance Loans depending on their term-time residence. Rates differ for applicants living at home, in London or elsewhere (excluding London).
Other Targeted Support	These are grants and allowances provided to students meeting specific circumstances. Targeted support includes Travel Grant, Parental Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant and Adult Dependents Grant.
Provisional Figures	These are figures based on the status of applications processed by end-October (two months into the academic year).
Public Provider	A Public Provider is any provider of Higher Education (HE) courses which is in direct receipt of recurrent funding from OfS or from equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations; or in receipt of direct recurrent public funding (for example, from a local authority, or from the Secretary of State for Education); or is a further education college. Only providers with courses designated for student support are included in the statistics.
Student	For the purpose of this publication, an applicant for student support becomes a student once the Student Loans Company has received confirmation that the person is attending a course with a Higher Education (HE) Provider. Not all applicants take up a place.
Student Support Available	This is the arrangement available at the time of the application for support. It includes the range of support available, the eligibility rules and the income thresholds.
Take-up rate	The rate of which the eligible population chooses to apply for a Maintenance Loan.

Additional Information

Data Sources

This publication uses data from Student Loans Company (SLC) administrative systems. For details of the administrative data sources used in our publications see the [Statement of Administrative Sources](#).

Data Quality

Student Loans Company has published the Quality Guidelines that it follows. As per those guidelines a Quality Plan is produced for each publication. The Quality Plan stipulates two stages of Quality Assurance. Data is extracted from the administrative systems then reviewed using a standard Quality Assurance checklist. The statistical tables created using that data are quality assured using the Statistical Quality guidelines. See our [Quality Guidelines](#) for further information.

Related Statistics Publications

Student Loans Company publish statistics on Higher Education Funding for England and Northern Ireland as part of the same series this publication belongs to. These are published at the same time as part of the series [Student Support for Higher Education](#).

Student Loans Company also publish statistics on the repayment of Student Loans for higher education in the series Student Loans in Wales. The [latest release](#) of this series was published on the 13 June 2019 covering Tax Year 2018-19.

The Student Awards Agency for Scotland publish details of Higher Education funding in Scotland in their publication Higher Education Student Support in Scotland. The [latest release](#) of this series was published in 29 October 2019 covering Academic Session 2018/19.

National Statistics

This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

This publication series (publications for England, Wales & Northern Ireland) was awarded National Statistics status in October 2011 following a [full assessment](#) against their Code of Practice.

Since the assessments by the Office for Statistics Regulation we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made a number of improvements including the following:

- Supplementary tables added giving payments breakdown by HE Provider within Provider Type - England only
- Part Time and Postgraduate DSA added – All domiciles
- Additional tables added to show DSA payments breakdown by Type – All domiciles
- Postgraduate Loans added – England and Wales
- Methodology for calculating take-up % for Alternative Providers refined – England only
- Sections restructured, bringing Loans more to the fore and clearly separating out Full Time Undergraduate, Part Time Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. The 'Early In Year' focus changed to actual students and amounts paid rather, than applications and amounts awarded
- Introduced cross-country comparison of average Maintenance Loan paid