

# Higher Education Policy Changes in Wales - AY 2019/20

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loan** – No change to Academic Year 2018/19. Full time students who normally live in Wales and study on a designated course 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 2019/20 is £9,000 (Wales) or £9,250 (rest of UK).
- **Full Time Maintenance Loans** – Increase on Academic Year 2018/19. For those students living away from home and studying outside London the basic 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.
- **Full Time Maintenance Package** – Increase on Academic Year 2018/19. Students commencing their courses on or after 1 August 2019 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 reduces based on their household residual income above £18,370 e.g.: -
  - Students living at home are entitled to a maximum package of of £7,840. The maximum grant is £6,885. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance of the maximum amount of £7,840 can be taken as loan.
  - Students studying away from home, in London, are entitled to a maximum package of £11,530. The maximum grant is £10,124. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £11,530 can be taken as loan.
  - Students studying away from home, outside London (Elsewhere rate), are entitled to a maximum package of £9,225. The maximum grant is £8,100. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £9,225 can be taken as loan.
- **Part Time Tuition Fee Loan** – No change to Academic Year 2018/19. New part time students who started a course on or after 1 August 2019 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 Maintenance Package** – Increase on Academic Year 2018/19. Eligible students starting courses on or after 1 August 2020 were entitled to the same package of Grant and Loan support as Full Time, pro-rated according to their intensity of study (max. 75%). The intensity of study will be based on the number of credits that the student intends to complete in a given academic year. Therefore, the maximum amount of loan and grant combined available to part-time students is 75 per cent of £6,815, which is £5,111.25.
- **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 Masters** - From 1 August 2019, new Master's students are entitled to a combination of loan and grant. The grant element is means-tested to a maximum contribution of £6,885 (including the £1,000 universal element, available to all students). In addition to the grant, a non-means-tested loan is available to provide total support (grant plus loan) of up to £17,000. This amount is for the duration of the course. For continuing post-graduate students, who started their courses in AY 2017/18 or 2018/19, their existing arrangements will continue.
- **Postgraduate Doctoral** – No change from Academic Year 2018/19. A maximum loan of £25,000 was available for the duration of the Doctoral course.