

Higher Education Policy Changes in Northern Ireland

Academic Year 2020/21

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loan** – In Academic Year 2020/21, loans were available to new Full-Time students studying at a Northern Ireland Provider increased to £4,395. For those studying at a Provider elsewhere in the UK, the maximum loan was maintained at £9,250.
- **Full Time Maintenance Loan** – No change to Academic Year 2019/20. The maximum loan for living costs for students living away from home and studying outside London was maintained at £4,840, for students living away from home and studying in London to £6,780 and for students living at home to £3,750.
- **Full Time Maintenance Package** – No change to Academic Year 2019/20. Students commencing their courses on or after 1 August 2020 were entitled to support for living costs, by means of a Maintenance Grant and a loan. Full-time students, with a household residual income of £41,540 or less are eligible to apply for the means tested grant of up to £3,475. 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 £19,203 e.g.: -
 - Students living at home are entitled to a maximum package of £5,338. The maximum grant is £3,475. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance of the maximum amount of £3,750 can be taken as loan.
 - Students studying away from home, in London, are entitled to a maximum package of £8,368. The maximum grant is £3,475. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £6,780 can be taken as loan.
 - Students studying away from home, outside London (Elsewhere rate), are entitled to a maximum package of £6,428. The maximum grant is £3,475. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £4,840 can be taken as loan.
- **Part Time Tuition Fee Loan** – Increased on Academic Year 2019/20. In Academic Year 2020/21, Part Time students were eligible to apply for a non-means tested fee loan of up to £3,296.25.
- **Part Time Course Grant** - No change from Academic Year 2019/20. In Academic Year 2020/21 Part-time students are eligible for a grant of up to £265 for books, travel and other expenditure relating to their course. This grant is income assessed and available to those up to a maximum residual income of £28,068.
- **Part Time Fee Grant** – No change from Academic Year 2018/19. Eligible students starting courses on or after 1 August 2019 were entitled to apply for a means-tested fee grant up to a maximum of £1,230, pro-rated according to their intensity of study. This grant is income assessed and available to those up to a maximum residual income of £28,068. The intensity of study will be based on the number of credits that the student intends to complete in a given academic year.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** – No change from Academic Year 2019/20.
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, Non-Medical Helper Allowance remained at £20,938, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,266, and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,759.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance remained at £15,703, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,266 and the allowance for other

disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,319.

- The maximum Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) for those on Postgraduate courses remained at £10,469.

- **Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan** – No change from Academic Year 2019/120. Maximum loans for new students starting Postgraduate Master’s courses remained at £5,500 per course.

Changes in policy occurring in previous years can be found on our [statistics page](#).