

Higher Education Policy Changes in Wales - AY 2020/21

- **Full Time Tuition Fee Loan** – No change to Academic Year 2019/20. 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 Package** – Increase on 2019/20. Students commencing their courses on or after 1 August 2020 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 amount of maintenance support of £8,335. The maximum grant is £6,885. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance of the maximum amount of £8,335.
 - Students studying away from home, in London, are entitled to a maximum package of £12,260. The maximum grant is £10,124. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £12,260 can be taken as loan.
 - Students studying away from home, outside London (Elsewhere rate), are entitled to a maximum package of £9,810. The maximum grant is £8,100. This is reduced, income-dependent to where the balance to the maximum amount of £9,810 can be taken as loan.
- **Part Time Tuition Fee Loan** – No change to Academic Year 2019/20. New part time students who started a course on or after 1 August 2020 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** – Increase on Academic Year 2019/20. 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 £7,245, which is £5,433.75.
- **Disabled Students Allowance** – Increase on Academic Year 2019/20.
 - For Full Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £23,258, the Specialist Equipment Allowance to £5,849, and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) to £1,954.
 - For Part Time Undergraduate students, the Non-Medical Helper Allowance increased to £17,443, the Specialist Equipment Allowance at £5,849 and the allowance for other disability related expenditure (General Allowance) at £1,465.
 - The maximum Disabled Students Allowance for those on Postgraduate courses increased to £20,580.
- **Postgraduate Master's** – Increase in loan amount aspect-only on Academic Year 2019/20. 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 £17,489 as a

combination of loan and grant for the duration of the course is available. Existing arrangements will continue for continuing postgraduate students who started their courses in AY 2017/18, 2018/19 or 2019/20.

- **Postgraduate Doctoral** – Increase on Academic Year 2019/20. A maximum of £26,445 loan was available for the duration of the Doctoral course.