



To:

Local Authorities in Wales
(For the attention of Student Finance Officers)
Higher Education Institutions in Wales providing designated
Higher Education courses
Further Education Institutions in Wales providing designated
Higher Education courses
The Student Loans Company
UCAS
The Open University in Wales
Student Finance Wales Stakeholder Group
NUS Wales
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

January 2013

Dear Colleague

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14:

THE EDUCATION (STUDENT SUPPORT) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2012

The Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2012 that will govern higher education student support for academic year ('AY') 2013/14 came into force on 4 January 2013.

Electronic copies of The Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2012 (2012 No. 3097 (W313)) will shortly be available to download from the OPSI website at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2012/3097/contents/made>

They are also available on the National Assembly for Wales website at <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=241689&ds=12/2012>

Those organisations needing paper copies of the Regulations and Explanatory Memorandum should phone, email or write to the Stationery Office (please see contact details below).



ENQUIRIES

If you have any queries about the Student Support Regulations or this Information Notice, please contact, in the first instance, the Higher Education Division, Welsh Government - email studentfinancedivision@wales.gsi.gov.uk

ORDERING COPIES OF THE STUDENT SUPPORT REGULATIONS

The Regulations can be ordered from the Stationery Office at:

TSO Orders/ Post Cash Dept
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN

Telephone: 0870 600 5522

Email: customer.services@tso.co.uk



2013/14 Student Support Regulations: summary of changes

Basic student support package for 2013/14

New full-time students who are ordinarily resident in Wales will, subject to eligibility be entitled to the following package of student support for courses from 1 September 2013:

- a non means-tested tuition fee loan up to £3,575;
- a non means-tested tuition fee grant to cover the difference between the maximum tuition fee loan available and the tuition fee actually charged by the UK university (a maximum grant of £5,425 if a tuition fee of £9,000 is charged);
- a means-tested Assembly Learning Grant (maintenance grant) of up to £5,161 depending on household income ;
- a means tested maintenance loan (up to £3,987 if living at parents' home, up to £5,150 if living away from parents' home, and up to £7,215 if studying in London) and,
- a partial cancellation of maintenance loan of up to £1,500 once repayment has begun.

Please note there is not a separate definition of a 2013 cohort student within the Regulations. A 2012 cohort student (as defined within the Regulations) is a new system eligible student who begins the present course on or after 1 September 2012 and the relevant provisions will continue to apply to students who begin their course on or after 1 September 2013.

Summary of technical changes

Distance Learners (Continued entitlement to support for distance learners moving outside Wales during their course)

Since the academic year 2012/13 full-time distance learner students have been entitled to apply for tuition fee support mirroring that available to other full-time students:- that is a tuition fee grant and loan. The regulations have been amended to confirm that if a distance learning student moves outside Wales after the first day of their course, they will continue to be funded by Student Finance Wales. The Secretary of State, through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in England has reciprocated, meaning that students ordinarily resident in England who move to Wales during their course will continue to be dealt with by Student Finance England (SFE) for the duration of that course.

NHS Bodies - Change in the title of the NHS bodies at which students can undertake work placements

As a result of the UK Government's reforms to the NHS in England (via the Health and Social Care Act 2012), the NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the Health and Social Care Information Centre, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, have been added to the list of employers/bodies included in the Regulations which take students on for 'unpaid service'. This will enable the students to access support whilst on unpaid service in the new NHS bodies. The Commissioning Boards and CCGs will replace the Strategic



Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in England, but initially both types of organisations may co-exist.

Part-time support

There will be no changes to part-time support in 2013/14 for Welsh part-time students.

