

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE:  
2012/13: EXISTING ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS AND THE NEW  
STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS**

TO:  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDING DESIGNATED HIGHER EDUCATION  
COURSES  
DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS  
THE STUDENT LOANS COMPANY

SSIN  
August 2011

Dear Colleague

**Existing Architecture Students and the New Student Support Arrangements**

This note provides details of how the introduction of the new student support arrangements from 1 September 2012 will apply to existing architecture students. The student support policy for architecture students has not changed in light of the Browne review and therefore the 'Revised Guidance on Architecture' which was attached to SSIN 07/09 remains unchanged.

The following paragraphs clarify how students that start their Part 1 course before 1 September 2012 should be treated.

For the purpose of student support, full-time Part 1 and Part 2 architecture courses are usually treated as a single course.

Any full-time student that starts their Part 1 course before 1 September 2012 will be treated as an existing student for the duration of the single course. They will not be subject to the new student support arrangements and the maximum tuition fee at publicly funded institutions in 2012/13 will be £3,465. Eligible students will be able to apply for a tuition fee loan of up to £3,465 and the maintenance package will be the same as for other continuing students.

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The Part 2 course must be an undergraduate level course<sup>1</sup> and we would generally expect the break taken between Part 1 and Part 2 to be no more than three academic years. For example, a student who completes Part 1 in July 2011 and takes a break of three academic years and starts Part 2 in September 2014 would usually be treated as on a single course.

These arrangements will apply to full-time students regardless of whether they study Part 1 and Part 2 at the same or different institutions.

It should be noted that under the current Regulations the single course provision only applies where both Parts are undertaken on a full time basis. Therefore if a student studies Part 1 on a full-time basis and then takes Part 2 on a part-time basis they will not be eligible for any student support for Part 2.

The Regulations do not require a student to declare, before starting or completing Part 1, his intention to attend both Parts 1 and 2 in order for the two Parts to be treated as a single course. However, establishing the student's intentions at the outset or during Part 1 may assist SLC in determining how to treat a student who does not follow the typical pattern of study.

Finally Part 3 of the architecture course does not attract student support as it is of a standard higher than a first degree.

## **ENQUIRIES**

If you have any queries about the Student Support Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team - telephone 0845 6020583; email: [SSIN\\_queries@slc.co.uk](mailto:SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk)

<sup>1</sup>

Note: Part 2 of the course will attract support even if the student is additionally awarded a postgraduate degree (such as an MArch) as long as the content of the course is undergraduate level and undergraduate level fees are charged.