STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE:

2012/13: STUDENT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW STUDENTS STARTING COURSES OF INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING FROM SEPTEMBER 2012.

TO:

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ENGLAND

DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

THE STUDENT LOANS COMPANY

SSIN 04/12

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STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS STARTING COURSES OF INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING IN 2012/13

Dear Colleague,

Please find below information on the main student support package available for new students living in England who start courses of initial teacher training (ITT) from September 2012 at English HEIs.

a) Introduction.

From 1 September 2012, new students starting full-time postgraduate or equivalent initial teacher training courses (e.g. full-time PGCE and DTLLS courses) will be eligible for the same student support package as new full-time undergraduate students, including a tuition loan of up to £9,000, an increased fully means-tested Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant of up to £3,250, and an increased loan for living costs.

New students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses on or after 1 September 2012 will, for the first time, be eligible to apply for up-front tuition loans of up to £6,750. Part-time courses will not attract Maintenance Grants or loans for living costs.

b) Defining full and part-time Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses of Initial Teacher Training.

Full-time Undergraduate Courses

Designated full-time undergraduate ITT courses (e.g. BEd courses) starting on or after 1 September 2012 will attract the full-time student support package available for other full-time undergraduate courses.

Part-time Undergraduate Courses

Designated part-time undergraduate ITT courses (e.g. BEd courses) starting on or after 1 September 2012 will attract the part-time student support package available for other part-time undergraduate courses, if the intensity of study is at least 25% of an equivalent full-time course (i) over the duration of the part-time course and (ii) for each academic year of the course.

Full-time Postgraduate and Equivalent Courses

Designated full-time PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent courses starting on or after 1st September 2012 must meet the following criteria in order to attract the full-time student support package:

1) They are full-time courses of at least one academic year in length but not more than two academic years in length.

2) The period of study during each academic year is at least 300 hours. (We would consider 30 hours to be the equivalent of one week.)

3) They are not described by HEIs as flexible PGCE courses.

We would consider that the following may qualify as periods of study which are explicitly part of the course:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Taught sessions and tutorials
- Directed study at or through the college/HEI
- Teaching practice (whether observed or not)
- Assessment of peers' teaching at the college/HEI or a study centre
- Course related meetings with mentors and contact with tutors
- Course related learning sets/groups
- Development of personal development plans in college/HEI
- Literacy, numeracy and ICT skills development, including requirements of the national minimum core.
- Periods between them on the same day

Examples of courses attracting the full-time tuition and living costs support package: 1 year full-time PGCE courses, 1 year full-time 'pre-service' Diploma

in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) courses. ***All flexible PGCE courses starting on or after 1 September 2012, attract the part-time student support package.***

New full-time students already holding a qualification equivalent or higher in level than their PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent course can apply for tuition loans and maintenance support if their ITT course starts on or after 1 September 2012, the course does not exceed 2 years in length, and the student is not a qualified school teacher.

Part-time Postgraduate and Equivalent Courses

Designated PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent courses of at least 1 academic year in length, starting on or after 1 September 2012 which do not satisfy the full-time criteria in 1), 2) and 3) above will, for student support purposes, be defined as part-time courses. They will be eligible for the part-time student support package, if the intensity of study is at least 25% of an equivalent full-time course (i) over the duration of the part-time course and (ii) for each academic year of the course.

New part-time students already holding a qualification equivalent or higher in level than their PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent course can apply for tuition loans if their ITT course starts on or after 1 September 2012, the course does not exceed 4 years in length, and the student is not a qualified school teacher.

Examples of courses attracting part-time tuition loans: all part-time PGCE courses, courses described as flexible PGCE courses, part-time ‘in-service’ DTLLS courses.

c) Tuition Charges for Undergraduate and Postgraduate ITT Courses starting on or after 1 September 2012.

New entrants to full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses from September 2012 can be charged up to £6,000 for their tuition or, where the university or college has an access agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) up to £9,000.

New entrants to part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses from September 2012 can be charged up to £4,500 for their tuition or, where the university or college has an access agreement with OFFA, up to £6,750.

d) Student support for new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses on or after 1 September 2012.

Tuition Support

- From September 2012, new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible for a non means-tested loan for tuition of up to £9,000.

Living Costs Support

- From September 2012, new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible to apply for a fully means-tested Maintenance Grant of up to £3,250. Students on household incomes of £25,000 or less will qualify for the full grant. For household incomes exceeding £25,000 up to and including £42,600, the grant is reduced by one pound for every £5.50 by which the income exceeds £25,000. A student whose household income is £42,600 will qualify for a minimum grant of £50. A student whose household income exceeds £42,600 will not be eligible for a grant.

- New full-time ITT Students will also be eligible to apply for a loan for living costs of up to £5,500 / £7,675 for students living away from the parental home and studying outside / in London or up to £4,375 for students living in the parental home, although the amount they receive will be reduced if they are in receipt of a Maintenance Grant. Where a student's household income does not exceed £42,600, the maximum amount of loan for living costs will be reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant payable.

- Students whose household income exceeds £42,600 but does not exceed £42,875 will qualify for a full loan for living costs. Where household incomes exceed £42,875, the loan is reduced by £1 for every £10 of income by which the income exceeds £42,875 until the loan amount is 65% of the maximum, at which point there is no further reduction.

- New full-time ITT students starting their courses on or after 1 September 2012 who are in principle eligible for means tested benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions will be able to apply for a £3,250 means-tested Special Support Grant. Students who are eligible for the Special Support Grant will not be eligible for the Maintenance Grant. The amount of Special Support Grant payable will be assessed in the same way as for the Maintenance Grant. However, students who receive the Special Support Grant will not have any of their loans for living costs reduced.

- **The Annex** below summarises the tuition and living costs support package available for new full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students starting their courses from September 2012.

e) Student support for new students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses on or after 1 September 2012.

Tuition Support

From September 2012, new students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible for a non means-tested loan for tuition of up to £6,750.

Living Costs Support

Students starting part-time ITT courses will not be eligible for the full-time Maintenance Grant /Special Support Grant or loans for living costs.

f) Bursaries.

i) Schools Sector ITT Courses

The Government has consulted on proposals for selective bursaries (based on subject and degree class) for teacher training in 2012/13 and has now confirmed the new bursary rates. Please check the funding pages of the Department for Education's website for more information on the bursary rates for 2012/13 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding/training-in-england/postgraduate-funding.aspx

ii) Lifelong Learning Sector ITT Courses

During 2012/13 bursaries of £1,000 will be available to enable up to 10,000 trainees to take either the Higher Education Institution (HEI)-accredited Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS), or a level 6 (PGCE) / level 7 qualification

In addition, bursaries of £1,500 will be introduced to enable up to 1,000 trainees who are taking HEI-accredited ITE courses and who are intending to teach Maths and English in the sector.

Bursaries are open to both in-service and pre-service trainees who are following a Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) at level 5 or a post-graduate qualification such as PGCE at level 6 or 7 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Part-time ITT trainees in the first year of their teacher training, who have received their fee grant of £400 from the Institute for Learning (IfL) will not be eligible for the above bursary. However, those continuing into their second year will be eligible for a further £400 fee grant, to be administered by IfL.

g) 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

ANNEX

Student Support Arrangements for full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students starting their course on or after 1 September 2012.				
Household Income	**Tuition Loan (not income assessed)**	**Maintenance Grant**	**Loan for Living Costs (students living away from home and studying outside London)**	**Total Maintenance Grant and Loan for Living Costs**
£25,000 or less	(up to) £9,000	£3,250 (Maximum Grant)	£3,875	£7,125
£30,000	(up to) £9,000	£2,341	£4,330	£6,671
£35,000	(up to) £9,000	£1,432	£4,784	£6,216
£40,000	(up to) £9,000	£523	£5,239	£5,762
£42,600	(up to) £9,000	£50 (Minimum Grant)	£5,475	£5,525
£42,875	(up to) £9,000	£0	£5,500 (Maximum Loan)	£5,500
£45,000	(up to) £9,000	£0	£5,288	£5,288
£50,000	(up to) £9,000	£0	£4,788	£4,788
£55,000	(up to) £9,000	£0	£4,288	£4,288
£60,000	(up to) £9,000	£0	£3,788	£3,788
£62,125	(up to) £9,000	£0	£3,575 (Minimum Loan)	£3,575
£65,000	(up to) £9,000	£0	£3,575	£3,575
Figures quoted for loans for living costs apply to students living away from the parental home and studying outside London. (The maximum loan for living costs for students living in the parental home will be £4,375 and for students living away from home and studying in London, £7,675). *Where a student's household income does not exceed £42,600, the maximum amount of loan for living costs will be reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant payable.*				