

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE:
2012/13: STUDENT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS
FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING COURSES FROM
SEPTEMBER 2012.**

TO:

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 07/12

September 2012

Dear Colleague

**STUDENTS TRANSFERRING COURSES ON OR AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2012 FROM
COURSES STARTING BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER 2012**

This note brings together in one place details of student finance arrangements for students who transfer courses on or after 1 September 2012 from a course starting before 1 September 2012. The note applies to students who normally live in England and EU students. It also sets out Regulations that underpin tuition and student support arrangements for transferring students in 2012/13.

1) Student Finance Arrangements for students transferring courses where the mode of study changes.

Where a student transfers to a course starting on or after 1 September 2012 from a course starting before 1 September 2012, where the mode of study changes (i.e. full-time to part-time or part-time to full-time), students will be subject to the new tuition charge and student support arrangements applying to new students starting a course from September 2012.

2) Student Finance Arrangements for students transferring courses where the mode of study remains the same.

Where a student transfers to a course starting on or after 1 September 2012 from a course starting before 1 September 2012, where the mode of study remains the same (i.e. full-time to full-time or part-time to part-time), the student will be treated as having started their current course at the beginning of the academic year in which they started the previous course. They will continue to be subject to the tuition charging and student support arrangements that applied on their first course. This applies equally to students who transfer courses within the same institution and those who transfer courses between

institutions.

Student Support Arrangements for full-time Transferring Students

Student support arrangements for students who transfer from one full-time course to another are set out in the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 which cover the 2012/13 academic year.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1986/contents/made>

Regulation 6 stipulates that a full-time student's status as an eligible student is retained in connection with a course until the student has completed the designated full-time course unless the student has withdrawn from, abandoned or been expelled from the course.

Regulation 7(1) stipulates that where a student transfers to another full-time course, the student's eligibility must be transferred to that course if the period of eligibility has not terminated.

Regulation 7(2) sets out the grounds for transfer from one full-time course to another:

- that the student transfers from one full-time course to another full-time course at the same institution.
- that the student transfers from a full-time course at one institution to a full-time course at another institution.

For example, a student who started a full-time English degree course at one institution in September 2011, successfully completed the first year of that course in June 2012 and transferred to a full-time History degree course at another institution in October 2012, would, under the Student Support Regulations, keep the student support arrangements that applied on the first course. Further scenarios are set out at **Annex A** below.

In such circumstances, and in line with the Regulations, transfer rules must be applied as there is a continuity of study from the first course to the second course. **Such students would retain their eligibility as students and therefore must not be treated by institutions as having withdrawn from their first course.**

Once an institution or institutions have agreed to a student transferring courses, the transfer rules will apply, regardless of (i) whether the second course is in the same subject as the first course or (ii) the year of study on either course.

Tuition Charging Arrangements for Full-time Transferring Students

Maximum tuition caps for full-time students transferring courses in the 2012/13 academic year are set out in the Student Fees (Basic and Higher Amounts) (Approved Plans) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2012.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/433/contents/made>

Regulation 3(2) of the Fees Regulations stipulates that students who started their full-time course before 1 September 2012 should not be charged more than £3,465 for tuition.

Regulation 5(2)(b) of the Fees Regulations stipulates that the £3,465 maximum tuition cap will not apply to students who start their full-time courses on or after 1 September 2012, unless those students are (i) end-on students or (ii) students who are transferring from a course starting before 1 September 2012 to a course starting on or after 1 September 2012.

Regulation 3(6)(2) of the Fees Regulations defines a transfer as follows:

“Transfer” means that the qualifying person’s status as a student eligible for support has been transferred under regulations made under section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 from a full-time course to another full-time course, a part-time course to another part-time course or a designated distance learning course to another designated distance learning course.

In summary, the Fees Regulations for continuing students in 2012/13 will apply to students transferring from a course starting before 1 September 2012 to another course starting on or after 1 September where the mode of study remains the same. **This means institutions must not charge more than £3,465 to full-time transferring students in 2012/13 where the mode of study remains the same.**

ENQUIRIES

If you have any queries about these Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team - telephone 0845 6020583; email: SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk

Annex – Case Studies

Transfers – change in mode of study

1) Student A starts a full-time Maths degree course in October 2011 and successfully completes the first year of his course in June 2012. He applies to transfer courses at the same institution and is accepted onto the first year of a part-time Business degree course in October 2012. As the mode of study is changing, student A can be charged up to £6,750 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the part-time tuition loan available for new students starting their part-time courses from September 2012 onwards.

2) Student B starts a part-time Geography degree course in October 2011 and successfully completes the first year of her course in June 2012. She applies to transfer to a full-time Maths degree at another institution and is accepted onto the first year of the course. As the mode of study is changing, student B can be charged up to £9,000 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the student support tuition and living costs package available for new students starting their full-time courses from September 2012 onwards.

Transfers – same mode of study

3) Student C starts a full-time Maths degree course in October 2011 and successfully completes the first year of his course in June 2012. He applies to transfer courses at the same institution and is accepted onto the first year of a full-time Business degree course in October 2012. Student C can be charged up to £3,465 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the student support tuition and living costs package available for students continuing their full-time courses in 2012/13.

4) Student D starts a full-time Maths degree course in October 2011 and successfully completes the first year of her course in June 2012. She applies to continue the second year of her full-time Maths degree at another institution and is accepted onto the course. Student D can be charged up to £3,465 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the student support tuition and living costs package available for students continuing their full-time courses in 2012/13.

5) Student E is an EU national who starts a full-time History degree course in October 2011 and successfully completes the first year of her course in June 2012. She applies to transfer to the first year of a full-time Geography degree course at another institution and is accepted onto the course. Student E can be charged up to £3,465 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the full-time tuition loan available for EU students continuing their full-time courses in 2012/13.

Withdrawals

6) Student F starts a full-time English degree course in October 2011 and informs her institution that she is withdrawing from the course in April 2012. Student F starts a full-time History degree course in October 2012 at another institution. As the student withdrew from her first course, she can be charged up to £9,000 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the student support tuition and living costs package available for new students in 2012/13.

7) Student G starts a full-time Geography degree course in October 2011, fails his first

year examinations in June 2012 and informs his institution that he is withdrawing from his course. He starts a full-time Foundation Degree at the same institution in October 2012. As the student withdrew from his first course, he can be charged up to £9,000 in 2012/13 and will be eligible for the student support tuition and living costs package available for new students in 2012/13.