STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE

TO LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES
(For the attention of the Student Support Officer)

TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND FURTHER EDUCATION PROVIDING DESIGNATED HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

TO THE STUDENT LOANS COMPANY

SSIN 02/11

October 2010

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS STARTING COURSES OF INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING IN 2011/12

Dear Colleague,

Please find below information on the student support package available for new students starting courses of initial teacher training in the 2011/12 Academic Year.

a) Introduction.

From 1st September 2011, 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 maintenance support package as full-time undergraduate students, including a fully means-tested Maintenance Grant or Special Support Grant of up to £2,906.

New students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses in 2011/12 will be eligible to apply for a part-time means-tested fee grant of up to £1,230 and a means-tested course grant of up to £265.

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 in 2011/12 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 in 2011/12 will attract the part-time student support package available for other part-time undergraduate courses, if the intensity of study is at least 50% of an equivalent full-time course over the duration of the part-time course.

Full-time Postgraduate and Equivalent Courses

Designated full-time PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent courses starting in 2011/12 should 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 <u>not</u> flexible PGCE courses.

We would consider that the following may qualify as periods of study where they 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 fee and maintenance support package: 1 year full-time PGCE courses, 1 year full-time 'pre-service' Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) courses. *The Training and Development Agency for Schools makes a clear distinction between full-time PGCE courses and flexible PGCE courses.* ***All flexible PGCE courses starting in 2011/12 attract the part-time student support package.***

Part-time Postgraduate and Equivalent Courses

Designated PGCE, DTLLS or equivalent courses of at least 1 academic year in length, starting in 2011/12 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 50% of an equivalent full-time course over the duration of the part-time course.

Examples of courses attracting the part-time fee and course support package: all part-time and flexible PGCE courses, part-time 'in-service' DTLLS courses.

c) Fee Charging for Undergraduate and Postgraduate ITT Courses.

New entrants to full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses in 2011/12 can be charged up to £3,375 in variable fees (subject to an approved OFFA agreement).

Higher Education Institutions determine the level at which they set fees for part-time courses.

d) Student support for new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses from 2011/12.

Fee Support

- For 2010/11, new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible for a non means-tested loan for fees of up to £3,375.

Liv*ing Cost Support*

- From 2011/12, new students starting full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be able to apply for a fully means-tested Maintenance Grant of up to £2,906. Students on household incomes of £25,000 or less will be eligible for the full grant. For household incomes exceeding £25,000 up to and including £34,000, the grant is reduced by one pound for every £5 by which the income exceeds £25,000. For household incomes exceeding £34,000 up to and including £50,020, the grant is reduced by one pound for every £15.17 by which the income exceeds £34,000. A student whose income is £50,020 will be eligible for a minimum grant of £50. A student whose income exceeds £50,020 will not be eligible for a grant.

- New full-time ITT Students will also be entitled to apply for a full rate loan for living costs of up to £4,950 / £6,928 for students living away from the parental home and studying outside / in London or up to £3,838 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 £50,020, the maximum amount of loan for living costs will be reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant payable.

- New full-time ITT students starting their course in 2011/12 who are in principle eligible for means tested benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions will be able to apply for a £2,906 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.

- **Table 1** below summarises the fee and maintenance support package available for new full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students in 2011/12.

Table 1 – ***Student Support Arrangements for full-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students starting their course in the 2011/12 Academic Year.***

Figures quoted for loans for living costs apply to students living away from the parental home and studying outside London.

Household Income	Fee Loan (not income assessed)	Maintenance Grant	Loan for Living Costs	Total Fee and Maintenance Support
£25,000	(up to) £3,375	£2,906 (Maximum Grant)	£3,497	£9,778
£30,000	(up to) £3,375	£1,906	£3,997	£9,278
£34,000	(up to) £3,375	£1,106	£4,397	£8,878
£40,000	(up to) £3,375	£711	£4,595	£8,681
£45,000	(up to) £3,375	£381	£4,760	£8,516
£50,020	(up to) £3,375	£50 (Minimum Grant)	£4,925	£8,350
£50,778	(up to) £3,375	£0	£4,950 (Maximum Loan)	£8,325
£55,000	(up to) £3,375	£0	£4,106	£7,481
£57,708	(up to) £3,375	£0	£3,564 (Minimum Loan – 72% of maximum loan)	£6,939
£60,000	(up to) £3,375	£0	£3,564	£6,939

e) Student support for new students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses from 2011/12.

Fee and Course Support

- For 2011/12, students starting part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses will be eligible for a fully means-tested Fee Grant to cover the cost of their fees. The amount of Fee Grant that a part-time student will receive depends on the rate at which the student studies their course each year; this is referred to as 'intensity of study'. There are three bands of fee grant, £820, £985 and £1,230 (maximum amounts). Each is measured as a percentage of a full-time equivalent course: 50 – 59%, 60 -74% and 75% or more.

- New part-time ITT students will also be eligible for a fully means-tested Course Grant of up to £265 for books, travel and other expenditure relating to their course. Unlike the Fee Grant, the Course Grant is not linked to the intensity rate at which a part-time ITT studies their course. **Tables 2** and **3** below summarise the student support package available for new part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students in 2010/11.

- Part-time students with partners and/or dependent children will have some of their income disregarded when their support is determined: £2,000 for a partner (where counted), £2,000 for the first dependent child and £1,000 for each subsequent child.

Table 2 – *Student Support Arrangements for part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students starting their course in the 2011/12 Academic Year*

(Figures for a single student with no dependent children).

Household Income	**Entitlement**
Below £16,845	Full Course Grant of £265. **Amount of fee grant** Full Fee Grant (or the fees charged by the college whichever is lower). - Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £820. - Course equivalent to 60% to 74% of a full-time course – £985. - Course equivalent to 75% or more of a full-time course – £1,230
£16,845	Full Course Grant of £265 The Fee Grant is reduced by £50.

	Amount of fee grant - Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £770. - Course equivalent to 60% to 74% of a full-time course – £935. - Course equivalent to 75% or more of a full-time course – £1,180
£16,846 to £25,419	Full Course Grant of £265. Fee Grant as follows (or the fees charged by the college whichever is lower). **Amount of fee grant** • Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £770 less £1 for every £11.91 of income (before tax) over £16,845. • Course equivalent to 60% to 74% of a full-time course – £935 less £1 for every £9.69 of income (before tax) over £16,845. • Course equivalent to 75% or more of a full-time course – £1,180 less £1 for every £ 7.59 of income (before tax) over £16,845.
£25,420	Full Course Grant of £265. £50 fee grant.
£25,421 to £26,029	Full Course Grant of £265. No Fee Grant
£26,030 to £28,064	Course Grant of £265 less £1 for every £9.47 of income (before tax) over £26,030.
£28,065	£50 Course Grant.
£28,066 and over	No support

Table 3 – Levels of *Student Support for part-time undergraduate and postgraduate ITT students starting their course in the 2011/12 Academic Year* ***(Figures for a single student with no dependent children).***			
Household Income	**Part-time Fee and Course Grant support package where part-time course is equivalent to 75% or more of a full-time course.**	**Part-time Fee and Course Grant support package where part-time course is equivalent to 60% – 74% of a full-time course.**	**Part-time Fee and Course Grant support package where part-time course is equivalent to 50% - 59% of a full-time course.**
£16,844	£1,495 (max grant)	£1,250 (max grant)	£1,085 (max grant)
£16,845	£1,445	£1,200	£1,035
£20,000	£1,029	£874	£770
£25,000	£350	£358	£370
£26,000	£265	£265	£265
£28,065	£50 (min grant)	£50 (min grant)	£50 (min grant)
£30,000	£0	£0	£0

f) Bursaries.

Trainees on Schools Sector PGCE courses leading to QTS may be eligible for tax-free bursaries from the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). Further information on TDA bursaries is available on the TDA website at:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/Recruit/thetrainingprocess/fundinginengland/postgrad_funding.aspx

Students intending to teach shortage subjects in FE Colleges may also be eligible for bursary funding for their courses. Guidance for Institutions and individual students is available on the Teachernet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/professionaldevelopment/careers/post16/

If you require any further clarification on fees or student support please e-mail ssin.queries@slc.co.uk

g) Case Studies.

1) New students starting full-time PGCE, DTLLS and equivalent courses in 2011/12. These students will receive the same package of fee and maintenance support as full-time undergraduate students from 2011/12.

1.1) Case Study A

Student A, living away from home and studying outside London, is starting a one-year full-time PGCE course in September 2011. Student A has a household income of £40,000.

He will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

He will also be eligible for a Maintenance Grant of £711. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £25,000 and £34,000 = £9,000/5 = £1,800
Income between £34,000 and £40,000 = £6,000/15.17 = £395 (rounded down)
Total to reduce Maintenance Grant = £1,800 + £395 = £2,195
Total maintenance grant Entitlement = £2,906 - £2,195 = £711

Student A will also be eligible for a loan for living costs of £4,595. The assessment is made as follows:

£4,950 - (£711)/2) = £4,594.50
Rounding up to the nearest £1 gives an entitlement of £4,595.

The loan for living costs is reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant awarded.

1.2) Case Study B

Student B, living away from home and studying in London, is starting a one year full-time PGCE course in September 2011. She is eligible for the Special Support Grant. Student B has a household income of £45,000.

Student B will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

She will also be eligible for a Special Support Grant of £381. The assessment is made as follows.

Income between £25,000 and £34,000 = £9,000/5 = £1,800
Income between £34,000 and £45,000 = £11,000/15.17 = £725 (rounded down)
Total to reduce Special Support Grant Entitlement = £1,800 + £725 = £2,525
Total special support grant = £2,906 - £2,525 = £381

Student B will also be eligible for a full London rate loan for living costs of £6,928 as SSG is not substituted for loan.

1.3) Case Study C

Student C, living away from home and studying outside London, is starting a one year full-time PGCE course in September 2011. Student C has a household income of £50,020.

He will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

He will also be eligible for a minimum Maintenance Grant of £50. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £25,000 and £34,000 = £9,000/5 = £1,800
Income between £34,000 and £50,020 = £16,020/15.17 = £1,056 (rounded down)
Total to reduce Maintenance Grant Entitlement = £1,800 + £1,056 = £2,856
Total maintenance grant Entitlement = £2,906 - £2,856 = £50

Student C will also be eligible for a loan for living costs of £4,925 (£4,950 – (£50)/2)). The loan for living costs is reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant awarded.

1.4) Case Study D

Student D, living away from home and studying outside London, is starting a one year full-time PGCE course in September 2011. Student D has a household income of £50,778.

He will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

He will not be eligible for a Maintenance Grant, but will be eligible for a full loan for living costs of £4,950.

1.5) Case Study E

Student E, living away from home and studying outside London, is starting a one year full-time PGCE course in September 2011. Student E has a household income of £57,708.

He will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

He will not be eligible for a Maintenance Grant, but will be eligible for a minimum loan for living costs of £3,564 (72% of the maximum rate of loan for students living away from home and studying outside London). The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £50,778 and £57,708 = £6,930/5 = £1,386
Total loan for living costs entitlement = £4,950 - £1,386 = £3,564

1.6) Case study F

Student F is living away from home and studying outside London and is starting a one year full-time PGCE course in September 2011.

He will be eligible for a fee loan of up to £3,290.

Student F has chosen not to provide the information needed to calculate his household income. He will be eligible for a reduced rate loan for living costs of £3,564 (72% of the maximum loan for living costs for students living away from home and studying outside London).

2) New students starting part-time PGCE, DTLLS and equivalent courses in 2011/12. These students will receive the same package of fee and course support as part-time undergraduate students from 201112. The case studies apply to single students.

i) 75% or more Intensity of Study for fee support

2.1) Case Study G

Student G is starting a two-year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 77% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,844. Student G will be eligible for a full Fee Grant of £1,230 and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.2) Case Study H

Student H is starting a two-year part-time FE sector DTLLS course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 75% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,845. Student H will be eligible for a Fee Grant of £1,180 (£1,230 - £50) and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.3) Case Study I

Student I is starting a flexible PGCE course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 80% of a full-time course. She has a household income of £20,000. Student I will be eligible for a Fee Grant of £764. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £16,845 and £20,000 = £3,155/7.59
Total to reduce Fee Grant = £416 (rounded to nearest pound)
Total Fee Grant entitlement = (£1,230 - £50) - £416 = £764

Student I will be eligible for a full Course Grant of £265.

ii) 60 - 74% Intensity of Study for fee support

2.4) Case Study J

Student J is starting a two-year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 60% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,844. Student J will be eligible for a full Fee Grant of £985 and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.5) Case Study K

Student K is starting a two-year part-time FE sector DTLLS course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 65% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,845. Student K will be eligible for a Fee Grant of £935 (£985 - £50) and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.6) Case Study L

Student L is starting a flexible PGCE course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 70% of a full-time course. She has a household income of £20,000. Student L will be eligible for a Fee Grant of £609. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £16,845 and £20,000 = £3,155/9.69
Total to reduce Fee Grant = £326 (rounded to nearest pound)
Total Fee Grant entitlement = (£985 - £50) - £326 = £609

Student L will also be eligible for a full Course Grant of £265.

iii) 50 - 59% Intensity of Study for fee support

2.7) Case Study M

Student M is starting a two-year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 50% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,844. Student M will be eligible for a full Fee Grant of £820 and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.8) Case Study N

Student N is starting a four year part-time FE Sector DTLLS course in September 2011 and has a household income of £15,000. The course is equivalent to 50% of a full-time course. He already has a BSc Degree in History. Student N will be eligible for a full Fee Grant of £820 and a full Course Grant of £265. *For students wishing to take a part-time ITT course up to 4 years in length, previous equivalent or higher level qualifications are not taken into account unless the student has qualified teacher status (QTS).*

2.9) Case Study O

Student O is starting a two-year part-time FE sector DTLLS course in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 55% of a full-time course. He has a household income of £16,845. Student O will be eligible for a Fee Grant of £770 (£820 - £50) and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.10) Case Study P

Student P is starting a flexible PGCE course of at least 3 academic years in length in September 2011. The course is equivalent to 59% of a full-time course. She has a household income of £20,000. Student P will be eligible for a fee grant of £505. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £16,845 and £20,000 = £3,155/11.91
Total to reduce Fee Grant = £265 (rounded to nearest pound)
Total Fee Grant entitlement = (£820 - £50) - £265 = £505.

Student P will also be eligible for a full Course Grant of £265.

iv) Entitlement to minimum fee grant and/or course grant

2.11) Case Study Q

Student Q is starting a two year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. He has a household income of £25,420. Student Q will be eligible for a minimum Fee Grant of £50 and a full Course Grant of £265.

2.12) Case Study R

Student R is starting a two year part-time FE sector DTLLS course in September 2011. He has a household income of £25,421. Student R will be eligible for full Course Grant of £265 but no Fee Grant.

2.13) Case Study S

Student S is starting a two year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. She has a household income of £27,000. Student S will be eligible for a Course Grant of £163. The assessment is made as follows:

Income between £26,030 and £27,000 = £970/ 9.47
Total to reduce Course Grant = £102 (rounded to nearest pound)
Total Course Grant entitlement = £265 - £102 = £163.

2.14) Case Study T

Student T is starting a flexible PGCE course of at least 3 academic years in length in September 2011. He has a household income of £28,065. Student T

will be eligible for a minimum Course Grant of £50.

2.15) Case Study U

Student U is starting a two year part-time PGCE course in September 2011. He has a household income of £28,066. Student U is not eligible for a Fee grant or a Course grant.

2.16) Case Study V

Student V is starting a flexible PGCE course of 10 weeks in length in September 2011. He has a household income of £15,000. As his course is under 1 academic year in length, Student V is not eligible for student support.