

**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 05/09

26/03/09 (Updated 19/11/09)

Dear Colleague, please find below information on students studying on courses of initial teacher training from 2009/10.

Fee Charging for Undergraduate and Postgraduate ITT Courses

New entrants to undergraduate and postgraduate ITT courses in 2009/10 where the periods of full-time study during the academic year are in aggregate 10 weeks or more can be charged up to £3,225 in variable fees (subject to an approved OFFA agreement).

Where the periods of full-time study are less than 10 weeks, HEIs will only be able to charge up to £1,610 a year.

ITT Courses designated for fee and maintenance support must normally be one academic year or more in length. However, flexible postgraduate ITT courses from 6 weeks up to one year in length are also eligible for fee support only.

Student support for new ITT students from 2009/10

Undergraduate ITT students

Fee support

- New undergraduate ITT students on courses where the periods of full-time study during the academic year are 10 weeks or more will be able to take out a non means-tested loan for fees of up to £3,225 in 2009/10.
- New undergraduate students on courses where the periods of full-time study are less than 10 weeks will be able to take out a non means-tested fee loan of up to £1,610 in 2009/10.

Living cost support

- New undergraduate ITT students on courses where the periods of full-time attendance (including teaching practice) during the academic year are 10 weeks or more, will be eligible for the same package of grants and loans as other new undergraduate students in 2009/10 which includes a means-tested Maintenance Grant of up to £2,906.
- New undergraduate ITT students on courses where the periods of full-time attendance (including teaching practice) during the academic year are from 6 weeks up to 10 weeks will be eligible for a half-rate fully means-tested Maintenance Grant of up to £1,453 and a full rate loan for living costs (see SSIN 04/09 for further details).

Non first degree ITT students (including those on PGCE and DTLLS Courses)

Fee Support

- For 2009/10, new students on ITT courses (other than a first degree course) will be eligible for a non means-tested loan for fees of up to £3,225 where the periods of full-time study are 10 weeks or more, or £1,610 where the periods of full-time study are less than 10 weeks.

Living Cost Support

- Where the periods of full time attendance (including teaching practice) are 10 weeks or more, these students will be able to apply for the Maintenance Grant of up to £2,906, of which £1,106 is not means-tested. The remaining £1,800 of the Maintenance Grant will be means-tested in the same way as for other new students. This means that £1,800 of the grant will be reduced by £1 for every £5 of household income above £25,000 up to £34,000. Students will also be entitled to apply for a full rate loan for living costs, although the amount they receive will be reduced if they are in receipt of the Maintenance Grant (see section below on loan substitution).
- Where the periods of full-time study are 6 weeks or more but less than 10 weeks, students will be able to apply for a half rate Maintenance Grant of up to £1,453, of which £553 is not means-tested. The remaining £900 of the Maintenance Grant will be means-tested. This means that £900 of the grant will be reduced by £1 for every £10 of household income above £25,000 up to £34,000. Students will also be entitled to apply for a full rate loan for living costs (see section below on loan substitution).
- Where the periods of full-time study are less than 6 weeks, students will not be eligible for the Maintenance Grant. They will however be entitled to apply for a half rate loan for living costs.
- The tables below summarise the levels of support new students on

non first degree ITT courses will be will be entitled to receive relative to the amount of full-time study they undertake in the 2009/10 academic year.

Table 1

| Maximum entitlement to the Maintenance Grant | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Period of full-time attendance (including teaching practice): | Less than 6 weeks | 6 weeks or more but less than 10 weeks | 10 weeks or more |
| Non means-tested element | Nil | £553 | £1,106 |
| Means-tested element | Nil | £900 | £1,800 |
| Max. total grant payable | Nil | £1,453 | £2,906 |

Table 2

| Maximum entitlement to loans for fees and living costs | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Period of full-time study: | Less than 6 weeks | 6 weeks or more but less than 10 weeks | 10 weeks or more |
| Loan for fees | £1,610 | £1,610 | £3,225 |
| Loan for living costs ¹ | Half Rate | Full Rate | Full Rate |

¹Full rate loans for living costs will be subject to substitution.

Loan substitution

ITT courses (other than those leading to a first degree) where the period of full-time study during the academic year is 10 weeks or more.

Where a student's household income is up to £34,000, the maximum amount of loan for living costs will be reduced by £0.50 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant payable. Where the income is greater than £34,000 but does not exceed £50,778, the amount of loan is reduced by £553 and further reduced by £1 for every £30.33 by which the income exceeds £34,000.

ITT courses (other than those leading to a first degree) where the period of full-time study during the academic year is less than 10 weeks.

Where a student's household income is up to £50,778, the amount of loan for living costs is reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant payable.

Case Study 1 – Student on a part-time DTLLS course with 8 weeks of full-time study in the academic year.

In September 2009, Chris, a 26 year old student, is starting a two year part-time DTLLS ITT course. His course requires 8 weeks full-time study in the academic year. Chris can therefore apply for a fee loan of up to £1,610 (or up to the level of the annual fee charged if this is lower than £1,610). He can also apply for a £1,453 Maintenance Grant, of which £553 is not means-tested for students on ITT courses, other than those leading to a first degree. The remaining £900 of the Maintenance Grant is means-tested.

Because Chris's household income of £30,000 a year is above the £25,000 income threshold for a maximum half-rate Maintenance Grant (£1,453), he will only receive part of the £900 means-tested element of the Maintenance Grant. This will be £400 for the academic year and is in addition to the £553 non-means tested element of the Maintenance Grant. **Chris's total grant support for the year will therefore be £953.**

Chris can also apply for a loan for living costs. As he is living away from his parents' home and studying outside London, he will attract the elsewhere rate of loan of up to £4,950 for the academic year. However, because Chris is entitled to a Maintenance Grant of £953, his loan entitlement will be reduced by £953 (a £1 reduction in his loan for living costs for every £1 of Maintenance Grant awarded) **So Chris will receive a loan for living costs of £3,997 for the 2009/10 academic year.**

Case Study 2 – Student on a full-time PGCE course with 10 weeks of full-time study in the academic year.

In September 2009, Mary, a 23 year old student, is starting a one year full-time PGCE course. Her course requires 10 weeks full-time study in the academic year. Mary can therefore apply for a fee loan of up to £3,225 (or up to the level of the annual fee charged if this is lower than £3,225). She can also apply for a full-rate £2,906 Maintenance Grant, of which £1,106 is not means tested for students on ITT courses, other than those leading to a first degree. The remaining £1,800 of the Maintenance Grant is means-tested.

Because Mary's household income is £40,000 a year, she will not be entitled to a means-tested element of the Maintenance Grant. However, she will be eligible for the £1,106 non-means tested element of the Maintenance Grant. **Mary's total grant support for the year will therefore be £1,106.**

Mary can also apply for a loan for living costs. As she is living away from her parents' home and studying outside London, she will attract the elsewhere rate of loan of up to £4,950 for the academic year. However, because Mary is entitled to a Maintenance Grant of £1,106, her loan entitlement will be reduced by £750 (£553 and £1 for every £30.33 by which the income exceeds £34,000). **So Mary will receive a loan for living costs of £4,200 for the**

2009/10 academic year.

Special Support Grant

New ITT students starting their course in 2009/10 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.

Bursaries

Trainees on postgraduate and graduate entry level ITT courses leading to QTS may also be eligible for tax-free bursaries from the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). Further information on TDA bursaries for 2009/10 is available on the TDA website at:

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

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