

STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE

**STUDENT SUPPORT REGULATIONS AND FINANCE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16**

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS
IN ENGLAND

SSIN 06/15

14 January 2015

Dear Colleague

**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT IN ENGLAND IN 2015/16:
Introduction of Part-time ELQ subject exceptions - The Education (Student
Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014 No.2765)**

The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014 No. 2765) (“the 2014 Regulations”) were laid before Parliament on 16 October 2014. Provisions within these Regulations came into force on 7 November 2014, subject to consideration by Parliament.

Regulation 17 amends regulation 144 of the 2011 regulations to ensure that students with an honours degree are not subject to the equivalent and lower qualification rules if they are studying part-time for an honours degree in certain subject areas.

The 2014 Regulations amend the following Regulations:

- The Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (“the 2011 Regulations” (S.I. 2011/ 1986))

From 2015/16 academic year eligible students with an honours degree will be able to access tuition fee loans for a part-time honours degree in engineering, technology and computer science.

The policy changes and a question and answer are set out in more detail in the **Annex** below.

Electronic copies of the Education (Student Support)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014 No. 2765) and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum are available on the ‘legislation.gov.uk’ website at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/2765/contents/made> (Regulations).

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/2765/memorandum/contents>
(Memorandum).

ORDERING COPIES OF THE STUDENT SUPPORT REGULATIONS

The Regulations can be ordered from The Stationery Office at:

TSO Orders/ Post Cash Dept
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN
Telephone: 0870 600 5522
Email: customer.services@tso.co.uk
Online: www.tsoshop.co.uk

ENQUIRIES

If you have any queries about the Student Support Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Helpline – telephone: 0300 1000618; email: SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk

ANNEX

A student does not qualify for tuition fee loan support if they study for another HE qualification at the equivalent or lower level to one they already hold. There are a limited number of exceptions to the ELQ rule. Fee support is available to eligible part-time students to study a course for the initial training of teachers (if they don't already hold qualified teacher status).

From August 2015 eligible students who have exhausted their student funding entitlement by achieving an Honours degree and who choose to study for another Honours degree (or undergraduate Integrated Masters degree) on a part-time basis can access a tuition fee loan if they are studying in engineering, technology or computer science or a joint honours degree in those specific subjects.

Students must be an eligible student and studying on a designated course of at least 25% intensity of a full-time equivalent course in each year of the course. The degree must be completed in no more than sixteen years. If a student transfers to another qualifying part-time course the student must complete it within the years remaining and the total duration of study must not exceed sixteen years in aggregate.

Exception courses will be identified from the HESA JACS codes for Engineering, Technology and Computer Science but only those students studying on an Honours degree will be funded. Students studying on individual modules will not qualify for a tuition fee loan.

Eligible students on a relevant part-time course will be able to access a tuition fee loan and Disabled Students' Allowances where they apply. This will apply irrespective of when the student was awarded their previous degree, or the subject they studied before.

These changes apply to students who start a part-time exception course in academic year 2015/16 or later.

Question and Answer:

Q. I have a foundation degree can I receive a tuition fee loan for a part-time BEng (Hons) Engineering?

A. The exception will not apply. Students who do not hold an honours degree have not exhausted their funding entitlement for student support and may qualify for a tuition fee loan in the latter years of the degree in line with previous study rules.

Q. I hold an Honours degree. The university said I can enter year two of a part-time Hons degree Engineering/Technology/Computer Science, will I qualify for a tuition fee loan?

A. Eligible students with an Honours degree studying on a designated part-time degree in the subject areas treated exceptionally qualify for a tuition fee loan, irrespective of which year of study entered.

Q. I hold a BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering will I qualify for a tuition fee loan for another Engineering degree if I study part-time?

A. No matter what honours degree is held or when it was completed eligible students who wish to study part-time for a second honours degree in engineering, technology or computer science, or a combination of those subject areas may qualify for a tuition fee loan.

Q. I hold a Foundation Degree and wish to study for a part-time Foundation Degree computer science will I qualify for a tuition fee loan?

A. Unless you hold an honours degree and the new qualification is a part-time honours degree in the identified subject areas, equivalent and lower qualification policy will apply.

Q. I hold a BEng and want to study for a part-time integrated MEng over 8 years will I qualify for a tuition fee loan?

A. There is no barrier to a degree holder qualifying for a tuition fee loan for a part-time undergraduate integrated Masters degree in the subjects areas identified. Students must be eligible for support and studying on a designated course.

Q. If I start a second part-time honours degree in computer science and then transfer to another part-time honours degree in Technology will I have another sixteen years of tuition fee loan?

A. Students who qualify for support for a tuition fee loan as a result of the part-time ELQ exception have sixteen years in aggregate to complete their course or courses. Study must be at least 25% intensity of a full-time equivalent course.

Q. I hold a postgraduate level qualification will the part-time ELQ exception apply?

Yes if you are studying a part-time honours degree in engineering, technology or computer science