

Architecture scripts for 12/13 and 13/14 academic years



These scripts provide details of how the introduction of the new student support arrangements from 1 September 2012 will apply to both new and existing full-time architecture students.

Architecture Students who started Part 1 before 1 September 2012

For the purpose of student support, full-time Part 1 and Part 2 architecture courses are normally treated as a single course.

Any full-time student who starts their Part 1 course before 1 September 2012 will be treated as an existing student for the duration of the course and will not be subject to the new student finance arrangements. This will be the case even if they switch institutions between Part 1 and Part 2 as long as they do not change their mode of study (e.g. from full-time to part-time) and remain in the UK.

The maximum tuition fee for Part 1 and Part 2 continuing students at publicly funded institutions in 2012/13 and 2013/14 will be £3,465. Eligible students will be able to apply for a tuition fee loan of up to £3,465 and the maintenance package will be the same as for other continuing students.

In general, to be considered a continuing student and remain on the same student finance package, Part 2 must be undertaken no more than 3 years after completing Part 1. For example, a student who completes Part 1 in July 2011 and takes a break of three academic years and starts Part 2 in September 2014 would usually be treated as being on a single course.

The Part 2 course will attract support even if the student is additionally awarded a postgraduate degree (such as MArch) as long as the content of Part 2 is undergraduate and undergraduate fees are charged.

A student does not have to declare, before starting or completing Part 1, his intention to attend both Parts 1 and 2 in order for the two parts to be treated as a single course. However, establishing the student's intentions at the outset or during Part 1 may assist the Student Loans Company in determining how to treat a student who does not follow the typical pattern of study.

For repayment purposes, students in the old system (i.e. students who began courses before 1 September 2012) become liable to repay from the April following the completion of their Part 1 course, unless they declare an intention to carry on to Part 2. If so, they do not become liable to repay until the April following the completion of their Part 2 course.

Finally, Part 3 of the architecture course does not attract student support as it is of a standard higher than a first degree.

Architecture Students who start Part 1 after 1 September 2012

For the purpose of student support, full-time Part 1 and Part 2 architecture courses are normally treated as a single course.

Any full-time student who starts their Part 1 course after 1 September 2012 will be eligible for student support for the duration of the course. This will be the case even if they switch institutions between Part 1 and Part 2 as long as they do not change their mode of study (e.g. from full-time to part-time) and remain in the UK.

The maximum tuition fee at publicly funded institutions in 2012/13 and for 2013/14 will be £9,000. Eligible students will be able to apply for a tuition fee loan of up to £9,000 and the maintenance package will be the same as for other new students. In future years this fee cap may change.

The Part 2 course will attract support even if the student is additionally awarded a postgraduate degree (such as MArch) as long as the content of Part 2 is undergraduate level and undergraduate fees are charged.

A student does not have to declare, before starting or completing Part 1, his intention to attend both Parts 1 and 2 in order for the two parts to be treated as a single course. However, establishing the student's intentions at the outset or during Part 1 may assist the Student Loans Company in determining how to treat a student who does not follow the typical pattern of study.

For repayment purposes, students will become liable to repay from the April following the completion of their Part 1 course, whether or not they declare an intention to carry on to Part 2. Each set of loans for Parts 1 and 2 will have separate 30 year write-off dates. Interest rates will be calculated separately for each. For example, a student may be accruing interest at RPI on his Part 1 loan while accruing interest at RPI+3% on his Part 2 loan while studying. However, from the April after leaving Part 2, the loan account will show a grand total of moneys owed and with one rate of interest based on income.

Part 1 loans will be in repayment status from the April following completion of this course, so a student will make repayments if earning over £21,000 per year during the break between the courses. Before students become liable to repay, interest is set at RPI +3%. From the date they become due to repay, the interest that will accrue on the loan balance will be variable and dependent on income. If income is £21,000 or less per year, no repayments will be made and interest will accrue at RPI only. If income is between £21,000 and £41,000 the student will make repayments and interest is set at between RPI and RPI+3% on a sliding scale. If income is over £41,000 the student will make repayments and interest is set at RPI +3%.

Finally, Part 3 of the architecture course does not attract student support as it is of a standard higher than a first degree.

¹ Repayment policy is subject to Parliamentary approval.

² This is a slight change from the current arrangements where students are treated differently based on their declared intentions.