STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE

STUDENT FEES FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

TO:

HIGHER EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS IN ENGLAND

SSIN 02/17 20 December 2016

Dear colleague:

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE IN 2017/18:

THE HIGHER EDUCATION (BASIC AMOUNT)(ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2016 (S.I. 2016 No. 1205).

THE HIGHER EDUCATION (HIGHER AMOUNT)(ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2016 (S.I. 2016 No. 1206).

THE STUDENT FEES (INFLATION INDEX)(ENGLAND)(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 (S.I. 2016 No. 1207).

1. The Higher Education Student Finance Package for undergraduates in 2017/18 is covered in detail in SSIN 01/17 which can be accessed on the Student Finance England Practitioners' Website at:

http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/7760/ssin-0117-student-support-package-for-201718-210716.pdf

2. Changes to maximum fees for 2017/18 are set out in the Higher Education (Basic Amount)(England) Regulations 2016 ("the Basic Amount Regulations"), the Higher Education (Higher Amount)(England) Regulations 2016 ("the Higher Amount Regulations"), and the Student Fees (Inflation Index)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2016 ("the Inflation Index Regulations") which were laid before Parliament on 15 December 2016. All three sets of regulations will come into force on 6 January 2017. We intend to lay regulations implementing changes to student support for the 2017/18 academic year early in 2017.

Basic Amount and Higher Amount Regulations

3. The Government is introducing a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) to provide clear information to students about where the best provision can be found and to drive up the standard of teaching in all higher education institutions. In Year One of TEF, all higher education institutions which have met the eligibility criteria set out in Annex A of the Government's White Paper

- 'Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice' have received a rating of Meets Expectations.
- 4. The Basic Amount Regulations and the Higher Amount Regulations set variable limits on the maximum fees that publicly funded higher education institutions can charge students undertaking higher education courses which started on or after 1 September 2012, in respect of an academic year starting on or after 1 August 2017.
- 5. The Basic Amount Regulations set a limit on the maximum fees publicly funded higher education institutions which do not have an approved access plan may charge full-time or part-time undergraduates starting higher education courses on or after 1 September 2012. The Basic Amount Regulations increase maximum fees for publicly funded higher education institutions that are not permitted by an access plan to charge fees at the Higher Amount but which have a TEF rating of Meets Expectations. For these institutions (defined as "eligible institutions" in the Basic Amount Regulations and listed in a Schedule) the increased maximum applies in respect of fees payable for study in the 2017/18 academic year (which begins in or after 1 August 2017).
- 6. The Higher Amount Regulations set a limit on the maximum fees publicly funded higher education institutions can charge in accordance with approved access plans in respect of full-time or part-time undergraduates starting higher education courses on or after 1 September 2012, in respect of an academic year starting on or after 1 August 2017.
- 7. The Higher Amount Regulations increase maximum fees for publicly funded higher education institutions which are permitted by an access plan to charge fees at the Higher Amount and have a TEF rating of Meets Expectations. For these institutions (defined as "eligible institutions" in the Basic Amount Regulations and listed in a Schedule) the increased maximum applies to fees payable for study in the 2017/18 academic year (which begins on or after 1 August 2017).
- 8. For all new students and eligible continuing students who started their full-time or part-time courses on or after 1 September 2012 and are undertaking courses at publicly funded higher education institutions that have achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations, 'basic amount' and 'higher amount' tuition fee caps will be increased by forecast inflation (2.8%) using the RPIX inflation index in 2017/18. Basic amount and higher amount tuition fee caps for publicly funded higher education institutions that have not achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will remain at 2016/17 levels in 2017/18.
- 9. The Basic Amount Regulations provide that the maximum tuition fee for publicly funded higher education institutions that have achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will be £6,165 for full-time courses in 2017/18 where the basic amount is permitted. The Higher Amount Regulations provide that

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¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-success-as-a-knowledge-economy-white-paper

the maximum tuition fee cap for publicly funded institutions that have achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will be £9,250 for full-time courses in 2017/18 where the higher amount is permitted. Basic amount and higher amount tuition fee caps for publicly funded higher education institutions that have not achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will remain at £6,000 and £9,000 respectively in 2017/18.

10. The Basic Amount Regulations provide that the maximum tuition fee for publicly funded higher education institutions that have achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will be £4,625 for part-time courses in 2017/18, where the basic amount is permitted. The Higher Amount Regulations provide that the maximum tuition fee for publicly funded institutions that have achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will be £6,935 for part-time courses in 2017/18, where the higher amount is permitted. Part-time basic amount and higher amount tuition fee caps for publicly funded higher education institutions that have not achieved a TEF rating of Meets Expectations will remain at £4,500 and £6,750 respectively in 2017/18.

Inflation Index Regulations

11. The Inflation Index Amendment Regulations amend the Student Fees (Inflation Index) Regulations 2006 which set the index of prices to be used for uprating maximum amounts of tuition fees in order to maintain the value of these amounts in real terms. The latter regulations specify the All Items Retail Price Index Excluding Mortgage Interest Repayments (RPIX) as the index of prices to be used for uprating maximum amounts of tuition fees for publicly funded higher education institutions in order to maintain the value of these amounts in real terms. The Inflation Index Regulations clarify that the relevant index (which is preserved by the new Regulations) is now issued by the Office for Budget Responsibility rather than the Office for National Statistics.

Electronic Copies of Regulations, Explanatory Memorandum and Equality Analysis

12. Electronic copies of the Basic Amount Regulations, the Higher Amount Regulations and the Inflation Index Amendment Regulations can be downloaded from the legislation.gov.uk website at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1205/contents/made

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1206/contents/made

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1207/contents/made

13. An Explanatory Memorandum setting out changes implemented through all 3 sets of regulations in detail can be downloaded from the legislation.gov.uk website at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1207/pdfs/uksiem 20161207 en.pdf

14. An Equality Analysis of Higher Education Student Finance changes for undergraduates in 2017/18, including changes to maximum fee caps can be found on the .GOV.UK website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-student-finance-2017-to-2018-equality-analysis

ORDERING COPIES OF REGULATIONS:

15. If you wish to order copies of Regulations, please access the TSO Shop website and click on the 'contact us' link at the top of the webpage: www.tsoshop.co.uk

ENQUIRIES:

16. If you have any queries about the Basic Amount, Higher Amount or Inflation Index Amendment Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team: telephone 0300 100 0618; email SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk