

## Funding Information: Part-time Higher Education 2010/11

### Studying part-time

Funding for part-time Higher Education has two main parts - tuition fees and study costs.

### Tuition fees

If you are studying part-time or by distance learning your college or university may waive your fees if you are on a low income or receive certain benefits. Otherwise you will need to pay your tuition fees.

### What is a fee waiver?

This means that you do not have to pay a college or university the tuition fee for your course if you meet certain requirements. These requirements have two parts:

- income assessment
- residency status

To qualify for a fee waiver you must meet both requirements. Further information is available from your college or university.

### Part-time fee grant

If you don't qualify for the fee waiver from your institution, you may qualify for the new part-time fee grant.

Eligible learner can apply for a learner account from ILA Scotland and get up to £500, every year, towards the cost of the course. To be eligible for this part-time fee grant you should be 16 or over with an income of £22,000 a year or less. To qualify for this funding, eligible learner should be studying a part-time Higher Education and professional qualification courses at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 7 - 11\* and be studying 40 SCQF credits or more per year.

\*Eligible qualifications at SCQF level 11 are subject to review after academic year 2010/2011

Even if you are 16 or over and studying a part-time Higher Education course that is less than 40 SCQF credits a year you may still be able to get up to £200 towards the cost of the course.

Call ILA Scotland free on 0808 100 1090 or visit [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk) to find out more.

## **Support for students with disabilities**

You can apply to SAAS for a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) if you are disabled and have extra costs that are directly linked to your course. You may need to go to an assessment centre for advice on the equipment or help you will need to do your course. You can get up to £5,160 to buy a major item of specialist equipment (for example, a computer), up to £20,520 for non-medical personal help, and up to £1,725 for certain other course-related costs.

The amount for non-medical helpers and the allowance for certain other course-related costs will be in proportion to the time spent on the qualification. For example, if you are studying 50% of an eligible full-time HNC, HND or degree, you will be restricted to 50% of these allowances.

## **Discretionary Funds**

Part-time students who experience hardship may apply to their college or university Discretionary Fund for support. Funds are limited and each case is decided individually.

## **Effect on benefits of studying part-time**

If you are currently eligible for certain income-related benefits, you may still be entitled to them when you become a part-time or distance-learning student. It is important to discuss this with the student advisor at your college, university or distance-learning provider as well as your local Jobcentre Plus office.

Generally, Jobcentre Plus will ignore payments you receive that are for a specific purpose. As the part-time fee grant is paid directly to your institution your benefits should not be affected.

Any payments you receive from Discretionary Funds will not be taken into account unless the payment is towards general living costs, and even then some or all of it may be disregarded.

## **How to apply**

For information on applying for a fee waiver please contact your college or university.

To apply for the part-time fee grant from ILA Scotland helpline call them free on 0808 100 1090. You can also find more information at [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk)

To apply for the Disabled Students Allowance please contact Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). Gyleview House, 3 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9HH. Tel. 0845 111 1711 or email [www.saas.gov.uk/contact.htm](http://www.saas.gov.uk/contact.htm) or visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk).

## **Useful terms**

### **Part-time**

Part-time study includes all study that is not full-time and can include a morning/afternoon or evening class, day or block release, and infilling into classes of full-time courses.

### **Higher Education**

Courses at Higher National Certificate level or above (that is Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework level 7 or above) are classed as Higher Education. These are usually taken at college or university.