

## Funding while on a Placement Year 2011 –12

This factsheet provides information on funding for students required to undertake a placement year as part of their course and their period of full time study is in aggregate less than 10 weeks in that year. It does not apply to students undertaking clinical placements as part of their Medicine, Dentistry and other Healthcare related course.

### Will I be charged tuition fees while on my placement year?

The amount of tuition fees you will be charged while on a placement year depends on which course you study. In most cases you will be charged half the amount of tuition fees you usually pay. We recommend that you check with your school or the Fees Office.

The maximum amount of financial support available towards tuition fees while you are on the placement year is £1,680, in 2011/12. For Welsh domicile and EU students who commenced their course before 2010/11, the first £1,015 of this will be in a form of a Tuition Fee Grant and the remaining £665 will be a Tuition Fee Loan. For other home students, including Welsh domicile and EU students who commenced their course in 2010/11 and after, you will be able to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan of £1,680. remember you still need to apply for this support through the relevant student finance service.

### Will I be eligible for any grants towards my living costs?

If you are getting paid for your placement year you will not be eligible for a Maintenance Grant (MG) or an Assembly Learning Grant (ALG). In order to be eligible for a MG or an ALG your placement must constitute “unpaid service.” Student Finance defines “unpaid service” as:

- unpaid service in a hospital or in a public health service laboratory or with a primary care trust in the United Kingdom;
- unpaid service with a local authority in the United Kingdom acting in the exercise of their functions relating to the care of children and young persons, health or welfare or with a voluntary organisation providing facilities or carrying out activities of a like nature in the United Kingdom;
- unpaid service in the prison or probation and aftercare service in the United Kingdom;
- unpaid research in an institution in the United Kingdom or, in the case of an eligible student attending an overseas institution as part of the eligible student’s course, in an overseas institution;

## Can I still apply for a Maintenance Loan?

If your placement constitutes “unpaid service,” you will be entitled to be assessed for a full Maintenance Loan. The maximum amounts for 2011/12 are:

	Maximum amount of Loan
Student living in parental home	£3,673
Placement in London	£6,643
Attending an overseas institution	£5,653
All other student	£4,745

However, if your placement is paid or does not fall under the unpaid service definition above, you will receive a reduced amount of Maintenance Loan which is not means tested. The amounts for 2011/12 are

	Loan amount
Student living in parental home	£1,744
Placement in London	£3,268
Attending an overseas institution	£2,780
All other student	£2,324

## Does it make a difference if my placement is overseas?

If your placement year is overseas the same rules apply for support towards Tuition Fees and Maintenance Support as described above. If you are attending an overseas institution for the year or doing unpaid research at an overseas institution, you could qualify for maximum support including an additional amount of Maintenance Loan.

## What financial support is available if I'm on the Erasmus scheme?

If your placement year is through the Erasmus scheme you do not pay tuition fees for the year as you will benefit from the fee waiver scheme. You will continue to receive financial support as in previous years however you might get an additional amount of Maintenance Loan as you will be overseas. You will also receive a monthly Erasmus grant to help support your living costs.

Additional grants are also available through the Erasmus Scheme including Priority Country Supplementary Funding, Widening Participation Supplementary Funding and Short-Term Work Placement Supplementary Funding.

## Is there any support towards travel if my placement is overseas?

Students attending an overseas institution as part of their UK course are eligible for a grant to meet the costs of travel within and outside the UK for the purpose of attending the overseas institution. This includes necessary daily travel while overseas. Student Finance will reasonably allow for three return journeys between the UK and the overseas institution during the academic year. The Travel Grant will also assist with the cost of insuring against liability for the cost of medical treatment provided outside the UK and visa and medical costs that are mandatory conditions of entry into the host country.

The Travel Grant is means tested. The first £303 of the travel expenditure is non refundable.

## **Can I still qualify for the Cardiff University bursary on my placement year?**

If you are on your placement year and you are not liable for any fees, you will not be eligible for a bursary for that academic year. If your fees are reduced in your placement year, your bursary will be reduced. Please contact the Student Support Centre for more information.

### **Useful Contacts:**

**Fee Office:** +44 (0)29 2087 9262

**Student Finance Wales:** [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

**Student Finance England:** [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**Erasmus scheme:** <http://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus-funding.htm>