

Funding for part-time study

Non NHS Funded Occupational Therapy



The following information is produced by the Student Support Centre, Cardiff University. It is intended to be used as guidance about eligibility for student support, via a Local Education Authority (LEA) in Wales. **Your eligibility and entitlement to support will be assessed by your LEA if you live permanently in Wales or by the Student Finance Service of the home UK country where you lived prior to the course (See the last page about changes to student finance from 2012).**

You must satisfy the residence conditions to be eligible to apply for support. This usually means that you have lived in the UK for 3 years prior to the course and you don't have any restrictions on your stay in the UK. If you have any queries on these conditions please contact a Student Adviser, Student Support Centre, Cardiff University or your funding authority.

Support for part-time study on a course that is 75% or more of a full-time course should consist of the following –

Support for tuition fees – ‘The Basic Grant’

- 1) You can apply for a grant of up to £975 per year in respect of tuition fees,
- or
- 2) A grant equivalent to the actual fees if the fees are less than £975.

Support for other course related costs – ‘The Course Grant’

You would also be eligible to apply for a grant of up to £1095 per year towards books, travel and other course related costs other than fees.

These two elements of support are income assessed against household income as follows.

Gross Household Income means taxable income before deductions for income tax and National Insurance are made. It includes your income as a student and the income of a partner or spouse if you live as a couple. Parental income is **not** assessed even if you live with your parents.

Disregards from household income of £2000 for a partner/spouse or eldest child and £1000 for each other dependant would be applied. Household income does not include student support, Tax Credits and most Benefits (The exception would be Incapacity Benefit or the new Contribution based Employment Support Allowance).

Income in the previous tax year (April 2010 to April 2011) is assessed for entry in Sep 2011. Income in the current tax year can be assessed if this is significantly less than in the previous tax year.

Maximum support according to gross household income

Gross household income	The Basic Grant	Course Grant
£16,865 or less	£975	£1095
£20,000	£605	£1095
£22,000	£401	£1095
£24,000	£197	£1095
£26,000	No fee grant payable	£1095
£27,000	No fee grant payable	£642
£28,181	No support payable	No support payable

Students with dependants (children and/or an adult)

Students with dependants are eligible to apply for extra allowances but this element of support would be income assessed against the household income in a different way to the above grants. To qualify for extra allowances your children and/or an adult dependant (E.g. Spouse or partner) if applicable would have to be wholly or mainly financially dependent on you. Single parent students and students whose partner/spouse is in receipt of means tested benefits or an equivalent level of income are more likely to qualify for this type of support.

For example a single parent student is likely to qualify for a Parents Learning Allowance of £1131 and also help with up to 85% of registered childcare costs via the Child Care Grant. The maximum amount of Child Care Grant that can be paid is capped at £121.12 per week for one child and £205.91 per week for two or more children. The maximum Grant for an adult who is financially dependent on you is £1985 p.a.

If the household income qualifies for Working Tax Credit then this may be a passport to partial grants for dependants but only usually if you incur registered childcare costs.

Please contact us at the Student Support Centre for more information or advice about extra allowances.

Students with Dyslexia and Disabled students

If you anticipate incurring extra costs directly related to dyslexia or a disability in respect of your studies and attendance on the course you will have the option to apply for non-income assessed grant support to help with these costs. The application form for support will have a section about learning support needs as a result of dyslexia or a disability.

Previous study

If you have completed a first degree or you studied previously on part-time courses for an aggregate of 8 years you will not be eligible to apply for further support. If you attended a previous course of Higher Education but did not complete it, or attended a course of less than 3 years, then you may be eligible for funding for part of your new course. Please contact a Student Adviser at the Student Support Centre for further information.

How to apply

You need to complete an application form **PTG1** which you can request from your LEA (Telephone the local council and ask for student support) or download a form from your relevant Student Support Service. Applications for part-time student support are usually available later in the year (last year they were available from July).

We would recommend that you contact your funding authority to ask them when you can expect to be able to obtain an application form. The contact details for LEAs are listed from the link at www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/ under support for part-time students and local authorities (LA's). For Student Finance Services in England, Scotland and N Ireland search under 'Student Finance' and the relevant country for their websites.

The PTG1 form will have to be signed by Cardiff University to verify your course details prior to despatch to the funding authority for assessment.

If you have any queries about the above information then please contact.

Gareth Davies Student Advice & Guidance Student Support Centre Cardiff University 2nd Floor Cardigan House Heath Park Email: DaviesGT1@cardiff.ac.uk Tel - (029) 2074 2070 (Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs)	Student Advice & Guidance Team Student Support Centre Cardiff University 50 Park Place Cardiff University CF10 3AT Tel. (029) 2087 4844 Email: studentsupport@cardiff.ac.uk (Monday to Friday)
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Note:

The UK Government and the National Assembly for Wales have produced policy proposals for changes to student finance in England and Wales for tuition fees and support for living costs from 2012.

The published proposals state that **the proposed changes will only apply to new entrants starting at University for the first time in 2012 or later.**

These changes should not affect existing students or students who start University in 2011. If you are considering starting a course in 2012 or later the following information may be of interest.

Full details of the proposed changes for new entrants starting at University from 2012 have been published and are available on the web via –

The UK Government website for Education –

www.bis.gov.uk/ - under 'Policies', 'Higher Education' and 'Students'.

There is a summary of the proposed changes for students living permanently in England and a 'Myth Buster' section which addresses questions about what the changes may mean.

The National Assembly for Wales website –

www.wales.gov.uk/ - under 'Consultations', 'Education' and 'HE Funding'.

A search for 'Higher Education Funding and student finance Wales 2012/13' should provide a link for the relevant page. The proposals are outlined in the PDF Document.