

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Circular

Department for Work and Pensions

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HB/CTB A18/2009

ADJUDICATION AND OPERATIONS CIRCULAR

WHO SHOULD READ	All Housing Benefit (HB) and Council Tax Benefit (CTB) staff
ACTION	For information and action
SUBJECT	Student support uprating 2009/2010

Guidance Manual

The information in this circular does affect the content of the HB/CTB Guidance Manual. Please annotate student support disregards against *C2.Annex B*.

Queries

If you

- want **extra copies of this circular/copies of previous circulars**, they can be found on the website at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/local-authority-staff/housing-benefit/user-communications/hbctb-circulars/>
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Student support uprating 2009/2010

Introduction

- 1 This memo gives guidance on changes made by The Social Security (Students and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No:1575) and provides the loan and grant rates for 2009/2010.

Effective dates

- 2 The changes take effect from
 - the day the period of study begins, where that date is on or after 1 August 2009 and before 1 September 2009, or
 - 1 September 2009 in any other case

Changes

- 3 This year the amendments include the annual uprating of student disregards in respect of travel costs, books and equipment.

Treatment of grant income

Disregard for books, travel and equipment

- 4 Where a student does not have a student loan and is not treated as having one, the Decision Maker (DM) should disregard from the grant income
 - £303.00 for travel costs, and
 - £390.00 for books and equipmentwhether or not the student has to meet the cost of the items.

Treatment of student loans

Disregard for books, travel and equipment

- 5 The amount of a student loan to be taken into account as student income should be reduced by
 - £303.00 for travel costs and
 - £390.00 for books and equipmentwhether or not the student has to meet the cost of the items

Appendix 1 – Student loan and grant rates - 2009/10

Annex A - Maximum loan rates 2009/10 (students who started the course on or after 1 September 1998) - England, Northern Ireland and Wales

England and Northern Ireland

Full year rate	Main loans	Reduced loans
Living away from home		
- in London	£6,928	£3,263
- elsewhere	£4,950	£2,324
Living in parental home	£3,838	£1,744
Final year rate		
Living away from home		
- in London	£6,307	£2,498
- elsewhere	£4,583	£1,811
Living in parental home	£3,483	£1,324
Loans for extra weeks attendance - paid weekly		
Living away from home		
- in London	£106	
- elsewhere	£83	
Living in parental home	£54	

Wales

Full year rate	Main loans	Reduced loans
Living away from home		
- in London	£6,648	£3,268
- elsewhere	£4,745	£2,324
Living in parental home	£3,673	£1,744
Final year rate		
Living away from home		
- in London	£6,053	£2,498
- elsewhere	£4,396	£1,811
Living in parental home	£3,324	£1,324
Extra weeks attendance - paid weekly		
Living away from home		
- in London	£106	£106
- elsewhere	£83	£83
Living in parental home	£55	£55

Note: Students attending full time, sandwich or part-time courses of Initial Teacher Training that involve 6 weeks or more full time attendance in the academic year are eligible for the appropriate main loan rate, 25% of which is income assessed.

The following groups of students are eligible for the reduced, non-income assessed loan

- eligible students attending courses of Initial Teacher Training that requires less than 6 weeks full time attendance in the academic year
- eligible students on full year sandwich course paid placements, where the periods of full-time study are less than 10 weeks in aggregate
- students who are holders of means-tested NHS bursaries or means-tested Scottish Health Care Allowances

Annex B - Maximum loan rates 2009/10 (students who started the course on or after 1 September 1998/1999) - Scotland

Scotland

Full year rate	Loans
Attending Scottish institutions	
Living away from home	£4,625
Living in parental home	£3,665
Attending institutions outside Scotland	
Living away from home	
- in London	£5,710
- elsewhere	£4,625
Living in parental home	£3,665
Final year rate	
Attending Scottish institutions	
Living away from home	£4,015
Living in parental home	£3,200
Attending institutions outside Scotland	
Living away from home	
- in London	£4,950
- elsewhere	£4,015
Living in parental home	£3,200
Loans for extra weeks attendance – paid weekly	
Living away from home	
- in London	£106 weekly
- elsewhere	£83 weekly
Living in parental home	£54 weekly

Annex C - Maximum rates 2009/10 (students who started the course before 1 September 1998) - England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Full year rate	Grant	Loan	Total
Living away from home			
- in London	£2,835	£2,730	£5,565
- elsewhere	£2,300	£2,210	£4,510
Living in parental home	£1,875	£1,695	£3,570
Final year rate			
Living away from home			
- in London	£2,835	£1,990	£4,825
- elsewhere	£2,300	£1,615	£3,915
Living in parental home	£1,875	£1,245	£3,120
Extra weeks attendance - paid weekly			
Living away from home			
- in London	£103	-	£103
- elsewhere	£81	-	£81
Living in parental home	£53	-	£53

Annex D - Maximum rates 2009/10 (who started the course before 1 September 1998) – Scotland

Full year rate	Grant	Loan	Total
Living away from home			
- in London	£2,800	£2,800	£5,600
- elsewhere	£2,265	£2,265	£4,530
Living in parental home	£1,740	£1,740	£3,480
Final year rate			
Living away from home			
- in London	£2,265	£1,655	£3,920
- elsewhere	£1,740	£1,275	£3,015
Living in parental home	£2,800	£2,045	£4,845
Extra weeks attendance - paid weekly			
Living away from home			
- in London	£98	-	£98
- elsewhere	£76	-	£76
Living in parental home	£45	-	£45

Annex E - Grants for additional living expenses

All students

	England, Scotland & Northern Ireland	Wales
Travel grant	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount
Disabled students allowances		
- non-medical helper - full-time student	Up to £20,520	Up to £20,520
- non-medical helper - part-time student ¹	Up to £15,390	Up to £15,390
- major items of specialist equipment	Up to £5,161 for the duration of the course	Up to £5,166 for the duration of the course
- travel costs	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount	Reasonable costs – less the first £303
- other items (full-time student)	Up to £1,724	Up to £1,729
- other items (part time student)	Up to £1,293	Up to £1,293
Grants for students with dependants		
Adult dependant or first dependent child where there is not an adult dependant	£2,642 England only	£2,647
Parents Learning Allowance –	Up to £1,508 per annum (Min £50 pa) England, & Northern Ireland	Up to £1,508 per annum (Min £50 pa)
Child care grant Full time students only		
One child	Up to £148.75 per week England only	Up to £161.50 per week
Two or more children	Up to £255 per week England only	Up to £274.55 per week
Lone Parent Grant	£1,305 Scotland only	

Lone Parents Childcare Grant –	Up to £1,215 per annum Scotland only	
Vacation grant for Care leavers – long vacation	£105 per week Scotland & Northern Ireland only	
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) – postgraduate²	£10,260	£10,260
Part-time students – Course Grant	£260	£1,075
Part-time students – fee support	Up to £1,210	Up to £955

¹Not relevant in Scotland where Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) is pro-rated for part-time students.

²Not relevant in Scotland – only Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) funded PG students can claim DSA and then at the same rate as undergraduate students.