

Joint IS/JSA Bulletin

Series No	xx/04	On desk date	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Contact	Adviceline: 01253 848000	To	All IS and JSA Staff

The 23 day rule applies to this bulletin.

The contents of this bulletin can be made available to the public on request.

Classification	Subject	Paragraph	Action
Information	Changes to student regulations	1	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff
New	Education Maintenance Allowance	2	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff
New	Housing Benefit eligibility in Student Accommodation	3	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff
Information	Department for Education and Skills	4	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff
Information	Children Leaving Care in Wales – minor amendment to regulations	5	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff
Correction	Incorrect address within JSAP bulletin 11/04 and IS bulletin 14/04	6	For immediate attention of all IS and JSA processing staff, Advisors and Front Facing Staff

Managers Action:

Ensure all IS and JSA processing staff are aware of the contents of this bulletin.

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1 Changes to student regulations

Introduction

1.1 This Bulletin notifies you of the annual uprating of student loans, and gives details of Social Security (Student and Income-related Benefits) Amendment Regulations 2004.

1.2 These regulations come into force from 1 August 2004 and take effect from:

- 1) the day the period of study begins, where that date is on or after 1st August 2004 and before 1st September 2004 or
- 2) 1st September in any other cases

References to “regulations” refer to these regulations unless otherwise indicated

Rates of loans/grants and disregards

1.3 The rates of:

- disregards are shown at Appendix A
- loans/grants are shown at Appendix B
- NHS Funded student loans/grants are shown at Appendix C

Treatment of loans and grants

1.4 There has been no change in the attribution of loans and grants for this academic year.

Disregards for students with childcare responsibilities

1.5 Childcare costs are increasingly recognised in the student support system by specific grants. Until now, grants for childcare have been disregarded by the creation of specific disregards for each scheme. The opportunity has been taken to simplify these disregards by creating a single disregard from grant income of any payment intended to meet the costs of childcare.

This new disregard supersedes the disregard introduced following the start of Child Tax Credit, which disregarded childcare costs only from the date of the student’s claim to, or migration onto, Child Tax Credit.

2 Education Maintenance Allowance

2.1 A pilot EMA scheme was introduced in 1999. This is being replaced by a national scheme from the start of the 2004/05 academic year – September in England and Wales; August in Scotland.

2.2 EMAs are means-tested payments to support young people who remain in non-advanced education post-age 16. In the national scheme, EMAs can normally be paid for up to 2 years over a period of 3 years from age 16 or, in some cases, for 3 years over a period of 4 years. They will include weekly payments of £10, £20 or £30 depending upon household income, plus periodic bonuses as a reward for staying on the course and making good progress (in England & Wales the bonuses will be £100 two in the first year, three in the second; in Scotland, £150 - two payments payable each year.. Payments of EMA may continue beyond the 19th birthday or the 20th for those eligible for payments over 4 years.

- 2.3 In some pilots EMAs could be paid to the parent as well as the young person. In the national scheme, the EMA will always be the income of the young person.
- 2.4 EMAs will be disregarded as capital and as income.

3 Eligibility for HB in student accommodation

- 3.1 HB regulations have been changed so that the small number of students who would be eligible for HB but, because they live in accommodation rented from their educational establishment, are treated as not liable to make payments (and, therefore, not eligible for HB), will now be eligible for HB.

4 Department for Education and Skills

- 4.1 The **Higher Education Grant (England & Wales)** is a new grant in 2004/2005. Students who have a household income of £15,200 or less are eligible for the maximum grant. Students who have a household income of more than £15,200 but less than £21,185 are eligible for £1 less than the maximum grant for each complete £6.30 by which their household income exceeds £15,200 subject to a maximum grant of £50.
- 4.2 The Higher Education Grant will be disregarded because it is for the purpose of defraying costs of books, equipment, travel and childcare.
- 4.3 Students on **part-time** courses will not be eligible for maintenance loans from 2004/05. A grant for part-time students to cover the cost of books and equipment, and travel has been introduced.

5 Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 – Care Leavers in Wales

- 5.1 The Children (Leaving Care) (Wales) Regulations were introduced on 1 October 2001. A minor amendment to these regulations will come in to force on 23 July 2004.
- 5.2 The original regulations provided that any child aged 16 or 17 who is not the subject of a care order, would be regarded as a relevant child where at the time they attained the age of sixteen they:
- were detained or in hospital and immediately before admission or detention they had been looked after by a local authority for a period or periods amounting to 13 weeks or more which began after the age of 14.

Changes coming in to force on 23 July 2004

- 5.3 From 23 July 2004, in calculating the period of 13 weeks, no account will be taken of any short term placements of 4 weeks or less where at the end of each placement, the child returns to the care of his or her parent or a person who has parental responsibility.
- 5.4 This amendment brings the arrangements in Wales in to line with the arrangements that have operated in England since October 2001.

6 Incorrect address within JSAP bulletin 11/04 and IS bulletin 14/04

6.1 Please note that the address for Halifax PLC provided in JSA Payment Procedural Bulletin 11/04 and Income Support Bulletin 14/04 at paragraph 5.1 was incorrect. The Intranet versions of these bulletins have now been corrected.

6.2 All MI12/MI12Rs plus related correspondence in respect of Halifax plc should be sent to:

Halifax PLC
PO Box 548
Leeds
LS1 1WU

Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Latest Joint IS/JSA Bulletins issued:

Series No.	On desk date	Subject	Paragraph
16/04	24/06/04	Revised Model National Service Level Agreement for the administration of Housing Benefit	1
15/04	22/06/04	Bank Wizard	1
14/04	16/06/04	VAT 2000 System Generated checks Prepayment Check Guidance	1 2
13/04	02/06/04	DLA Interface	1
12/04	24/05/04	Provision of information from Halifax plc	1
11/04	21/05/04	Guidance Finder	1

If you have any distribution queries regarding this and any other bulletin series, please contact

Corporate Document Services Orderline:

• 0113 399 4040 •

Issued for OSD Benefits Support by Corporate Document Services, 7 Eastgate, Leeds

Appendix A

Disregards – 2004/2005

Disregard from personal maintenance grant or loan for:

- Books and equipment

£343 per annum

Income Support Regulations Reg 62(2A) and 66A(5)

Jobseekers Allowance Regulations Reg 131(3) and 136(5)

- Travel costs

£275 per annum

Income Support Regulations Reg 62(2A) and 66A(5)

Jobseekers Allowance Regulations Reg 131(3) and 136(5)

Appendix B - Student loan and grant rates for the 2004/2005 academic year

Personal maintenance loans

Students who started their course on or after 1 September 1998 (England and Wales)

Full year rate	Loans ¹
Living away from home²	
- in London	£5050
- elsewhere	£4095
Living in parental home	£3240
Extra weeks attendance (Paid weekly)	
- living away from home ²	
- in London	£94 (weekly)
- elsewhere	£73 (weekly)
- living in parental home	£49 (weekly)
Final year rate	
Living away from home²	
- in London	£4380
- elsewhere	£3555
Living in parental home	£2830

¹ These are the rates relevant to Higher Education undergraduate students. Lower rates that are not subject to a DfES means test may apply to other students, eg those on teacher training courses, in receipt of NHS bursaries, or in full-year sandwich placements. Authorities should check with relevant LEA in cases of doubt.

² The "London" rate is payable when a student is living away from home and studying at an institution in London. The "elsewhere" rate is payable when the student is living away from home and studying outside London.

Students who started their course on or after 1 September 1998 (Scotland)

Full year rate	Loans ¹
Attending Scottish institutions	
Living away from home	£4095
Living in parental home	£3240
Attending institutions outside Scotland	
Living away from home ³	
- in London	£5050
- elsewhere	£4095
Living in parental home	£3240
Final year rate	
Attending Scottish Institutions	
Living away from home	£3555
Living in parental home	£2830
Attending Institutions outside Scotland	
Living away from home ³	
- in London	£4380
- elsewhere	£3555
Living in parental home	£2830
Extra weeks attendance	
(Paid weekly to all students who entered HE in 1998 or later).	
Living away from home ²	
- in London	£94 (weekly)
- elsewhere	£73 (weekly)
Living in parental home	£49 (weekly)

¹ Students who started courses in Scotland from 2001 will have their max support (in the form of student loans and non-repayable bursaries) increased by £530 depending on parental income. Young Scottish students from low-income families studying outwith Scotland from 2002 will have their max support increased by up to £530 non-repayable bursary

Students who started, or are treated as having started, their course before 1 September 1998 (England and Wales)

Full year rate	Grant	Loan	TOTAL
Living away from home			
- in London	£ 2570	£2480	£5050
- elsewhere	£2090	£2005	£4095
Living in parental home	£1705	£1535	£3240
Extra weeks attendance (Paid weekly)			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£94	-	£94 (paid weekly)
- elsewhere	£73	-	£73 (paid weekly)
Living in parental home	£49	-	£49 (paid weekly)
Final year rate			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£2570	£1810	£4380
- elsewhere	£2090	£1465	£3555
Living in parental home	£1705	£1125	£2830

¹The "London" rate is payable when a student is living away from home and studying at an institution in London. The "elsewhere" rate is payable when the student is living away from home and studying outside London.

Students who started their course before 1 September 1998 (Scotland)

Full year rate	Grant	Loan	TOTAL
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£2480	£2480	£4960
- elsewhere	£2005	£2005	£4010
Living in parental home	£1535	£1535	£3070
Extra weeks attendance (Paid weekly)			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£88	-	£88 (weekly)
- elsewhere	£67	-	£67 (weekly)
- living in parental home	£40	-	£40 (weekly)
Final year rate			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£2480	£1810	£4290
- elsewhere	£2005	£1465	£3470
Living in parental home	£1535	£1125	£2660

¹The "London" rate is payable when a student is living away from home and studying at an institution in London. The "elsewhere" rate is payable when the student is living away from home and studying outside London.

Grants for extra living costs

All students

Travel grant	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount
Disabled students grants	
- non-medical helper (full-time student)	Up to £11,550
- non-medical helper (part-time student)	Up to £8670 ¹
- major items of equipment	Up to £4565 for the duration of the course
- travel costs	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount
- other items (full-time student)	Up to £1525
- other items (part time student)	Up to £1140 ¹
Grants for students with dependants	
Allowances for dependants	
- adult dependant (or first dependent child if no adult dependant)	£2335 ²
Lone Parents Grant	£1150 ²
Parents Learning Allowance (England & Wales – F/T only)	Up to £1330 per annum depending on income and number of children
Child care grant (England & Wales – F/T students only)	
One child	Up to £114.75 pw (or 85% of actual costs up to £135pw)
Two or more children	Up to £170 pw (or 85% of actual costs up to £200pw)
Allowance for lone parents with formal childcare costs	£1075 ⁴

Care leavers grant (long vacation only)	Up to £100 (weekly)
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) – postgraduate	£5550 ³
Part-time students – grant for books and equipment & travel	£250

¹ Not relevant in Scotland where DSA is pro-rated for part-time students.

² Students who started their course prior to 1 September 2001 may choose to retain their right to the lone parent's allowance (grant) or to apply for the new childcare package. No student will be able to receive both.

Lone parent students starting their course after 1 September 2001, and those existing students that choose the new childcare package, will not be entitled to a lone parent's allowance.

Note: This childcare package is not applicable in Scotland.

³ Not 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.

⁴ This is only available in Scotland.

The Higher Education Grant (England & Wales)

This is a new grant of up to **£1,000** in 2004/05. Students who have a household income of **£15,200** or less are eligible for the maximum grant. Students who have a household income of more than **£15,200** but less than **£21,185** are eligible for £1 less than the maximum grant for each complete **£6.30** by which their household income exceeds **£15,200**, subject to a minimum grant of **£50**.

Grant Entitlement for Illustrative Levels of Income

Household Income	Amount of Grant Available	Household Income	Amount of Grant Available
15,200	1,000	19,000	396
16,000	873	19,600	317
16,500	793	20,000	238
17,000	714	20,500	158
17,500	634	21,000	79
18,000	555	21,185 (1)	50
18,500	476		

(1) Where the household income is £21,186 or more, the student is not eligible for any grant.

Appendix C - NHS funded students - rates for means-tested bursary and reduced rate loans - 2004/2005 academic year

	BURSARY (England and Wales)	BURSARY (Scotland)	LOAN (England, Wales & Scotland)
Living away from home¹			
- in London	£2768	£ 2675	£2480
- elsewhere	£2253	£ 2170	£2005
Living in parental home	£1843	£ 1655	£1535
Extra Weeks' Attendance²			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£94 (per week)	£ 94 (per week)	-
- elsewhere	£73 (per week)	£ 71 (per week)	-
Living in parental home	£49 (per week)	£ 43 (per week)	-
Final year rate			
Living away from home ¹			
- in London	£2768	£ 2675	£1810
- elsewhere	£2253	£ 2170	£1465
Living in parental home	£1843	£ 1655	£1125

¹ The "London" rate is payable when a student is living away from home and studying at an institution in London. The "elsewhere" rate is payable when the student is living away from home and studying outside London.

² Additional weeks' attendance allowance is payable for every week over 30 weeks and three days. Students are required to attend the course in each academic year. If required to attend for more than 45 weeks, the student will be treated as if in attendance for 52 weeks.

NHS funded students - Allowances for extra living costs

Non-diploma students, ie means tested students only

Travel allowance	<p>England & Wales - Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount.</p> <p>Scotland - Up to the following limits (for 30 weeks courses) Single students living at home:- £790 Independent students living in their own home - £930</p>
Disabled students allowances	
- non-medical helper	Up to £11,550
- major items of equipment	Up to £4565 (for the duration of the course)
- travel costs	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount
- other items	Up to £1525
Allowances for students with dependants	
Allowances for dependants	
- adult dependant (or first dependent child if no adult dependant)	£2335 £2335 in Scotland (for adult dependants only)
Dependant children	
- aged under 11	£488 N/A in Scotland
- aged 11 - 15	£977 N/A in Scotland
- aged 16 -17	£1299 N/A in Scotland
- aged 18 or over	£1869 N/A in Scotland

Child Care Allowance (England & Wales)	
One child	Up to £114.75 pw (or 85% of actual costs up to £135 pw)
Two or more children	Up to £170 pw (or 85% of actual costs up to £200 pw)
Older Students Allowance	
Age 26	£397 N/A in Scotland
Age 27	£687 N/A in Scotland
Age 28	£1020 N/A in Scotland
Age 29+	£1348 N/A in Scotland
Allowance for lone parents – not payable in addition to Older Student's Allowance	£1153 £1150 in Scotland
Care leavers allowance	Up to £100 (weekly) - payable in respect of the longest vacation

Diploma students (non-means tested)

Bursary rates 2004/2005 academic year

England and Wales

Living away from home ¹	
- in London	£6692
- elsewhere	£5695
Living in parental home	£5695
Extra Weeks' Attendance ²	£17

Scotland

Aged 26 or over, or on a two year graduate course (regardless of age)	£6418
Aged under 26	£5700

¹. The "London" rate is payable when a student is living away from home and studying at an institution in London. The "elsewhere" rate is payable when the student is living away from home and studying outside London.

². Bursaries for Diploma students are payable on the basis that students will attend for 45 weeks of the year. The basic rate of the bursary will increase by this amount for each week if a student has to move to London for a clinical placement.

Diploma students – Additional allowances

	England and Wales	Scotland
Disabled students allowances		
- non-medical helper	Up to £11,550	£11,550
- major items of equipment	Up to £4565 (for the duration of the course)	£4565
- travel costs	Reasonable costs - see award notice for amount	
- other items	Up to £1525	£1525
Allowances for students with dependants		
- allowances for dependants		
- adult dependant, or first dependent child if no adult dependant	£1980	£ 2335
- dependant children		
- aged under 11	£419	£486
- aged 11 -15	£833	£973
- aged 16 - 17	£1101	£1300
- aged 18- +	£1578	£1869
Single parent addition	£ 977	£1152
Childcare grant for lone parents		£1075
Care leavers allowance Note: Not applicable in Scotland	up to £100 per week during the longest vacation	£100
Older students' allowance³	£666	N/A
Initial course costs	£55 - a one-off payment	£55

³ Paid to:

- students aged 26 before the start of their course,
- diploma students following accelerated programmes for graduates
- Allowance is payable over 52 weeks