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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2006 No. 405**

**The Housing Benefit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006**

**PART VII**

**Students**

*SECTION 1*

*General*

**Interpretation**

**50.**—(1) In this Part—

“academic year” means the period of 12 months beginning on 1st January, 1st April, 1st July or 1st September according to whether the course in question begins in the winter, the spring, the summer or the autumn respectively but if students are required to begin attending the course during August or September and to continue attending through the autumn, the academic year of the course shall be considered to begin in the autumn rather than the summer;

“access funds” means—

- (a) grants made under Article 30 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1993<sup>(1)</sup> or grants, loans or other payments made under Article 5 of the Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997<sup>(2)</sup> in each case being grants, or grants, loans or other payments as the case may be, for the purpose of assisting students in financial difficulties;
- (b) grants made under section 68 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992<sup>(3)</sup> for the purpose of providing funds on a discretionary basis to be paid to students;
- (c) grants made under sections 73(a) and (c) and 74(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980<sup>(4)</sup>;
- (d) discretionary payments, known as “learner support funds”, which are made available to students in further education by institutions out of funds provided by the Learning and Skills Council for England under sections 5, 6 and 9 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000<sup>(5)</sup>; or
- (e) Financial Contingency Funds made available by the National Assembly for Wales;

“contribution” means any contribution in respect of the income of a student or of any other person which the Department, the Scottish Ministers or an education authority takes into account in ascertaining the amount of the student’s grant or student loan, or any sums, which in determining the amount of a student’s allowance or bursary in Scotland under the Further and

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(1) S.I. 1993/2810 (N.I. 12)

(2) S.I. 1997/1772 (N.I. 15)

(3) 1992 c. 13

(4) 1980 c. 44; the functions of the Secretary of State were transferred to Scottish Ministers by virtue of section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46)

(5) 2000 c. 21

Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992<sup>(6)</sup>, the Scottish Ministers or the education authority takes into account being sums which the Scottish Ministers or the education authority consider that the holder of the allowance or bursary, the holder's parents and the holder's spouse or civil partner can reasonably be expected to contribute towards the holder's expenses;

"course of study" means any course of study, whether or not it is a sandwich course and whether or not a grant is made for undertaking or attending it;

"covenant income" means the gross income payable to a full-time student under a Deed of Covenant by his parent;

"education authority" means a government department, an education and library board established under Article 3 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986<sup>(7)</sup>, a local education authority specified in section 12 of the Education Act 1996<sup>(8)</sup>, a local education authority as defined in section 123 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973<sup>(9)</sup>, any body which is a research council for the purposes of the Science and Technology Act 1965<sup>(10)</sup> or any analogous government department, authority, board or body, of the Channel Islands, Isle of Man or any other country outside the United Kingdom;

"full-time student" includes a student on a sandwich course;

"grant" (except in the definition of "access funds") means any kind of educational grant or award and includes any scholarship, studentship, exhibition, allowance or bursary but does not include a payment from access funds or any payment to which paragraph 12 of Schedule 6 or paragraph 50 of Schedule 7 applies;

"grant income" means—

- (a) any income by way of a grant;
- (b) any contribution whether or not it is paid;

"last day of the course" means—

- (a) in the case of a qualifying course, the date on which the last day of that course falls or the date on which the final examination relating to that course is completed, whichever is the later;
- (b) in any other case, the date on which the last day of the final academic term falls in respect of the course in which the student is enrolled;

"period of study" means—

- (a) in the case of a course of study for one year or less, the period beginning with the start of the course and ending with the last day of the course;
- (b) in the case of a course of study for more than one year, in the first or, as the case may be, any subsequent year of the course, other than the final year of the course, the period beginning with the start of the course or, as the case may be, that year's start and ending with either—
  - (i) in a case where the student's grant or loan is assessed at a rate appropriate to his studying throughout the year, or, if he does not have a grant or loan, where a loan would have been assessed at such a rate had he had one, the day before the start of the next year of the course, or
  - (ii) in any other case, the day before the start of the recognised summer vacation appropriate to his course;

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<sup>(6)</sup> 1992 c. 37

<sup>(7)</sup> S.I. 1986/594 (N.I. 3)

<sup>(8)</sup> 1996 c. 56

<sup>(9)</sup> 1973 c. 65

<sup>(10)</sup> 1965 c. 4

(c) in the final year of a course of study of more than one year, the period beginning with that year's start and ending with the last day of the course;

"periods of experience" means periods of work experience which form part of a sandwich course;

"qualifying course" means a qualifying course as defined for the purposes of Parts II and IV of the Jobseeker's Allowance Regulations;

"sandwich course" has the meaning prescribed in regulation 2(6) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005(11), regulation 2(6) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2005(12) or regulation 5(2) of the Education (Student Loans) (Scotland) Regulations 2000(13) as the case may be;

"standard maintenance grant" means—

(a) except where paragraph (b) or (c) applies, in the case of a student attending or undertaking a course of study at the University of London or an establishment within the area comprising the City of London and the Metropolitan Police District, the amount specified for the time being in paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 6 to the Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(14) ("the 2003 Regulations") for such a student;

(b) except where paragraph (c) applies, in the case of a student residing at his parent's home, the amount specified in paragraph 3 thereof;

(c) in the case of a student receiving an allowance or bursary under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, the amount of money specified as "standard maintenance allowance" for the relevant year appropriate for the student set out in the Student Support in Scotland Guide issued by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland(15), or its nearest equivalent in the case of a bursary provided by a college of further education or a local education authority and paid under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992;

(d) in any other case, the amount specified in paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 6 to the 2003 Regulations other than in head (a) or (b) thereof;

"student" means a person, other than a person in receipt of a training allowance, who is attending or undertaking—

(a) a course of study at an educational establishment; or

(b) a qualifying course;

"student loan" means a loan towards a student's maintenance pursuant to any regulations made under Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998(16), section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998(17) or section 73 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and shall include, in Scotland, a young student's bursary paid under regulation 4(1)(c) of the Students' Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1999(18).

(2) For the purposes of the definition of "full-time student" in paragraph (1), a person shall be regarded as attending or, as the case may be, undertaking a full-time course of study or as being on a sandwich course—

(a) subject to paragraph (3), in the case of a person attending or undertaking a part of a modular course which would be a full-time course of study for the purposes of this Part, for the period beginning on the day on which that part of the course starts and ending—

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(11) S.R. 2005 No. 340

(12) S.I. 2005/52

(13) S.S.I. 2000/200

(14) S.R. 2003 No. 459

(15) The relevant leaflets are SAS2 and SAS4

(16) S.I. 1998/1760 (N.I. 14)

(17) 1998 c. 30

(18) S.I. 1999/1131 (S. 91)

- (i) on the last day on which he is registered with the educational establishment as attending or undertaking that part as a full-time course of study, or
  - (ii) on such earlier date (if any) as he finally abandons the course or is dismissed from it;
  - (b) in any other case, throughout the period beginning on the date on which he starts attending or undertaking the course and ending on the last day of the course or on such earlier date (if any) as he finally abandons it or is dismissed from it.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (2), the period referred to in that sub-paragraph shall include—
- (a) where a person has failed examinations or has failed to successfully complete a module relating to a period when he was attending or undertaking a part of the course as a full-time course of study, any period in respect of which he attends or undertakes the course for the purpose of retaking those examinations or that module;
  - (b) any period of vacation within the period specified in that paragraph or immediately following that period except where the person has registered with the educational establishment to attend or undertake the final module in the course and the vacation immediately follows the last day on which he is required to attend or undertake the course.
- (4) In paragraph (2), “modular course” means a course of study which consists of 2 or more modules, the successful completion of a specified number of which is required before a person is considered by the educational establishment to have completed the course.

### **Treatment of students**

**51.** The provisions of Parts II, III and IV shall have effect in relation to students subject to the following provisions of this Part.

## *SECTION 2*

### *Entitlement and payments in respect of a dwelling*

#### **Occupying a dwelling as a person’s home**

**52.—**(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a full-time student shall not be treated as occupying a dwelling as his home during any benefit week outside the period of study if he is absent from it for the whole of that week and if the main purpose of his occupation during the period of study would be to facilitate attendance on his course.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply to any absence occasioned by the need to enter hospital for treatment.

#### **Full-time students to be treated as not liable to make payments in respect of a dwelling**

**53.—**(1) A full-time student shall be treated as if he were not liable to make payments in respect of a dwelling.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a full-time student—

- (a) who is a person on income support or an income-based jobseeker’s allowance;
- (b) who is a lone parent;
- (c) whose applicable amount would, but for paragraph (1), include the pensioner premium for persons under 75 or, as the case may be, persons 75 or over, higher pensioner premium, disability premium or severe disability premium;

- (d) whose applicable amount would include the disability premium but for his being treated as capable of work by virtue of a determination made in accordance with regulations made under section 167E of the Act<sup>(19)</sup> (incapacity for work: disqualification, etc.);
- (e) who is, or is treated as, incapable of work and has been so incapable, or has been so treated as incapable, of work in accordance with the provisions of, and regulations made under, Part XIII A of the Act<sup>(20)</sup> (incapacity for work) for a continuous period of not less than 196 days; and for this purpose any 2 or more separate periods separated by a break of not more than 56 days shall be treated as one continuous period;
- (f) who has a partner who is also a full-time student, if he or that partner is treated as responsible for a child or young person;
- (g) who is a single claimant with whom a child is—
  - (i) placed by an authority, as defined in Article 2 of the Children Order, under Article 27(2)(a) of that Order (provision of accommodation and maintenance by an authority for children whom it is looking after) or by a voluntary organisation under Article 75(1)(a) of that Order (provision of accommodation by voluntary organisation), or
  - (ii) in the charge of, under paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998<sup>(21)</sup>;
- (h) who is—
  - (i) aged under 19 and whose course of study is not a course of higher education, or
  - (ii) a qualifying young person or child within the meaning of section 138 of the Act<sup>(22)</sup> (child and qualifying young person);
- (i) in respect of whom—
  - (i) a supplementary requirement has been determined under paragraph 9 of Schedule 6 to the Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 or a payment has been made under Article 50(3) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986;
  - (ii) an allowance or, as the case may be, bursary has been granted which includes a sum under paragraph (1)(d) of regulation 4 of the Students' Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1999 or, as the case may be, under paragraph (1)(d) of regulation 4 of the Education Authority Bursaries (Scotland) Regulations 1995<sup>(23)</sup>, in respect of expenses incurred;
  - (iii) a payment has been made under section 2 of the Education Act 1962<sup>(24)</sup> or under, or by virtue of regulations made under, the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998;
  - (iv) a grant has been made under regulation 13 of the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 or under regulation 13 of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2005, or
  - (v) a supplementary requirement has been determined under paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations 2003,on account of his disability by reason of deafness; or
- (j) who—

<sup>(19)</sup> Section 167E was inserted by Article 8(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/1898 (N.I. 12)) and amended by paragraph 57 of Schedule 6 to the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/1506 (N.I. 10))

<sup>(20)</sup> Part XIII A was inserted by Articles 7 and 8(1) of the Social Security (Incapacity for Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1994

<sup>(21)</sup> S.I. 1998/1504 (N.I. 9)

<sup>(22)</sup> Section 138 was substituted by section 2(2) of the Child Benefit Act 2005 (c. 6); see also regulation 2 of S.I. 2006/223

<sup>(23)</sup> S.I. 1995/1739 (S. 119)

<sup>(24)</sup> 1962 c. 12

- (i) immediately before 1st September 1990 was in receipt of income support by virtue of paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to the Income Support Regulations as then in operation, or
- (ii) on or after that date makes a claim for income support or housing benefit (or both) and at any time during the period of 18 months immediately preceding the date of that claim was in receipt of income support either by virtue of that paragraph or regulation 13(2)(b) of those Regulations,

but this sub-paragraph shall cease to apply where the person has ceased to be in receipt of income support for a continuous period of 18 months or more.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), once paragraph (2)(e) applies to a full-time student, if he then ceases, for a period of 56 days or less, to be incapable, or to be treated as incapable, of work, that paragraph shall, on his again becoming so incapable, or so treated as incapable, of work at the end of that period, immediately thereafter apply to him for so long as he remains incapable, or is treated as remaining incapable, of work.

(4) In paragraph (2)(h) reference to a course of higher education is a reference to a course of any description mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Further Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

(5) A full-time student to whom paragraph (2)(i) applies shall be treated as satisfying that sub-paragraph from the date on which he made a request for the supplementary requirement, allowance, bursary or payment, as the case may be.

(6) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a full-time student for the period specified in paragraph (7) if—

- (a) at any time during an academic year, with the consent of the relevant educational establishment, he ceases to attend or undertake a course because he is—
  - (i) engaged in caring for another person, or
  - (ii) ill;
- (b) he has subsequently ceased to be engaged in caring for that person or, as the case may be, he has subsequently recovered from that illness; and
- (c) he is not eligible for a grant or a student loan in respect of the period specified in paragraph (7).

(7) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph (6) is the period not exceeding one year beginning on the day on which he ceased to be engaged in caring for that other person or, as the case may be, the day on which he recovered from that illness and ending on the day before—

- (a) the day on which he resumes attending or undertaking the course; or
- (b) the day from which the relevant educational establishment has agreed that he may resume attending or undertaking the course,

whichever shall first occur.

### **Student's eligible housing costs**

**54.—**(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (4), housing benefit shall not be payable during the period of study in respect of payments made by a student to an educational establishment which the student is attending.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), where the educational establishment itself pays rent for the dwelling occupied by the student as his home to a third party (other than to another educational establishment) the provisions of paragraph (1) shall only apply if rent is payable to an education authority which has provided the dwelling in exercise of its functions as an education authority.

(3) Where it appears to the relevant authority that an educational establishment has arranged for accommodation to be provided by a person or body other than itself in order to take advantage of the

housing benefit scheme, housing benefit shall not be payable during the period of study in respect of payments made to that person or body by a student.

(4) Housing benefit shall be payable during the period of study in respect of payments made by a student to an educational establishment which the student is attending where the student—

- (a) is one who falls within a category specified in regulation 53(2); or
- (b) would fall within a category specified in regulation 53(2)(b) to (j) if he were a full-time student.

### **Student partners**

**55.** Where a claimant is not, but his partner is, a student, the provisions of regulation 54 shall apply as if the claimant were a student.

## *SECTION 3*

### *Income*

### **Calculation of grant income**

**56.**—(1) The amount of a student's grant income to be taken into account shall, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), be the whole of his grant income.

(2) There shall be disregarded from a student's grant income any payment—

- (a) intended to meet tuition fees or examination fees;
- (b) in respect of the student's disability;
- (c) intended to meet additional expenditure connected with term time residential study away from the student's educational establishment;
- (d) on account of the student maintaining a home at a place other than that at which he resides during his course;
- (e) on account of any other person but only if that person is residing outside of the United Kingdom and there is no applicable amount in respect of him;
- (f) intended to meet the cost of books and equipment;
- (g) intended to meet travel expenses incurred as a result of his attendance on the course;
- (h) intended for the child care costs of a child dependant.

(3) Where a student does not have a student loan and is not treated as possessing such a loan, there shall be excluded from the student's grant income—

- (a) the sum of £285 in respect of travel costs; and
- (b) the sum of £361 towards the costs of books and equipment,

whether or not any such costs are incurred.

(4) There shall also be excluded from a student's grant income the grant for dependants known as the parents' learning allowance paid pursuant to regulations made under Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 or section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998.

(5) Subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), a student's grant income shall be apportioned—

- (a) subject to paragraph (8), in a case where it is attributable to the period of study, equally between the weeks in the period beginning with the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of the period of study and ending

with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of the period of study;

- (b) in any other case, equally between the weeks in the period beginning with the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of the period for which it is payable and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of the period for which it is payable.

(6) Any grant in respect of dependants under Article 44(2) of the Health and Personal Social Services Order (provisions relating to training) and any amount intended for the maintenance of dependants under Part III of Schedule 6 to the Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 shall be apportioned equally over the period of 52 weeks or, if there are 53 benefit weeks (including part-weeks) in the year, 53 weeks.

(7) In a case where a student is in receipt of a student loan or where he could have acquired a student loan by taking reasonable steps but had not done so, any amount intended for the maintenance of dependants to which neither paragraph (6) nor regulation 60(2) apply, shall be apportioned over the same period as the student's loan is apportioned or, as the case may be, would have been apportioned.

(8) In the case of a student on a sandwich course, any periods of experience within the period of study shall be excluded and the student's grant income shall be apportioned equally between the weeks in the period beginning with the benefit week, the first day of which immediately follows the last day of the period of experience and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of the period of study.

#### **Calculation of covenant income where a contribution is assessed**

**57.**—(1) Where a student is in receipt of income by way of a grant during a period of study and a contribution has been assessed, the amount of his covenant income to be taken into account for that period and any summer vacation immediately following shall be the whole amount of the covenant income less, subject to paragraph (3), the amount of the contribution.

(2) The weekly amount of the student's covenant shall be determined—

- (a) by dividing the amount of income which falls to be taken into account under paragraph (1) by 52 or 53, whichever is reasonable in the circumstances; and  
(b) by disregarding from the resulting amount, £5.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the contribution shall be treated as increased by the amount (if any) by which the amount excluded under regulation 56(2)(g) falls short of the amount specified in paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 6 to the Students Awards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (travel expenditure).

#### **Covenant income where no grant income or no contribution is assessed**

**58.**—(1) Where a student is not in receipt of income by way of a grant the amount of his covenant income shall be calculated as follows—

- (a) any sums intended for any expenditure specified in regulation 56(2)(a) to (e) necessary as a result of his attendance on the course shall be disregarded;  
(b) any covenant income, up to the amount of the standard maintenance grant, which is not so disregarded, shall be apportioned equally between the weeks of the period of study;  
(c) there shall be disregarded from the amount so apportioned the amount which would have been disregarded under regulation 56(2)(f) and (3) had the student been in receipt of the standard maintenance grant; and  
(d) the balance, if any, shall be divided by 52 or 53 whichever is reasonable in the circumstances and treated as weekly income of which £5 shall be disregarded.

(2) Where a student is in receipt of income by way of a grant and no contribution has been assessed, the amount of his covenanted income shall be calculated in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of paragraph (1), except that—

- (a) the value of the standard maintenance grant shall be abated by the amount of such grant income less an amount equal to the amount of any sums disregarded under regulation 56(2) (a) to (e); and
- (b) the amount to be disregarded under paragraph (1)(c) shall be abated by an amount equal to the amount of any sums disregarded under regulation 56(2)(f) and (g) and (3).

### **Relationship with amounts to be disregarded under Schedule 6**

**59.** No part of a student’s covenant income or grant income shall be disregarded under paragraph 14 of Schedule 6.

### **Other amounts to be disregarded**

**60.**—(1) For the purposes of ascertaining income other than grant income, covenant income and loans treated as income in accordance with regulation 61, any amounts intended for any expenditure specified in regulation 56(2), necessary as a result of his attendance on the course shall be disregarded but only if, and to the extent that, the necessary expenditure exceeds or is likely to exceed the amount of the sums disregarded under regulation 56(2) or (3), 57(3), 58(1)(a) or (c) or 61(5) on like expenditure.

(2) Where a grant for school meals for dependent children or a grant for meals for dependent children aged 3 or 4 is paid pursuant to any regulations made under Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 or under the Students’ Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1999 that payment shall be disregarded as income.

### **Treatment of student loans**

**61.**—(1) A student loan shall be treated as income.

(2) In calculating the weekly amount of the loan to be taken into account as income—

(a) in respect of a course that is of a single academic year’s duration or less, a loan which is payable in respect of that period shall be apportioned equally between the weeks in the period beginning with—

- (i) except in a case where head (ii) applies, the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of the single academic year;
- (ii) where the student is required to start attending the course in August or where the course is less than an academic year’s duration, the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of the course,

and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of the course;

(b) in respect of an academic year of a course which starts other than on 1st September, a loan which is payable in respect of that academic year shall be apportioned equally between the weeks in the period beginning with the benefit week the first day of which coincides with or immediately follows, the first day of that academic year and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with or immediately precedes, the last day of that academic year but excluding any benefit weeks falling entirely within the quarter during which, in the opinion of the Department, the longest of any vacation is taken and for the purposes of this sub-paragraph, “quarter” shall have the same meaning as for the purposes of the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005;

- (c) in respect of the final academic year of a course (not being a course of a single year's duration), a loan which is payable in respect of that final academic year shall be apportioned equally between the weeks in the period beginning with—
- (i) except in a case where head (ii) applies, the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of that academic year;
  - (ii) where the final academic year starts on 1st September, the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the earlier of 1st September or the first day of the autumn term,
- and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of the course;
- (d) in any other case, the loan shall be apportioned equally between the weeks in the period beginning with the earlier of—
- (i) the first day of the first benefit week in September, or
  - (ii) the benefit week, the first day of which coincides with, or immediately follows, the first day of the autumn term,
- and ending with the benefit week, the last day of which coincides with, or immediately precedes, the last day of June,
- and, in all cases, from the weekly amount so apportioned there shall be disregarded £10.
- (3) A student shall be treated as possessing a student loan in respect of an academic year where—
- (a) a student loan has been made to him in respect of that year; or
  - (b) he could acquire such a loan in respect of that year by taking reasonable steps to do so.
- (4) Where a student is treated as possessing a student loan under paragraph (3), the amount of the student loan to be taken into account as income shall be, subject to paragraph (5)—
- (a) in the case of a student to whom a student loan is made in respect of an academic year, a sum equal to—
    - (i) the maximum student loan he is able to acquire in respect of that year by taking reasonable steps to do so, and
    - (ii) any contribution whether or not it has been paid;
  - (b) in the case of a student to whom a student loan is not made in respect of an academic year, the maximum student loan that would be made to the student if—
    - (i) he took all reasonable steps to obtain the maximum student loan he is able to acquire in respect of that year, and
    - (ii) no deduction in that loan was made by virtue of the application of a means test.
- (5) There shall be deducted from the amount of a student's loan income—
- (a) the sum of £285 in respect of travel costs; and
  - (b) the sum of £361 towards the cost of books and equipment,
- whether or not any such costs are incurred.

### **Treatment of fee loans**

**62.** A loan for fees, known as a fee loan or a fee contribution loan, made pursuant to regulations made under Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 or section 73(f) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, shall be disregarded as income.

### **Treatment of payments from access funds**

**63.**—(1) This regulation applies to payments from access funds that are not payments to which regulation 66(2) or (3) applies.

(2) A payment from access funds, other than a payment to which paragraph (3) applies, shall be disregarded as income.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5) and paragraph 35 of Schedule 6, any payments from access funds which are intended and used for food, household fuel, rent or rates or both or ordinary clothing or footwear, of a single claimant or any other member of his family shall be disregarded as income to the extent of £20 per week.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), “rent or rates” means eligible rent or rates less any deductions in respect of non-dependants which fall to be made under regulation 72.

(5) Where a payment from access funds is made—

- (a) on or after 1st September or the first day of the course, whichever first occurs, but before receipt of any student loan in respect of that year and that payment is intended for the purpose of bridging the period until receipt of the student loan; or
- (b) before the first day of the course to a person in anticipation of that person becoming a student,

that payment shall be disregarded as income.

### **Disregard of contribution and rent**

**64.** Where the claimant or his partner is a student and, for the purposes of assessing a contribution to the student’s grant or student loan, the other partner’s income has been taken into account, an amount equal to that contribution shall be disregarded for the purposes of assessing that other partner’s income.

### **Further disregard of student’s income**

**65.** Where any part of a student’s income has already been taken into account for the purposes of assessing his entitlement to a grant or student loan, the amount taken into account shall be disregarded in assessing that student’s income.

### **Amounts treated as capital**

**66.**—(1) Any amount by way of a refund of tax deducted from a student’s covenant income shall be treated as capital.

(2) An amount paid from access funds as a single lump sum shall be treated as capital.

(3) An amount paid from access funds as a single lump sum which is intended and used for an item other than food, household fuel, rent or rates or both, ordinary clothing or footwear of a single claimant or, as the case may be, of the claimant or any other member of his family, shall be disregarded as capital but only for a period of 52 weeks from the date of the payment.

(4) In paragraph (3) “rent or rates” means eligible rent or rates less any deductions in respect of non-dependants which fall to be made under regulation 72.

### **Disregard of changes occurring during summer vacation**

**67.** In calculating a student’s income the relevant authority shall disregard any change in the standard maintenance grant, occurring in the recognised summer vacation appropriate to the student’s course, if that vacation does not form part of his period of study from the date on which the change occurred to the end of that vacation.

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**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

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