

Statistical First Release



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

STUDENT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/12 (FINAL)

INTRODUCTION

1. This statistical first release presents figures on the financial support awarded and paid to applicants and students or their Higher Education Institution (HEI). It shows final figures for 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years.
2. Once applicants who were awarded support have their attendance at an HEI confirmed and their first payment made, they are classified as paid students.

COVERAGE

3. This release shows the number of loans, grants and allowances awarded / paid to full time undergraduate applicants / students or their institutions.
4. It covers applicants and students domiciled in Northern Ireland taking a course in a Higher Education institution in the UK or in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) as well as applicants and students domiciled in the EU (Outside UK) studying in a Higher Education institution in Northern Ireland.
5. Figures also include postgraduate applicants and students taking their Initial Teacher Training (ITT) course on a full-time, part-time or flexible basis. All other part-time and postgraduate applicants and students are excluded as they are entitled to different support packages.

KEY POINTS

Total Number and Amount of Student Support Awarded (Table 2)

6. Final figures show that 44,500 applicants were awarded some support in academic year 2011/12 which is equivalent to £310.0m. This is an increase of 4% on the number of applicants awarded support in 2010/11 and an increase of 5% on the amount awarded in 2010/11.

Maintenance Grants (Table 3A)

7. In academic year 2011/12, 39% of applicants were awarded the full grant of £3,475. 23% were awarded a partial grant and 38% were not awarded a grant (but eligible applicants may be awarded other forms of student support). This represents £68.6m awarded in grants which is an increase of 4% on the

amount awarded to applicants who entered Higher Education in 2010/11.

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) (Table 3D)

8. The administration of Disabled Students Allowance differs from other financial products in that applicants submit invoices from suppliers (who provide products and services which assist the student in attending higher education) throughout the academic year. This means that the latest final position shown in this publication is for academic year 2010/11 for which 1,500 full time students were provided DSA support amounting to £2.7m.

Other Targeted Support Awards (Table 3E)

9. In academic year 2011/12 final figures show that, overall, a total of £3.4m was awarded to 1,100 eligible applicants in the form of Adult Dependents Grants, Parents Learning Allowances, Childcare Grants or Travel Grants

Maintenance Loans (Table 4A)

10. In academic year 2011/12, 40,100 eligible students borrowed £125.9m in the form of a Maintenance Loan - an amount 4% higher than in 2010/11. On average, students took out an income-contingent Maintenance Loan worth £3,140 in 2011/12, compared to £3,120 in 2010/11.

Tuition Fee Loans (Table 4B)

11. In academic year 2011/12, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) was paid variable Tuition Fee Loans on behalf of 36,700 Northern Ireland domiciled students and EU (Outside UK) domiciled students studying in Northern Ireland which amounted to £110.4m. This was an average of £3,010 per eligible Northern Ireland and EU (Outside UK) domiciled student. The average figure in 2010/11 was £2,920.

Combined Maintenance Loans and Tuition Fee Loans (Table 4D)

12. In academic year 2011/12, 42,300 eligible students borrowed £235.1m in the form of a Maintenance Loan and/or a Tuition Fee Loan - an amount 6% higher than in 2010/11. On average, students took out combined loans worth £5,560 in 2011/12, compared to £5,400 in 2010/11.

TABLES

Section 1 - Student Support Available

13. Table 1A shows the maximum support available for maintenance in Northern Ireland through the grants and Maintenance Loans schemes for student support scheme students between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
14. Table 1B shows the support arrangement for new entrants in academic year 2011/12
15. Chart 1 show the student support entitlements for the student support arrangement for academic year 2011/12.

Section 2 - Overview of Support Awarded

16. Table 2 shows the overview of all the products for student support scheme in Northern Ireland. It details the number of awards and the total amount of support awarded to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants for academic years from 2009/10 and 2011/12.

Section 3 - Grants and Allowances

17. Table 3A shows the distribution of Maintenance Grants for Northern Ireland domiciled current system students by entry cohorts between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
18. Table 3B shows the distribution of Higher Education (HE) bursary awards for students domiciled in Northern Ireland who entered HE under the pre-2006/07 arrangements, between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
19. Table 3C shows the distribution of Tuition Fee Grant for students domiciled in Northern Ireland who entered HE under pre 2006/07 arrangements between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
20. Table 3D shows the summary of Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) expenditure authorised for payment to full time Northern Ireland domiciled students, between academic years 2008/09 and 2011/12.
21. Table 3E shows the distribution of Other Targeted Support awards to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.

Section 4 - Loans

22. Table 4A shows the number and take up of maintenance loans, the amount borrowed and the average loan value for the student support scheme for students domiciled in Northern Ireland between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
23. Table 4B shows the number of Tuition Fee Loans taken out, the amount borrowed and the average loan value for the student support scheme for all students domiciled in Northern Ireland and for EU (Outside UK) students attending HE courses in Northern Ireland pre-versus post 2006/07 arrangements, between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
24. Table 4C shows the number of Tuition Fee Loans taken out, the amount borrowed and the average loan value for the student support scheme for all students domiciled in Northern Ireland broken down by Northern Ireland and other UK countries of HE institution attended between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.
25. Table 4D shows the number for Maintenance Loans and Tuition Fee Loans combined, the amount borrowed and the average loan value for the student support scheme for students domiciled in Northern Ireland between academic years 2009/10 and 2011/12.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

26. The figures in this first release have been compiled by the Student Loans Company Limited (SLC). All student numbers and amounts have been rounded to the nearest 100 and £100,000 unless specified otherwise. All totals and averages are calculated from un-rounded numbers.
27. Details of the amounts of loans and grants available in academic year 2011/12 are publicly available in the Student Finance NI booklet 'A guide to financial support for higher education students in 2011/12', which can be found on the Student Finance NI website.

THE STUDENT FINANCE SYSTEM

Summary of recent policy changes:

2011/12 entrants

28. Maintenance grant

Postgraduate teacher trainees (or those on equivalent courses) who commenced their teacher training courses before 1 September 2010 and are continuing on that course in AY 2011/12 receive a portion of the maximum grant irrespective of their income (the maximum amount of guaranteed grant is £1,318 for NI domiciled students); and the remainder is income assessed. Note that postgraduate or equivalent teacher trainees on part-time or short flexible courses which commenced before 1 September 2010 receive about half the rates of maintenance grant / special support Grant quoted above.

2010/11 entrants

29. Maintenance grant -- Northern Ireland domiciled teacher training students on postgraduate or equivalent courses will still be awarded a minimum maintenance grant / Special Support Grant regardless of income, with the remainder income assessed. If a full-time undergraduate student receives maintenance grant, a portion of the loan is substitutable for a grant of £1,887 for Northern Ireland domiciled students.

30. Maintenance loan -- For all current system students (not Type 1, 2 or 3 ITT), reduce the maximum loan by the amount of grant awarded if the grant is less than £1,318. If the grant awarded is the maximum £3,475, reduce the loan by £1,887. Where students are eligible for a grant between £1,318 and £3,475, reduce the loan by £1,887 less £1 in every £17.25 by which the income exceeds £19,203 or the actual maintenance grant awarded if less;

If the student is being assessed for a financial contribution, deduct the assessed contribution from the financially-assessed part of the loan.

2009/10 entrants

31. Maintenance grant --The main change for new entrants in 2009/10 is an adjustment to the household income threshold for maintenance grant support. The threshold for entitlement to a maximum grant changed from £18,360 to £18,820, the threshold for entitlement to a partial grant has been adjusted from £39,305 to £40,238.

32. Maintenance loan -- The amount of maintenance loan available is reduced by £1 for every £1 of maintenance grant received. The maximum amount of support available is therefore lower than the sum of the maximum maintenance loan and the maximum maintenance grant.

33. Tax year -- In 2009/10, new policy meant that students could supply UK tax system based financial evidence for previous tax year for assessment of their 2009/10 application. For 2009/10, this mean that sponsors could supply their P60 for the 2007/08 tax year, along with any other financial evidence which may be required, when being assessed for means tested financial support. This allows applicants to apply for student support earlier than in previous years.

2008/09 entrants

34. Maintenance grant -- For students entering HE in September 2008 the income thresholds for maintenance grant support were revised. The income threshold for full grant entitlement was increased from £17,910 in academic year 2007/08 to £18,360 in academic year 2008/09. The income threshold for the minimum partial grant was increased from £38,330 to £39,305.

2007/08 entrants

35. New student support arrangements were introduced for students entering HE from September 2006. Students are eligible for the maintenance grant, dependent on household income. Students studying in Northern Ireland became subject to tuition fees. Loans to cover the cost of fees are available which students start to repay when they have left higher education and are earning over £15,000. Students continue to be eligible for a maintenance loan.

Key elements of the student support arrangements introduced in 2006/07

Maintenance grant

36. A maintenance grant was introduced for students who started their course in September 2006 and were subject to variable tuition fees. These students were termed 'current system' students. The new maintenance grant replaced the higher education bursary.
37. The maximum amount of grant available in academic year 2009/10 is £3,406, and how much a student receives depends on their income, the income of their household, and their year of entry into higher education. Students receive the full grant of £3,406 if they have a household income up to £18,820. Students receive a partial grant, with a minimum grant of £50, if they have a household income up to £40,238, and 2008 entrants with a household income up to £39,305. The equivalent special support grant (of up to £3,406) ensures that students in the Department for Social Development (DSD) vulnerable groups have their grant disregarded when entitlement to benefits is calculated.

Tuition fee loans

38. From academic year 2006/07, students can defer payment of tuition fees by taking out a Tuition Fee loan. As well as being available to 'current system' students, this option is also available to pre-2006/07 entrants if they make a full or partial contribution to their fixed fees. Students can take out as much or as little fee loan as they choose, up to the maximum amount of fees being charged.

Additional grants and allowances

39. The Government retains as grants and allowances those relating to the personal circumstances of students, e. g. for adult dependant grant, child care grant, parents' learning allowance and disabled students allowances (DSA). Support for some course-related costs, e.g. long course learning, is in the form of supplementary loans. Targeted grants with the exception of DSA are income-assessed.

Key elements of the student support arrangements introduced in 1998/99

40. New students in 1998/99 received support for maintenance through means-tested grants (comprising about a quarter of the support available) and non income-assessed student loans (comprising about three quarters of the support available). New students from 1999/00, and those who were subject to the new arrangements in 1998/99, receive support for living costs mainly through loans which are partly income-assessed. The loans made under these arrangements are repayable on an income contingent basis.

Student loans

41. Repayment of student support scheme loans is linked to income after leaving university or college so that leavers only repay as and when they can afford to. Repayments are at the rate of 9% of income above the income threshold (which was £10,000 up until the end of March 2005 and then £15,000 for all borrowers from April 2005 onwards).

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

42. Statistics on loans and grants awarded to students in HE in Northern Ireland in academic year 2010/11 (final) were published in SLC SFR 06/2011 on 29 November 2011. These can be found at <http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national-statistics/newnationalstatistics1.aspx>
43. Statistics on the repayment of loans in financial year 2011/12 (provisional) were published on 19 Jun 2012 in SLC SFR 03 <http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/official-statistics-%28slc%29/officialstatistics2.aspx>
44. Official statistics on income contingent repayments by repayment cohort and tax year 2000/01 to 2010/11 inclusive (provisional) were published on 19 June 2012 in SLC OSP 04/2012. These can be found at <http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/official-statistics-%28slc%29/officialstatistics1.aspx>

NATIONAL AND OFFICIAL STATISTICS

45. This is an Official Statistics publication. National and Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Section 1 - Student Support Available

Table 1A : Maximum rates of Maintenance Grant and full year Maintenance Loan Available to Northern Ireland domiciled students [1][2] Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12

| £ | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|--|--|
| Academic years | Rates [1] | Maximum maintenance grant (cash terms) | Maximum amount of maintenance loan (cash terms) | Overall Maximum support for Maintenance (cash terms) | Maintenance grant plus maintenance loan (constant prices)[3] |
| 2009/2010 | Elsewhere | 3,406 | 4,745 | 6,359 [5] | 7,053 [5] |
| (2006/07 Arrangement) [1][4] | London | 3,406 | 6,643 | 8,257 [5] | 9,158 [5] |
| | Home | 3,406 | 3,673 | 5,287 [5] | 5,864 [5] |
| | Elsewhere | 2,000 | 4,745 | 5,245 | 5,817 |
| (1998/99 Arrangement) [1] | London | 2,000 | 6,643 | 7,143 | 7,922 |
| | Home | 2,000 | 3,673 | 4,173 | 4,628 |
| 2010/2011 | Elsewhere | 3,475 | 4,840 | 6,428 [5] | 6,815 [5] |
| (2006/07 Arrangement) [1][4] | London | 3,475 | 6,780 | 8,368 [5] | 8,871 [5] |
| | Home | 3,475 | 3,750 | 5,338 [5] | 5,659 [5] |
| | Elsewhere | 2,000 | 4,840 | 5,340 | 5,661 |
| (1998/99 Arrangement) [1] | London | 2,000 | 6,780 | 7,280 | 7,718 |
| | Home | 2,000 | 3,750 | 4,250 | 4,506 |
| 2011/2012 | Elsewhere | 3,475 | 4,840 | 6,428 [5] | 6,428 [5] |
| (2006/07 Arrangement) [1][4] | London | 3,475 | 6,780 | 8,368 [5] | 8,368 [5] |
| | Home | 3,475 | 3,750 | 5,338 [5] | 5,338 [5] |
| | Elsewhere | 2,000 | 4,840 | 5,340 | 5,340 |
| (1998/99 Arrangement) [1] | London | 2,000 | 6,780 | 7,280 | 7,280 |
| | Home | 2,000 | 3,750 | 4,250 | 4,250 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

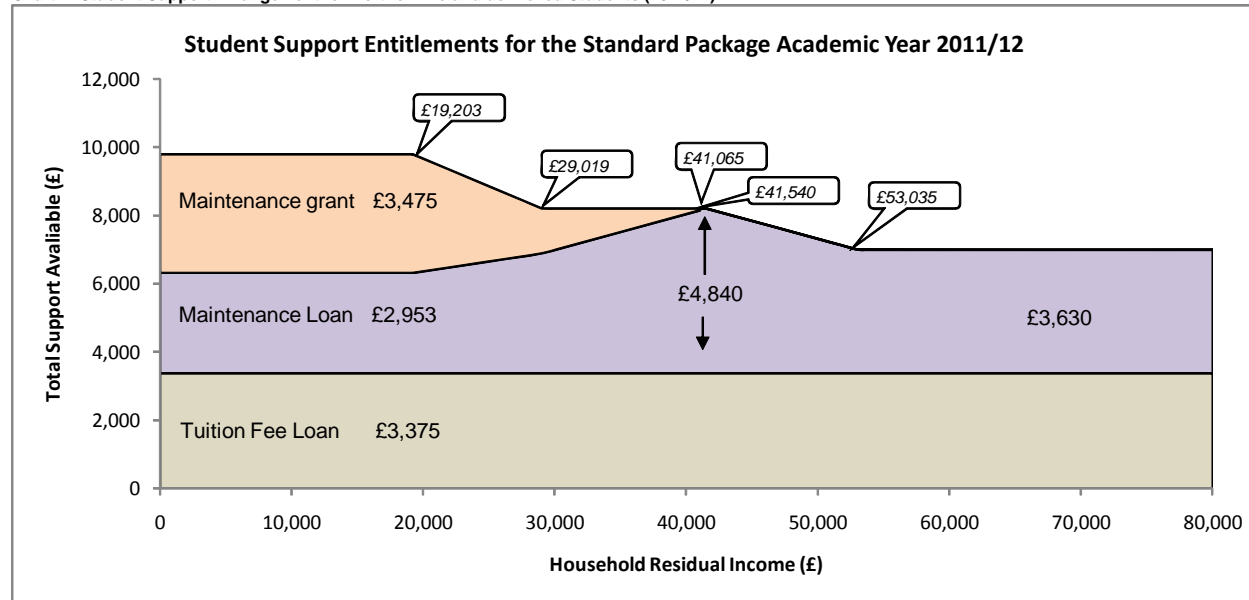
Source: Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), SLC

Student support for maintenance (food, accommodation etc.) is provided via a combination of maintenance loans and/or maintenance grants. This table shows how the maximum amount of maintenance support has changed over the past three years using the example of a student studying for the full length of the academic year. Those entering HE in or after 2006/07 are subject to variable tuition fees. The maximum amount of maintenance for those students is higher than for those who entered HE in 2005/06 or before who are subject to the lower level fixed fees (all or part of which may be paid for them as a tuition fee grant).

**Table 1B : Student Support Arrangement for Northern Ireland domiciled students [1]
Academic year 2011/12**

| Residual Income | Amount of tuition fee loan available [6] | Amount of maintenance grant available | Amount of maintenance loan available [7] |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Up to £19,203 | £3,375 | £3,475 | £2,953 [8] |
| Between £19,204 and £29,019 | £3,375 | £3,475 to £1,318 [9] | £2,953 to £3,522[8] |
| Between £29,020 and £41,065 | £3,375 | £1,318 to £50 [10] | £3,522 to £4,790 [5] |
| Between £41,066 and £41,540 | £3,375 | £0 | £4,840 [12] |
| Between £41,541 to £53,035 | £3,375 | £0 | £4,840 to £3,630 [12] |
| Over £53,035 | £3,375 | £0 | £3,630 [12] |

Chart 1: Student Support Arrangement for Northern Ireland domiciled Students (2011/12)



This table shows the amount of student support available to students entering HE in academic year 2011/12 from maintenance support and tuition fee support. It uses the example of a student living away from home and studying at an institution that lies outside of the London metropolitan area (i.e. the 'Elsewhere' rate in Table 1A). It shows how the amount of support available varies with the residual income of the student's sponsors i.e. those on whom the student is considered to be dependent.

Section 2 - Overview of Support Awarded

**Table 2: Total Number and Amount Awarded to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants for Student Support [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- The final amount of student support in total awarded for academic year 2011/12 was £310.0m which represents an increase of 5% on the previous academic year 2010/11 for which £293.9m was awarded.
- The final number of applicants awarded student support for academic year 2011/12 was 44,500, which represents an increase of 4% on the previous academic year 2010/11 for which 42,800 applicants were awarded.

| Product Group | Table | Number of Applicants Awarded <i>or Paid</i> * (000's) [13] | | | Amount Awarded <i>or paid</i> * (£m) | | |
|---|---------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| HE Maintenance, Special Support Grants & HE Bursary | 3A & 3B | 24.1 | 25.0 | 25.7 | 61.7 | 66.3 | 68.6 |
| Tuition Fee Grants | 3C | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Disable Students Allowance (DSA) (Provisional) | 3D | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Other Targeted Support | 3E | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Maintenance Loans | 4A | 38.1 | 38.7 | 40.1 | 118.2 | 120.7 | 125.9 |
| Tuition Fee Loans | 4C | 33.3 | 34.5 | 36.3 | 95.1 | 100.8 | 109.2 |
| Total [14] | | 42.2 | 42.8 | 44.5 | 281.4 | 293.9 | 310.0 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company (SLC)

All applications for Higher Education (HE) student finance under full time regulations from Northern Ireland domiciled applicants are assessed by Education Library Boards in Northern Ireland. If the applicant is found to be eligible they will be awarded student finance, which will start to be paid once attendance has been confirmed by the institution and the term start date has been reached. Many awards do not lead to payment because the applicant does not secure a place or chooses not to attend. The products awarded to each applicant will depend on several factors: the year that they entered HE; the loans (maintenance loan and/or tuition fee loan) they choose to take, if any; whether they submit financial details to be assessed for a means tested grant; whether they are entitled to a special grant or allowance such as the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).
This table gives the total of all the data in the following tables for Northern Ireland domiciled applicants. It does not include the Tuition Fee Loans data for EU domiciles, which appears in Table 4B. Figures in the italics indicate that the numbers refer to payments rather than awards.

** DSA, Maintenance Loans and Tuition Fees Loans figures shown above are based upon payments rather than awards. This is because payments are representative of what has actually been received by students. As SLC pay grants together in three instalments, it is not possible to determine amounts paid for the individual grant types.*

Section 3 - Grants and Allowances

**Table 3A : Distribution of Maintenance and Special Support Grants awarded to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants [1][15]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- In academic year 2011/12 a total of 41,500 applicants was eligible for Maintenance Grant which amounted to £68.6m. This amount represents an increase of 4% on the amount awarded on previous academic year 2010/11.

| Level of Support | Maintenance Grant Eligible Applicants | | | | | | Amount Awarded (£m) | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Number (000s) | | | Percentage (%) | | | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) | (as at 14/11/10) | (as at 13/11/11) | (as at 18/11/12) |
| Full | 14.4 | 15.4 | 16.1 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 47.1 | 51.6 | 53.9 |
| Partial | 8.9 | 9.2 | 9.6 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 13.3 | 14.1 | 14.7 |
| Nil (eligible but not entitled) [16] | 15.2 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 40 | 39 | 38 | - | - | - |
| Total [17][18] | 38.5 | 40.3 | 41.5 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 60.4 | 65.8 | 68.6 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

The applicants eligible for the Maintenance Grant are those who entered Higher Education (HE) in 2006/07 or later. This excludes anyone who receives a NHS Bursary. The grant is means tested. Applicants who do not submit financial evidence receive nil Maintenance Grant, as do those whose household residual income is above the highest threshold.

**Table 3B : Distribution of Higher Education Bursary Awarded to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

- The number of eligible applicants for the HE bursary is in decline as only those students entering between 2002/03 and 2005/06 remain eligible for this grant.

| Level of Support | HE Grant Eligible Applicants [1] | | | | | | Amount Awarded (£m) | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Numbers (000s) | | | Percentage (%) | | | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) |
| | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) | | | |
| Full | 0.6 | 0.2 | - | 20 | .. | .. | 1.1 | 0.4 | - |
| Partial | 0.3 | 0.1 | - | 10 | .. | .. | 0.3 | 0.1 | - |
| Nil (eligible but not entitled) [16] | 1.9 | .. | .. | 70 | .. | .. | - | - | - |
| Total [17][18] | 2.7 | .. | .. | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1.3 | 0.5 | - |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

The Higher Education bursary was a means tested maintenance grant that was put in place in 2002/03 before variable fees and the Maintenance Grant were introduced in 2006/07. Only those who entered between 2002/03 and 2005/06 (plus those who delayed entry till 2006/07 and registered in advance for a gap year) were eligible for the grant, so the numbers are in decline. Anyone who is eligible for an NHS Bursary is not eligible. Applicants who do not submit financial evidence receive nil Bursary as do those whose household residual income is above the highest threshold. The full grant has always been £2,000. The earnings threshold for the full level of grant and the lowest level of partial grant has always been at a lower level than the Maintenance Grant.

**Table 3C : Distribution of Tuition Fee Grants to Northern Ireland domiciled applicants [1][19]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- The number of applicants awarded full Tuition Fee Grant in 2011/12 was 100 compared to 200 in academic year 2010/11. The number of eligible applicants for the Tuition Fee Grant is in decline because only those students who entered prior to 2006/07 remain eligible for this Grant.
- For academic year 2011/12, the amount of Tuition Fee Grant awarded to eligible applicants was £0.1m compared to £0.2m in 2010/11.

| Level of Support | Tuition Fee Grant Eligible Applicants | | | | | | Amount Awarded (£m) | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Numbers (000s) | | | Percentage (%) | | | 2009/10 (as at 12/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 16/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 14/11/12) |
| | 2009/10 (as at 12/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 16/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 14/11/12) | 2009/10 (as at 12/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 16/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 14/11/12) | | | |
| Full [20] | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 19 | .. | .. | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Partial | 0.2 | - | - | 7 | .. | .. | 0.2 | - | - |
| Nil (eligible but not entitled) [16] | 2.3 | .. | .. | 73 | .. | .. | - | - | - |
| Total [17][18] | 3.1 | .. | .. | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.1 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

.. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

The Tuition Fee Grant was put in place when tuition fees were introduced in 1999/2000. It was intended to cover all or part of the tuition fees that students were charged. It stayed in place until variable fees were introduced in 2006/07. Only those who entered prior to 2006/07 (plus those who delayed entry till 2006/07 and registered in advance for a gap year) were eligible for the tuition fee grant and so the numbers are in decline. The grant is means tested. Applicants who do not submit financial evidence receive nil Tuition Fee Grant as do those whose household residual income is above the highest threshold. The cost of tuition and, hence the value of the full Tuition Fee Grant has risen each year with inflation. The earnings threshold for the full level of grant and the lowest level of partial grant has risen each year in line with inflation.

**Table 3D: Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) Paid in support of full time students domiciled in Northern Ireland [1]
Academic years 2008/09 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- Disabled students Allowance (DSA) are administered separately to other types of financial support. Students submit suppliers invoices over a period longer than the academic year concerned; for this reason figures for 2011/12 remain subject to change.
- Final figures for academic year 2010/11 show that £2.7m was paid in DSA support compared to £2.4m in 2009/10.
- Provisional figures for 2011/12 show that so far 1,500 students have received DSA support to the amount of £2.9m.

| | Number of Students in receipt of DSA (000's) | | | | Amount Paid (£m) [21] | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | 2008/09 (final) (as at 12/11/10) | 2009/10 (final) (as at 16/11/11) | 2010/11 (final) (as at 14/11/12) | 2011/12 (provisional) (as at 14/11/12) | 2008/09 (final) (as at 12/11/10) | 2009/10 (final) (as at 16/11/11) | 2010/11 (final) (as at 14/11/12) | 2011/12 (provisional) (as at 14/11/12) |
| Total | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.9 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

Applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) are separate to core student finance applications and follow a different process. The majority of DSA applications are received after the term starts as many students do not become aware that they are entitled to DSA support until they have started their course. Only a small proportion of the allowance is paid to the student. The vast majority is paid to suppliers once they pass on the invoices for equipment or services. Invoices continue to be received well after the end of the academic year which is why the figures are kept as provisional for one year longer than for the other products.

**Table 3E : Other Targeted Support Awards to Northern Ireland domiciled Applicants [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- For academic year 2011/12, 1,100 applicants were awarded targeted support other than DSA, which amounted to £3.4m compared to 1,000 applicants awarded in 2010/11 academic year which amounted to £3.1m.

| Grants / Allowances | Number of Applicants Awarded (000s) | | | Amount Awarded (£m) | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) | 2009/10 (as at 14/11/10) | 2010/11 (as at 13/11/11) | 2011/12 (as at 18/11/12) |
| Adult Dependants Grant | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Parents Learning Allowance | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Childcare Grant | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Travel Grant | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Total [14][17] | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.4 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

This table shows all the non-repayable grants and allowances not covered elsewhere in Table 3. Like the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) they are all forms of targeted support. Unlike DSA there is some element of means testing for each product.

Section 4 - Loans

Table 4A(i) : Maintenance Loans paid to Northern Ireland domiciled students (final) [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12

Key Points:

- In academic year 2011/12, 40,100 students were paid Maintenance Loan which amounted to £125.9m compared to 38,700 students paid in 2010/11 academic year which amounted to £120.7m borrowed. On average, students were paid maintenance loan worth £3,140 for 2011/12 academic year compared to £3,120 paid in 2010/11 academic year.

| Entry Cohort | Number of Students Paid (000's) | | | Amount Paid (£m) | | | Average Amount Paid (£) [22] | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) |
| Prior 2006/07 [23] | 2.5 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 7.4 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3,000 | 3,070 | 3,160 |
| From 2006/07 [24] | 35.7 | 37.6 | 39.4 | 110.8 | 117.2 | 123.4 | 3,110 | 3,120 | 3,140 |
| Total [18] | 38.1 | 38.7 | 40.1 | 118.2 | 120.7 | 125.9 | 3,100 | 3,120 | 3,140 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

Table 4A(ii) : Maintenance Loan take up by the estimated eligible population [1]

Key Points:

- The percentage of students eligible to take out a maintenance loan who chose to do so was 91% in academic year 2010/11

| | Estimated Eligible Population (000s) | | | Students taking out loans (000s) | | | Estimated Percentage Take - up (%) | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 |
| Total | 42.0 | 42.8 | .. | 38.1 | 38.7 | 40.1 | 91 | 91 | .. |

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

Sources: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DEL

All Northern Ireland domiciled applicants who are eligible for student finance can receive a Maintenance Loan. Some choose not to take one even though they might have received other support, such as a Maintenance Grant. Some do not apply for any support at all. Table 4(ii) shows the relationship between those who took out a maintenance loan and those who could have taken one, using estimates of the eligible student population from DEL. The applicant can choose to take all or part of the basic non means tested element of the Maintenance Loan. They can receive a higher amount if they submit financial evidence that shows their household residual income is within the range for additional Maintenance Loan entitlement.

**Table 4B : Tuition Fee Loans paid to Higher Education Institutions on behalf of Northern Ireland domiciled students and EU (Outside UK) students studying in Northern Ireland (final)
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12 [1][25]**

Key Points:

- For academic year 2011/12, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) were paid Tuition Fee Loans on behalf of 36,700 students which amounted to £110.4m compared to 34,900 Students paid in 2010/11 academic year amounting to £102m. On average, students took out a Tuition fee loan of £3,010 for 2011/12 academic year, compared to £2,920 in 2010/11.
- The average tuition fee loan for those entering higher education from 2006/07 is higher than that of those students who entered prior to 2006/07, due to the introduction of variable fees.

| Entry Cohort | Domicile of Student | Number of Students Paid (000's) | | | Amount Paid (£m) | | | Average Amount Paid (£) [22] | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) |
| Prior 2006/07 [23] | Northern Ireland | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 1,000 | 1,110 | 1,420 |
| | EU (Outside UK) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,280 | 1,310 | - |
| From 2006/07 [24] | Northern Ireland | 32.8 | 34.4 | 36.3 | 94.6 | 100.7 | 109.2 | 2,880 | 2,930 | 3,010 |
| | EU (Outside UK) | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2,820 | 2,860 | 2,920 |
| Total [18] | | 33.7 | 34.9 | 36.7 | 96.1 | 102.0 | 110.4 | 2,850 | 2,920 | 3,010 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

All applicants who are eligible for Student Finance and are charged tuition fees can take out a Tuition Fee Loan that will cover all or part of the fees charged. The payments will be made directly to the institution on their behalf. Those who entered prior to 2006/07 and who do not receive the full tuition fee grant (see Table 3C) can take out a Tuition Fee Loan but it will be much lower than those who entered from 2006/07 onwards where variable fees were charged.

**Table 4C : Tuition Fee Loans paid to Higher Education Institutions on behalf of Northern Ireland domiciled students according to country of study (final) [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points:

- For academic year 2011/12, Higher Education Institutions (HEI) were paid Tuition Fee Loans on behalf of 36,300 Northern Ireland domiciled students which amounted to £109.2m compared to 34,500 paid in 2010/11 academic year amounting to £100.8m. On average, students took out a Tuition fee loan of £3,010 for 2011/12 academic year, compared to £2,920 in 2010/11.

| Entry Cohort | Country of Study | Number of Students Paid (000's) | | | Amount Paid (£m) | | | Average Amount Paid (£) [22] | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) |
| Prior 2006/07 [23] | Northern Ireland | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 980 | 1,140 | 1,350 |
| | Elsewhere in UK | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,030 | 1,020 | 1,710 |
| From 2006/07 [24] | Northern Ireland | 23.2 | 24.1 | 24.9 | 67.9 | 71.6 | 75.7 | 2,920 | 2,970 | 3,040 |
| | Elsewhere in UK | 9.6 | 10.3 | 11.4 | 26.6 | 29.1 | 33.4 | 2,780 | 2,830 | 2,930 |
| Total [18] | | 33.3 | 34.5 | 36.3 | 95.1 | 100.8 | 109.2 | 2,850 | 2,920 | 3,010 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

The tuition fees charged vary from country to country of institution. The average amounts in this table illustrate the effect of those differences.

**Table 4D: Combined Total of Maintenance Loans and Tuition Fee Loans paid for Students domiciled in Northern Ireland (Final) [1]
Academic years 2009/10 to 2011/12**

Key Points

- In academic year 2011/12, 42,300 eligible students borrowed £235.1m in the form of a Maintenance Loan and/or a Tuition Fee Loan - an amount 6% higher than in 2010/11. On average, students took out combined loans worth £5,560 in 2011/12, compared to £5,400 in 2010/11.

| Loan Types | Number of Students Paid (000's) | | | Total Amount Paid (£m) | | | Average Amount Paid (£) [22] | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) | 2009/10 (as at 31/08/10) | 2010/11 (as at 31/08/11) | 2011/12 (as at 31/08/12) |
| Maintenance Loan Only | 7.1 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 20.9 | 19.0 | 17.1 | 2,930 | 2,920 | 2,880 |
| Tuition Fee Loan Only | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 2,820 | 2,840 | 2,890 |
| Maintenance Loan and Tuition Fee Loan | 31.0 | 32.2 | 34.2 | 185.9 | 196.0 | 211.8 | 6,000 | 6,090 | 6,200 |
| Total | 40.4 | 41.0 | 42.3 | 213.3 | 221.5 | 235.1 | 5,280 | 5,400 | 5,560 |

Footnotes in Appendix 1

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

. = not applicable - = nil or negligible .. = not available

These tables combine the loan amounts shown in Tables 4A and 4B. The number of applicants/students is higher than in either of those tables because although the majority take out both types of loans, some take out Maintenance Loans only and some take out Tuition Fee Loans only.

APPENDIX 1

FOOTNOTES

[1] See Appendix 2 for definitions of terms used.

[2] The rate of maintenance grant and loan is applicable to students normally domiciled in Northern Ireland.

[3] Using 2011/12 prices based on the September RPI, excluding mortgage interest payments at the beginning of each academic year.

[4] A means-tested Maintenance Grant of £3,265 was introduced in 2006/07, £3,406 introduced in 2009/10 and £3,475 introduced in 2010/11 onwards. Students in receipt of these grants are not eligible for the £2,000 HE Bursary.

[5] The amount of Maintenance Loan available is reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant received up to a maximum of £1,887. The maximum amount of support available is therefore lower than the sum of the maximum Maintenance Loan and the maximum Maintenance Grant.

[6] The amount of Tuition Fee Loan is equivalent to the tuition fee charged, up to a maximum of £3,375.

[7] Based on the 'Elsewhere' rate of loan

[8] Students in lower-income households will have part of their maintenance needs met through a non-repayable Maintenance Grant. So, their entitlement to repayable support through a Student Loan for Maintenance will therefore be reduced to reflect this. In practice, this means that the amount of Maintenance Loan a student can receive (maximum 'Elsewhere rate' £4,840) will be reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant entitlement.

[9] Reduced by £1 for every £4.55 of income above £19,203.

[10] Reduced by £1 for every £9.50 of income above £29,019.

[11] The full 'Elsewhere' rate of maintenance Loan

[12] All students are entitled to 75% of the appropriate student loan, but the remaining 25% is subject to means-testing.

[13] The number of students applying to the relevant Award Authority and successfully being awarded student support of some kind under the student support scheme.

[14] For the number of applicants awarded and paid, the total represents the count of individuals with at least one type of student support. This is different from the sum of the rows above. For the amount awarded, the total is the sum of the rows above.

[15] Means-tested Maintenance Grants are available to students entering HE from 2006/07. It includes the special support grants payable to vulnerable groups of students who may otherwise have their DSD benefits reduced. Those studying part-time or flexible PG ITT courses with a combined study and teaching practice weeks of between 6 to 10 weeks are eligible to apply for the reduced rate maintenance grant of £1,887 (academic year 2010/11). Students within this group who were awarded the reduced rate grant will be categorised as in receipt of a partial maintenance grant.

[16] Those that are eligible to apply for maintenance grant but were not awarded a grant because their household residual income is greater than the upper earnings threshold to receive a partial grant, or the applicant has not supplied household income information. Note that those applicants who are receiving an NHS bursary are omitted from the grant eligible population.

[17] Excludes those applicants who do not apply for any financial support. It Includes awards made to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study during the academic year. The eligible population for the Maintenance Grant comprises all students who entered HE in 2006/07 or later under the 2006/07 arrangements.

[18] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding.

[19] Student support scheme students continuing study in 2010/11 under pre-2006/07 arrangements were assessed to contribute up to £1,318 to their fees depending on family income. 1999/00 is the first year in which Tuition Fee Grants were channelled via SLC to the HEIs. 2005/06 is the last entry year for eligibility for Tuition Fee Grants.

[20] Includes students on courses where the fee support was not subject to income-assessment (e.g. PGCE courses, and some other ITT courses, and designated courses at private institutions). It excludes those studying Part Time or Flexible PG ITT Courses with combined study and teaching practice periods of between 6 to 10 weeks.

[21] Includes the cost of need assessing of the applicants.

[22] Rounded to the nearest £10.

[23] Students entering HE prior to 2006/07.

[24] Students entering HE from 2006/07.

[25] Tuition Fee Loans are payable to Institutions on behalf of students normally domiciled in Northern Ireland who attend an HE course anywhere in the United Kingdom as well as to students from the EU (Outside UK) attending HE courses in Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX 2

DEFINITIONS

| Term | Definition |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Applicant | This is a person applying for financial support. Not all applicants take up a place in a Higher Education Institution (HEI). Applicants become students once they took up place and the SLC has received a confirmation of their attendance. |
| Award | Number of and amount of money awarded to applicants for student finance who have passed the eligibility criteria as stipulated within the student finance regulations and have been assessed for the respective support package accordingly. Awards will be paid on condition that the applicant subsequently attends the higher education institute (HEI) at which point will be considered a student and payments will be released according to the payment schedule for the support types awarded. |
| Country of Study | The country in which the higher education institute is located to which the applicant intends to/ is studying at. |
| Domiciled | The country in which the applicant normally lives. Student Finance Northern Ireland covers those students domiciled in Northern Ireland and European Union Students studying in Northern Ireland. |
| Estimated Eligible Population | The numbers of students that are eligible to apply for student finance including those who do not apply. Figures for the estimated eligible population are supplied by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). |
| Entry Cohort | Grouping of student finance applicants according to the student finance regulations against which the applicant was assessed for support. Student finance applicants are covered by transitional protection which means they continue to be assessed against the regulations in place for their first year of study. Students changing courses, or starting a new period of study no longer receive transitional protection and will be assessed under the arrangements in place for their latest year of study. |
| Final Figures | The final position refers to the readiness of the statistics being in a steady state. Final figures are not expected to change significantly and should represent the final outcome. |
| Full Year Maintenance Loan | The amount of maintenance loan available to students varies between those studying in their final year and those studying in an earlier year of their course. Those in their final year will be entitled to a reduced amount to reflect the reduced length of time in attendance at their university over which maintenance support is required. |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Level of Support | Identifies if the applicant was awarded the full level of means tested grant, partial level or no grant. |
| Maintenance Loan Rate | The rate determines how much loan is available to the applicant in principle and depends on where the applicant is residing during their term time. There are three rates: Home rate, London, and Elsewhere (not London). |
| Residual Income | The income from the household from which the applicant normally resides. This income determines how much means tested support the applicant is entitled to. Residual income comprises of the taxable earned and unearned income of the applicant and/or the taxable earned and unearned income of the applicants sponsors minus any allowable deductions. |
| Student | Those student finance applicants for whom an attendance confirmation has been received from the university which indicates that the applicant is or has taken a place at university. This is an important distinction as those making student finance applicants go on to take a place at university. |
| Student Support Arrangement | The range of support available, the eligibility rules, and income thresholds which are in place for a given academic year. |
| Take up rate | The rate of which the Eligible Population chooses to apply for maintenance loan. |
| Targeted Support | Grants and allowances which are aimed to provide additional financial support to student to meet costs specific to their circumstance. Covers Travel Grant, Parental Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant and Adult Dependents Grant. |