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**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT APPLICATIONS TO STUDENT FINANCE  
ENGLAND IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11 (PROVISIONAL) AS AT 19 AUGUST 2010**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we approach the start of university and college courses for academic year 2010/11, the Student Loans Company, in conjunction with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, is publishing figures to show progress with assessing applications for Student Support in England.

This publication shows an update, a week on, of the statistics published on Friday 20 August 2010; from this week it also includes a breakdown of how many applications will receive the full entitlement at the start of term and the numbers of payments made as at 19th August. An update on the processing of applications for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) is also included in this publication as at 17th August (the closest date at which these data are available).

Tables 1 and 2 show the national picture. They cover all applications for maintenance and tuition fee support made to Student Finance England (SFE). These include applications made by continuing students (i.e. students in their second, third, etc year of study) and aspiring new entrants to full time higher education. The Student Loans Company assesses aspiring new entrants and continuing students who entered in academic year 2009/10; English Local Authorities assess the remaining continuing students.

Table 3 covers applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) assessed by the Student Loans Company only (and not those assessed by English Local Authorities). These applications come from all aspiring new entrants to full time higher education and from continuing students who entered in academic year 2009/10.

## **KEY POINTS**

### **Table 1 Core applications**

- The number of live applications for core support as at 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 was 877,000 which is an increase of 18,000 in the one week of processing since 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010
- 619,000 (71%) core support applications have been prepared for payment which is an increase of 36,000 in the one week of processing since 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010
- 218,000 (25%) core support applications are awaiting applicant action to progress
- 40,000 (5%) core support applications are currently being assessed by Student Finance England i.e. the Student Loans Company and English Local Authorities
- 584,000 (94%) of those applications prepared for payment will receive the full entitlement at the start of term

### **Table 2 Maintenance loans and grants payment status**

- Of the 590,000 applications with a maintenance support entitlement so far, 557,000 (94%) await confirmation of attendance before maintenance payment can be made. The majority of universities' terms start towards the end of September when attendance will be confirmed.

### **Table 3 Disabled Students' Allowance applications**

- Of the 12,000 live applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), 7,000 (59%) are awaiting further information from the applicant or the assessment centre. The application cycle for DSA differs from the one for core applications (see text beneath table 3 for further information).

## CONTENTS

**Table 1** shows the status of core Student Support applications submitted by 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to Student Finance England for academic year 2010/11. It shows the number of applications that are still live and a breakdown into the following categories:

- Prepared for payment (plus a further breakdown between full entitlement and basic maintenance loan)
- Further evidence or signature is required from the applicant
- Currently with Student Finance England for assessment

**Table 2** shows the status of core Student Support applications that have been prepared for payment as at 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010. It shows how far they have moved through the attendance confirmation and payment stages.

**Table 3** shows the status of Student Support applications for disabled students' allowance submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to the SLC part of Student Finance England for academic year 2010/11. It shows the number of applications that are still live and a breakdown into the following categories:

- Prepared for payment
- Awaiting further information from applicant or assessment centre
- Currently with SLC part for assessment

**Appendix A** contains footnotes.

**Appendix B** contains definitions for terms used for core applications in this publication.

**Appendix C** contains definitions for terms used for disabled students' allowance applications in this publication.

**Appendix D** contains notes for editors.

## **RELATED STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS**

These official statistics cover applications for which the resultant student support awards are analysed as part of National Statistics published by the Student Loans Company called 'Student Support for Higher Education in England'. That publication provides statistics on English domiciled and EU domiciled applicants studying in England, which have been awarded for student support by academic year of application.

Publications can be found on SLC Web site: [http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national\\_statistics.html](http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national_statistics.html)

**Table 1 : Student Support Applications [1] for Higher Education in England as at 19 August 2010**  
**English domiciled applicants [2]**  
**Full time regulations [3] core applications [4]**

Application Status [5]	Number of applications for academic year 2010/11 Thousands [6] 19/08/2010	% of live applications for academic year 2010/11 [7] 19/08/2010
Applications submitted	900	
Live applications	877	100%
Applications prepared for payment	619	71%
Awaiting further evidence or signature from applicant	218	25%
Currently with Student Finance England (i.e. SLC and Local Authorities) for assessment	40	5%

Further breakdown of applications prepared for payment	Number of applications for academic year 2010/11 Thousands [6] 19/08/2010	% of applications prepared for payment for academic year 2010/11 [7] 19/08/2010
Applications prepared for payment	619	100%
... of which full entitlement	584	94%
... of which basic maintenance loan entitlement	35	6%

All eligible students are entitled to a basic maintenance loan without means testing. This is worth up to 72% of the possible maximum amount of maintenance loan. Eligible applicants applying for means tested support who have not yet supplied their financial evidence or who applied close to or after the term start date will receive the basic non means tested maintenance portion of their support and confirmation that their fees will be paid; where evidence is provided it will be fully assessed and any balance paid as soon as possible after the start of term.

Footnotes - See Appendix A  
 Definitions - See Appendix B

**Table 2 : Student Support Applications [1] for Higher Education in England as at 19 August 2010**  
**English domiciled applicants [2]**  
**Full time regulations [3] core applications [4] - maintenance loans and grants payment status**

Application Status [5]	Number of applications for academic year 2010/11 Thousands [6] 19/08/2010	% of applications prepared for payment for academic year 2010/11 [7] 19/08/2010
Applications prepared for payment	619	
Applications prepared for payment with maintenance support entitlement	590	100%
... of which awaiting confirmation of attendance from the institution	557	94%
... of which attendance confirmed and first payment made	3	1%
... of which attendance confirmed and first payment will be made at term start date	21	3%
... of which first payment made to those studying remotely (medical course, placement etc.)	9	2%
... of which attendance confirmed but first payment withheld	0	0%

Of the total of applications prepared for payment 590,000 have a maintenance support entitlement which will be paid to the student once the institution has confirmed the student's attendance and once the term has started. These do not include applications for tuition fee loans only.

Footnotes - See Appendix A  
Definitions - See Appendix B

**Table 3 : Student Support Applications [1] for Higher Education in England as at 17 August 2010 [8]  
English domiciled applicants [2] assessed by SLC [9]  
Full time regulations [3] applications for disabled students' allowance**

Application Status [10]	Number of applications for academic year 2010/11 Thousands [6] 17/08/2010	% of live applications for academic year 2010/11 [7] 17/08/2010
Applications for disabled students' allowance submitted	12	
Live applications for disabled students' allowance	12	100%
Applications prepared for payment	3	27%
Awaiting further information from applicant or assessment centre	7	59%
Currently with SLC for assessment	2	14%

Applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) are separate to core applications and follow a different process. The majority of DSA applications are expected after the term starts as many students do not become aware that they are entitled to DSA support until they have started their course. The DSA process involves an assessment by a Needs Assessment Centre (NAC) which must be set up by the applicant once their eligibility for DSA has been confirmed. Once the applicant has attended the NAC and has been assessed, the NAC must send a report to Student Finance England for approval. Applications processed for DSA in general take longer than core applications. These statistics shows DSA applications assessed by the SLC only, not those assessed by English Local Authorities.

Footnotes - See Appendix A  
Definitions - See Appendix C

## Appendix A

### FOOTNOTES

[1] Applications for student support come from students continuing a course of study or from applicants aspiring to enter a higher education course this year.

[2] This publication covers English domiciled applicants only. It excludes those EU domiciled applicants who attend/ desire to attend English institutions for which they can receive Fee Loan support from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) payable by the Student Loans Company directly to the institutions.

[3] This publication covers applications for full time student support only. There is a different package of support for part time study which is not covered by this publication.

[4] This table covers applications for core support only. Some of the applicants will also apply for “targeted support” such as disabled students’ allowance, childcare grant etc.

[5] For an explanation of the Application status of core applications see the definitions in Appendix B.

[6] All numbers of applications are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Totals are calculated from un-rounded numbers and, therefore, totals may not add due to rounding.

[7] Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and, therefore, may not add up to 100%.

[8] Data on applications for disabled students' allowance (DSA) are collected at a different date from other data shown in this publication. The closest date to 19 August at which data on DSA were available was 17 August.

[9] This table shows applications for disabled students' allowance (DSA) made to the Student Loans Company only, not to English Local Authorities.

[10] For an explanation of the Application status of disabled students' allowance applications see the definitions in Appendix C.



## Appendix B

### DEFINITIONS FOR CORE APPLICATIONS

Applications submitted	Applications for full time support that have been submitted online or received on paper.
Live applications	Applications for Student Finance England to take forward after removing those found to be ineligible or those applications cancelled by the applicant before they were prepared for payment.
Prepared for payment	Applications assessed by Student Finance England and prepared for payment. The applicant has signed their declaration form. Where a maintenance grant and/or maintenance loan is due it will be paid once attendance on the course has been confirmed by the institution and, in the case of the loan, once the National Insurance Number (NINO) has been verified. NINO verifications are only required for the first year of study.
Awaiting further evidence or signature from applicant	Applications that cannot be progressed until the applicant has provided additional information to Student Finance England. This may include evidence of eligibility or household income or a signed declaration form for application submitted online.
Currently with Student Finance England for assessment	Applications with Student Finance England (i.e. the Student Loans Company and English Local Authorities) for assessment.
Prepared for payment – full entitlement	Applications prepared for payment where the applicant has requested non means tested support only or they have requested means tested support and have supplied the required financial evidence to allow the means tested support to be calculated and included.
Prepared for payment – basic maintenance loan entitlement	Basic maintenance loan entitlement is triggered where the applicant has requested means tested support but has not yet supplied financial evidence or has applied close to the start of term. In these cases, applicants will be assessed to receive the non means tested portion of the maintenance loan (72% of the maximum loan amount). They will be assessed for means tested support once the financial evidence is received and processed.

Prepared for payment with maintenance support entitlement	Most applications for student support involve a request for a maintenance loan and/or entitlement to a maintenance grant. Some applications do not involve either of these maintenance entitlements such as those requesting tuition fee loans only. These are not included in this category.
Awaiting confirmation of attendance from the institution	Payment of maintenance entitlement cannot be released to the applicant until the institution has confirmed that the applicant has attended the institution and the term start date has been reached.
Term start date	Student support is not released to applicants confirmed in attendance at the institution until the term start date is reached.
Studying remotely	Some applicants are studying remotely and, hence, attendance at the institution is not the trigger for the release of student support. Alternative triggers are used. Applicants who fall in this category include medical students working away from their "home" institution, students on a work placement and students where the current year of their course is overseas.
Payments withheld	Payments are withheld in exceptional cases for example where the bank details provided by the applicant have been found to be invalid or where the National Insurance Number has not yet been validated with the Department for Work and Pensions.

## Appendix C

### DEFINITIONS FOR DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA) APPLICATIONS

DSA Applications submitted	Applications for disabled students' allowance made by applicants on full time courses that have been received by the SLC (not English Local Authorities).
Live DSA applications	Applications for disabled students' allowance made by applicants on full time courses to take forward after removing those found to be ineligible or those cancelled by the applicant before they were prepared for payment.
Awaiting further information from applicant or assessment centre	Applications for disabled students' allowance that cannot be progressed until the applicant has provided additional information to Student Finance England or have arranged for a needs assessment to be carried out at a Needs Assessment Centre (NAC) and forwarded to Student Finance England.
Currently with SLC for assessment	Applications for disabled students' allowance requiring assessment by the Student Loans Company. Excludes those applications for disabled students' allowance being processed by the English Local Authorities for which data is not captured at the level of detail required for this publication.

## **Appendix D**

### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. The statistics were compiled by the Student Loans Company (SLC).
2. Student Finance England is responsible for assessing applications for student support from English domiciled applicants. In 2010/11 the Student Loans Company is responsible for assessing all new applicants and those who were new entrants in 2009/10 whilst the English Local Authorities are responsible for assessing all other continuing students.
3. This publication was produced by the Student Loans Company in collaboration with statisticians in the Department for Business Innovation & Skills (BIS).