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**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT SUPPORT APPLICATIONS TO STUDENT FINANCE
ENGLAND IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11 (PROVISIONAL) AS AT 14 OCTOBER 2010**

INTRODUCTION

As we pass the main term start dates 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 and paying applications for Student Support in England.

This publication shows an update, two weeks on, of the statistics published on Thursday 7 October 2010. An update on the processing of applications for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) is also included in this publication as at 15 October (the closest available data to 14 October).

Tables 1 and 2 show the national picture. Table 1 covers all applications for maintenance and tuition fee support (known as core support) made to Student Finance England (SFE). Table 2 covers maintenance loans and grants payments status. These tables 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 14 October 2010 was 967,000 which is an increase of 10,000 in the two weeks of processing since 30 September 2010.
- 866,000 (90%) core support applications have been prepared for payment which is an increase of 52,000 in the two weeks of processing since 30 September 2010.
- 82,000 (8%) core support applications are awaiting action from the applicant before they can be progressed.
- 18,000 (2%) core support applications are currently being assessed by Student Finance England i.e. the Student Loans Company and English Local Authorities.
- 811,000 (94%) of those applications prepared for payment have received the full entitlement or will receive the full entitlement once attendance has been confirmed which is an increase of 49,000 in the two weeks of processing since 30 September 2010.

Table 2 Maintenance loans and grants payment status

- Of the 826,000 applications with a maintenance support entitlement so far, 728,000 applicants (88%) have had their attendance confirmed and have received their first maintenance payment which is an increase of 254,000 in the two weeks of processing since 30 September 2010. There is a large increase because many applicants have started university since the last figures were produced.
- A further 32,000 (4%) studying remotely have received their first payment.
- 12,000 applicants (1%) have confirmed attendance but have payments withheld because their bank details are invalid or their National Insurance Number has not yet been validated with the Department for Work and Pensions.
- 44,000 (5%) await confirmation of attendance before maintenance payment can be made.

Table 3 Disabled Students' Allowance applications

- Of the 18,000 live applications for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), 8,000 (43%) 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).
- 8,000 (44%) DSA applications have been prepared for payment
- 2,000 (12%) DSA applications are currently being assessed by the Student Loans Company

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Table 1 shows the status of core Student Support applications submitted by 14 October 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
- Further evidence or signature is required from the applicant
- Currently with Student Finance England for assessment

For the applications prepared for payment, it shows a breakdown into the following categories

- Full entitlement
- Basic maintenance loan entitlement

Table 2 shows the status of core Student Support applications that have been prepared for payment as at 30 September 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 15 October 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 of SFE 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 National Statistics publication provides statistics on English domiciled and EU domiciled applicants studying in England, which have been awarded student support by academic year of application.

Publications can be found on SLC Web site: http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/national_statistics.html

Table 1 : Student Support Applications [1] for Higher Education in England as at 14 October 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] 14/10/2010	% of live applications for academic year 2010/11 [7] 14/10/2010
Applications submitted	1,002	
Live applications	967	100%
Applications prepared for payment	866	90%
Awaiting further evidence or signature from applicant	82	8%
Currently with Student Finance England (i.e. SLC and Local Authorities) for assessment	18	2%

Further breakdown of applications prepared for payment	Number of applications for academic year 2010/11 Thousands [6] 14/10/2010	% of applications prepared for payment for academic year 2010/11 [7] 14/10/2010
Applications prepared for payment	866	100%
... of which full entitlement	811	94%
... of which basic maintenance loan entitlement	55	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 14 October 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] 14/10/2010	% of applications prepared for payment for academic year 2010/11 [7] 14/10/2010
Applications prepared for payment	866	
Applications prepared for payment with maintenance support entitlement	826	100%
... of which first payment made to those studying remotely (medical course, placement etc.)	32	4%
... of which attendance confirmed and first payment made	728	88%
... of which attendance confirmed and first payment will be made at term start date or is currently being processed through the banking system	10	1%
... of which awaiting confirmation of attendance from the institution	44	5%
... of which attendance confirmed but first payment withheld	12	1%

Of the total of applications prepared for payment 826,000 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 15 October 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] 15/10/2010	% of live applications for academic year 2010/11 [7] 15/10/2010
Applications for disabled students' allowance submitted	19	
Live applications for disabled students' allowance	18	100%
Applications prepared for payment	8	44%
Awaiting further information from applicant or assessment centre	8	43%
Currently with SLC for assessment	2	12%

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 Tuition 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 14 October at which data on DSA were available was 15 October.

[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. Tuition fee loan payments are not made until February and May.
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.
Attendance confirmed and first payment made	Attendance has been confirmed by the institution and the first payment has been made. In a small number of cases (less than 2,000) a requested loan has not been paid because the NINO has not yet been validated but the grant has been paid.
Attendance confirmed and first payment will be made at term start date or is currently being processed through the banking system	Applications where attendance has been confirmed by the institution and first payment will be made at term start date (which has yet to be reached); or attendance has been confirmed by the institution, term start date has been reached and first payment is currently being processed through the banking system.
Term start date	Student support is not released to applicants confirmed in attendance at the institution until the term start date is reached.
First payment currently being processed through the banking system	Payment has been initiated so it will reach the student's bank account in the following 1-3 days. The attendance has been confirmed at the very end of the reporting period or attendance was previously confirmed but the application has only just been approved at the very end of the reporting period.
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.
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 NINO has not yet been validated with the Department for Work and Pensions. Where a grant has been paid but the loan has been withheld awaiting NINO validation the applicant will not be reported here. Instead they will be reported in “Attendance confirmed and first payment made”.

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).