



**Statistical
First Release**



STUDENT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENGLAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/10 (PROVISIONAL)

REVISION OF TABLE 3A MAINTENANCE GRANT AWARDS FOR THE 2009 ENTRY COHORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2009/10

SLC SFR 01/2010

27 January 2010

Introduction

1. As pre-announced in the Student Support Statistical First Release (SFR) published on 25 November, the Student Loans Company, in conjunction with BIS analysts, is releasing two revisions to the maintenance grant figures for the 2009 entry cohort in academic year 2009/10, based on Table 3A of the SFR.
2. The first revision is published on 27 January 2010 (based on the position as of 3 January 2010) and the second revision will be published in March. This revision includes comparative provisional figures for the 2008 entry cohort in academic year 2008/09 (based on the position as at 4 January 2009). Figures are provisional, final figures will be published in the Student Support SFR in November 2010.

Reasons for these revisions

3. The figures for the latest academic year, published in the November SFR, are provisional, and are based on the status of applications processed by mid-November 2009. Processing of applications continues after that date, for example because of late applications and reassessments or where applications are cancelled because the applicant has not started an HE course. Final figures incorporating the effect of this later processing are normally published in the following November.
4. Since 2004, when provisional figures were first published in this way, the position in mid-November has always been broadly comparable to the position at the same point in the previous academic year. However, in 2009/10 the mid-November position was not directly comparable. This is because the SLC took precautions to ensure that all applicants who were affected by delays in processing were awarded a non-means tested loan assessment as an interim measure.

5. Although a similar number of applications have been processed, this measure is likely to have affected the proportion of applicants who are eligible for a partial or full maintenance grant, and who are due to be reassessed to establish their correct entitlement. It is expected that the percentage receiving the full and partial maintenance grants as reported in Table 3A will be higher in the final out-turn as against the previous November provisional figures by more than the historically observed 1-3%.

Key points

6. Following the measures that were put in place over the summer of 2009 to process new entrants' applications, the revised provisional distribution is not directly comparable with previous years. As of 3 January 2010 revised provisional figures show that 35% of 2009 entry cohort students were awarded the full maintenance grant of £2,906, 22% were awarded a partial maintenance grant and finally, 44% were awarded no maintenance grant. These figures represent a movement of 2 percentage points and less than 1 percentage point for full grant and partial grant respectively from the original mid-November provisional position. These movements are based on un-rounded figures
7. Evidence of the difference of distribution between the entry cohorts in academic year 2008/09 and 2009/10 is provided by the comparative provisional figures as at 4 January 2009. Figures showed that 41% of 2008 entry cohort students were awarded the full maintenance grant of £2,835, 29% were awarded a partial maintenance grant and finally, 30% were awarded no maintenance grant. These figures represent a movement of 1 percentage point and 0 percentage points for full grant and partial grant respectively from the original mid-November provisional position.

Policy changes that affect the 2009 entry cohort

8. The main change for the 2009 entry cohort as against the 2008 entry cohort is an adjustment to the household income threshold for maintenance grant support. Although the threshold for entitlement to a maximum grant remains at £25,000, the threshold for entitlement to a partial grant has been adjusted from £60,005 to £50,020.
9. In 2009/10, new policy meant that students should supply UK tax system based financial evidence for the previous tax year for assessment of their 2009/10 application. For 2009/10, this meant that applicants' sponsors should 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. Applicants may be subsequently reassessed if they can provide evidence that their household income has dropped by 15 percent or more.

Background on maintenance grant figures

10. Maintenance Grants are available to students entering Higher Education (HE) from 2006/07. Under these new arrangements, the maximum amount of grant available in academic year 2009/10 is £2,906, 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 £2,906 if they are in the 2008 or 2009 entry cohort with a household income up to £25,000. Students receive a partial grant, with a minimum grant of £50, if they are in the 2009 entry cohort with a household income up to £50,020 or if they are in the 2008 entry cohort with a household income up to £60,005. The equivalent special support grant (of up to £2,906) ensures that students in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) vulnerable groups have their grant disregarded when entitlement to benefits is calculated.

Note to editors

11. Maintenance grant figures cover English domiciled student support scheme students in the UK and include the Special Support Grant payable to vulnerable groups of students who may otherwise have their DWP benefits reduced.
12. Students studying Part Time or Flexible Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training Courses with a combined study and teaching practice period of between 6 to 10 weeks are eligible to apply for the reduced rate Maintenance Grant of £1,453 (academic year 2009/10). Students within this group who were awarded the reduced rate grant will be categorised as in receipt of a partial Maintenance Grant.
13. Students who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS Bursary are omitted from the grant eligible population.
14. Totals exclude those students who do not apply for any financial support but include awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study during the academic year.
15. Student numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 and amounts have been rounded to the nearest £100,000. Totals and percentages are calculated from un-rounded numbers.
16. Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding.

National Statistics

17. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in The Code for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Table 3 - Distribution of Support in the form of Grants

Table 3A : Distribution of Maintenance Grants in England
Academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10 (provisional)

Provisional 2009 Entry Cohort students for Academic Year 2009/10 at 03/01/2010

	Students		Expenditure (£m)
	Numbers (000s)	Percentage (%)	
Academic year	2009/10 (provisional)	2009/10 (provisional)	2009/10 (provisional)
Students awarded a full Maintenance Grant	107.8	35%	312.2
Students awarded a partial Maintenance Grant	67.2	22%	80.5
Students awarded a Nil Maintenance Grant	136.8	44%	-
Total	311.8	100%	392.6

.. = Not applicable

Comparative Provisional 2008 Entry Cohort students for Academic Year 2008/09 at 04/01/2009

Students		Expenditure (£m)
Numbers (000s)	Percentage (%)	
2008/09 (provisional)	2008/09 (provisional)	2008/09 (provisional)
117.7	41%	329.6
84.8	29%	100.7
86.9	30%	-
289.4	100%	430.3

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)