

BIS/SLC: Early Statistics on Student Support for Higher Education in England, 2009/10 at 31 January 2010 (Provisional)

Due to high levels of public interest in the processing of Higher Education Student Support applications by Student Finance England, the Student Loans Company, in conjunction with BIS analysts, is releasing early provisional figures to show the levels of processing and payment of Student Support in England for the 2009/10 academic year.

This release covers the processing and payment up to and including 31 January 2010. Figures for the previous year as at the equivalent Sunday, 2 February 2009, are included to allow comparison.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
English domiciled applicants (new and continuing)	The figures are for English domiciles applying for student finance under full time regulations. It covers those applying as a new entrant into HE (processed by SLC) as well as those continuing study from the previous year (processed by Local Authorities).
Applications registered on the system	Applications can be created online by the applicant or can be submitted on paper. Some applicants withdraw their online application in favour of a paper application. This means that the number of applications is higher than the number of students. The student/prospective student can apply for a maintenance grant, maintenance loan, tuition fee loan and/or special allowance (childcare grant etc.). Some opt for a tuition fee loan only which means no maintenance payment is expected by them at start of term.
Applications started online but not completed	The applicant has started an online application but has not entered all the information and, hence has not yet submitted it to be assessed.
Withdrawn applications	The application has been withdrawn. The applicant is not attending HE this year or they have withdrawn an online application in favour of a paper application. Applications can be withdrawn after approval as well as prior to approval.
Ineligible applications	Applications found to be ineligible. The applicant does not meet the residency criteria or the HEI and course is not eligible for support or previous study rules prevent them gaining support for this period of study.
Applications available for processing	Applications that have been submitted on paper or completed online and not since been withdrawn or found to be ineligible.
Further information required from applicant/sponsors	The application has been processed as far as possible. A request has been sent to the applicant or sponsor for missing information and once that is received processing will resume.
Applications currently being processed	Applications that are currently available for processing but have not yet been processed to approval or to the next stage of requiring evidence. These applications will have been submitted in recent weeks.
Applications approved	The application has been assessed and approved. If the student/prospective student applied online they will then need to sign an online declaration form.
Applications approved with interim assessment	The non-means tested element of the application has been approved (i.e. the first 72% of the maintenance loan) to ensure that the applicant has part of their student finance at the start of the academic year. The applicant has indicated that they also want means tested support (i.e. a maintenance grant and the additional part of the maintenance loan). Where evidence has already been received the full assessment will follow once the financial evidence has been assessed. Otherwise the evidence will be sought from the

	applicant. Applications in 2008/09 that were processed as interim were not classed separately so data is not available for comparison.
Applications approved with full assessment	The applicant only requested non-means tested support or they requested means tested support which has been fully processed.
Awaiting On-line declaration form	After approval of an on-line application a signed on-line declaration form is required from the applicant before the first maintenance payment can be made.
Application withdrawn after approval	The application can be withdrawn after approval as long as no payments have been released.
Applications approved and signed by the applicant	The application has been assessed and approved. If the student/prospective student applied online they have also signed an online declaration form. If they are a new student their National Insurance Number will need to be verified with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Thereafter payment will be released once confirmation of attendance has been received from the higher education institution (HEI) they attend.
Not yet received attendance confirmation	No confirmation of attendance has been received from a University or College so no payment can be released. There are a number of possible reasons for this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant may have not secured a place in HE or may have chosen not to attend after all. • Some may be in attendance but have not registered for maintenance support because they only want a Tuition Fee loan which is paid directly to the HEI in February and May. • Others may not have registered attendance yet because the course has not yet started.
Not requesting maintenance support	The student has confirmed attendance but there is no maintenance payment required because they did not request any (for example, by only applying for a tuition fee loan).
Approved applicants where the course has not yet started	Confirmations of attendance are being received for courses not due to start until after the date of the statistics. The first payment is not due until the course starts.
Approved applicants confirmed as students and due to be paid	The applicant has confirmed attendance at a HEI and is, therefore, confirmed as a student. They have been approved to receive some form of maintenance payment (maintenance grant and/or maintenance loan) and the course start date has been reached.
Students receiving first payment	The number of students who have had their first payment instalment (grant and/or maintenance loan) paid into their bank account.
Students with first payment currently being processed through the banking system	Where attendance has been confirmed at the very end of the reporting period the payment will have been initiated via the banking system but will not reach the student's bank account till 2-3 days later.
Students due to be paid for whom payment has not yet been released	Students who have met all the criteria required to receive payment except for those where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their National Insurance Number is still being verified with the DWP • Their bank details are not correct so revised bank details are awaited
National Insurance number being verified with DWP	The National Insurance Number provided by the student must be verified with the Department for Work and Pensions. SLC is awaiting this verification and payment will be made once this is received.
Revised bank details awaited	Bank details provided in the original application were missing or incomplete: correct details have been requested from the student and payment is not possible until this information is provided.

STATISTICS

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000 unless specified otherwise. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Application Status	Academic Year 2008/09 at 01/02/2009	Academic Year 2009/10 at 31/01/2010
	Number of Applications	Number of Applications
Applications registered on the system	940,000	1,026,000
... of which applications started online but not completed	15,000	31,000
... of which applications withdrawn prior to approval or applicant found to be ineligible	28,000	54,000
Applications available for processing	896,000	941,000
Further information required from applicant/sponsors	18,000	13,000
Applications currently being processed	2,000	1,000
Applications approved	876,000	927,000
... of which number with full assessment	N/A	911,000
... of which number with interim assessment	N/A	16,000
... of which awaiting online declaration form from applicant	7,000	14,000
... of which applications withdrawn after approval	12,000	9,000
Applications approved and signed by applicant	858,000	903,000

Payment Status	Academic Year 2008/09 at 01/02/2009	Academic Year 2009/10 at 31/01/2010
	Number of students	Number of students
Approved applicants who have not confirmed attendance (Fee Loan only)	15,000	19,000
Approved applicants who have not confirmed attendance (Other)	20,000	27,000
Approved applicants not requesting maintenance support	6,000	5,000
Approved applicants where the course has not yet started	Less than 500	Less than 500
Approved applicants confirmed as students and due to be paid	817,000	851,000
Students receiving maintenance payment	815,000	849,000
Students with first payment currently being processed through the banking system	Less than 500	1,000
Students due to be paid for whom payment has not yet been released	2,000	2,000
... of which National Insurance Number currently being verified with DWP	1,000	2,000
... of which revised bank details currently awaited or other block on payment	1,000	Less than 500

Payment Amounts	Academic Year 2008/09 at 01/02/2009	Academic Year 2009/10 at 31/01/2010
Students receiving first payment	815,000	849,000
Amount paid for grants and maintenance loans	£2,512,000,000	£2,720,000,000
Average amount paid per student for grants and maintenance loans	£3,080	£3,210