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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**STUDENT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN
ENGLAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/08 (PROVISIONAL)****INTRODUCTION**

This statistical first release presents provisional figures on higher education (HE) student support to English domiciled students and EU students studying in England in the academic year 2007/08 and also shows comparable data for the previous academic years 1997/98 and 2003/04 to 2006/07 inclusive.

Key policy changes for 2006/07

New student support arrangements were introduced for students entering Higher Education from September 2006. Students are eligible for the Maintenance Grant, dependent on household income (up to £2,765 in 2007/08). New system students studying in England are subject to tuition fees (up to £3,070 in 2007/08). 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.

New system students continue to be eligible for a maintenance loan, which remains largely unchanged. Although, since students from lower-income households have part of their maintenance met through the new Maintenance Grant, their entitlement to repayable support through a maintenance loan is reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant entitlement up to a maximum of £1,230 in 2007/08.

Policy prior to 2006/07

In 2004/05 a new Higher Education Grant (HEG) was introduced for new entrants into full-time study in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to help cover the costs of participating in HE. With the introduction of the HEG the total support available under the new scheme to those with lower incomes increased significantly. Also, for students studying part-time a new Part Time Course Grant and Fee Grant were introduced in 2004/05 to fully replace the Part Time Loan that was in place up to and including 2003/04.

In 1998/99 new student support arrangements came into effect. New entrants to full-time HE courses were, with certain specified exceptions, expected to contribute up to £1,000 a year (£1,200 in 2006/07) towards the cost of their tuition. The amount depended on their own and, if appropriate, their parents' or spouse's income. In 1998/99, the first year of the new scheme, eligible new entrants received support for living costs through both grants and loans.

Grants, which were assessed against family income, on average formed about a quarter of the support available. All students were entitled to a non income-assessed loan, which comprised the remaining three quarters of support available. From 1999/2000 new student support students who entered HE from 1998/99 onwards received support for maintenance expenditure entirely through loans, a quarter of which was income-assessed.

The main grant rates were frozen at their 1990/91 values until 1994/95 when the shift from grant to loan was accelerated by reducing the level of grant rates and increasing loan rates. Broad parity between the main rates of grant and loans was achieved in the academic year 1996/97.

KEY POINTS

STUDENT SUPPORT AVAILABLE

- The maximum amounts available for new students in 2007/08 receiving student support through the student support scheme (comprising the full-year maintenance loan and, where eligible, the new Maintenance Grant) compared to the maximum rates for students in 1997/98 were some 76 - 85% higher in cash terms (dependent on residency and study location) which is 38 – 45% higher in real terms. (Refer to Table 1A). These figures exclude monies made available through additional grants and allowances, access funds, hardship loans and discretionary awards.

STUDENT SUPPORT SCHEME: STUDENT NUMBERS AND EXPENDITURE

- The number of student support scheme students receiving support in England was 815 thousand in 2006/07. This represents an increase of 2% compared with 2005/06 (refer to table 2)¹.
- Expenditure on fee grants (assessed for payment administered by the Student Loans Company to student support scheme students) was £257m in 2006/07. This represented a decrease of 40% in real terms when compared with 2005/06. Average fees paid (for all eligible student support scheme students after assessment) were £520 against a full fee of £1,200 in 2006/07. (Refer to Table 2).
- Average maintenance payments to student support scheme students (i.e. maintenance support in the form of the maintenance grants and additional allowances to assist with special needs) was £680 in 2006/07, an increase of 109% in real terms since the previous year. (Refer to Table 2).

MAINTENANCE GRANTS

- The number of students successfully applying for support in 2006/07 under the 2006/07 entry regulations was 292,000. 33% of these students received the full Maintenance Grant of £2,700 and 23% received a partial Maintenance Grant. 43% received no Maintenance Grant. (Refer to Table 3B).
- The number of students successfully applying for support in 2007/08 under the 2006/07 entry regulations reached 485,000 by mid November 2007. 33% of these students received the full Maintenance Grant of £2,765 and 23% received a partial Maintenance Grant. 45% received no Maintenance Grant. (Refer to Table 3B).

¹ The total number of students eligible for support includes those students who opt out of income-assessment because they do not expect to receive any income-assessed support.

TUITION FEES

- In 2006/07 the proportion of HE students who were assessed to receive full fee support² was 39%; in addition, 12% received partial fee support, and 49% (including those who opted out of income-assessment) received nil fee support. (Refer to Table 3A).
- 226,000 English domiciled students applying under the 2006/07 entry regulations took out a Tuition Fee Loan in 2006/07 at an average rate of £2,730 per student. (Refer to Table 4C).
- 153,000 students who were continuing study under pre 2006/07 arrangements took out a Tuition Fee Loan in 2006/07 to cover their personal contribution to the £1,200 fee at an average rate of £1,010 per student. (Refer to Table 4C).
- As at 14/11/2007, 420,000 English domiciled students applying in 2007/08 under the 2006/07 entry regulations had applied for a Tuition Fee Loan at an average rate of £2,890 per student. (Refer to Table 4C).
- As at 14/11/2007, 95,000 students who were continuing study in 2007/08 under pre 2006/07 arrangements had applied for a Tuition Fee Loan to cover their personal contribution to the £1,225 fee at an average rate of £1,050 per student. (Refer to Table 4C).

MAINTENANCE LOANS

- The average income contingent maintenance loan² was £3,590 in 2006/07. The average loan for those who entered prior to 2006/07 was £3,710. The average loan for those who entered in 2006/07 was £3,360. (Refer to Table 4A).
- The average for those who have applied so far in 2007/08 is £3,560. The average loan for those who have applied so far who entered prior to 2006/07 is £3,690. The average loan for those who have applied so far who entered in 2006/07 is £3,480. (Refer to Table 4A).

TABLES

Table 1A shows the maximum support available in England through the grants and loans schemes for the academic years 1997/98; and 2003/04 through to 2007/08 for student support scheme students and mandatory scheme students.

Table 1B shows the support package in academic year 2007/08, the second year of Variable Fees in England and the new Maintenance Grant.

Table 2 shows, for students domiciled in England, the number of, and expenditure on, student support scheme students in 2003/04 through to 2007/08.

Table 3A shows the distribution of fee support for students domiciled in England in academic year 2006/07.

Table 3B shows the distribution of Maintenance Grants for English domiciled new system students in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Table 3C shows the distribution of Higher Education Grants for students domiciled in England for academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

² Applies to students under the student support scheme funding arrangements.

Table 4A shows the number and take up of Maintenance Loans, the amount borrowed and the average loan for the student support scheme for students domiciled in England for academic years 2001/02 through to 2007/08.

Table 4B shows the number of Tuition Fee Loans taken out, the amount borrowed and the average loan for the student support scheme for all students domiciled in England and for European Union students attending HE courses in England for academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Table 4C shows the number of Tuition Fee Loans taken out, the amount borrowed and the average loan for the student support scheme for all students domiciled in England for academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08 broken down by the country of HE institution attended.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. All of the figures in this first release have been compiled by the Student Loans Company Limited.
2. Figures marked as provisional are those where the base data has only recently become available and may be subject to change following further validation. Loan eligible figures and take-up rates for 2006/07 will be produced when suitably robust population data are available.
3. Details of the amounts of loans and grants available in 2007/08 have been taken from the Student Finance Direct booklet 'A guide to financial support for higher education students in 2007/08'.
4. This statistical first release contains early in-year awards figures for 2007/08. Students who have not yet been approved for support will not appear in these figures. Some eligible students may not have applied yet and others may have applied but not yet provided all requested evidence. Also, student circumstances can change and they may revise their support application. Significant numbers of students revise their initial support application from non means-tested support to means-tested support. Others withdraw from their courses after only one term's payment. Therefore, the figures for 2007/08, and to a lesser extent 2006/07, are provisional. Updated figures will be published in November 2008.
5. The Student Support Scheme does not apply to Part Time HE students other than those on part-time postgraduate courses of initial teacher training. A support package for Part Time HE students comprising a Course Grant and a Fee Grant was introduced in 2004/05.

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGHER EDUCATION UP TO AND INCLUDING 1997/98

6. The financial support arrangements in 2006/07 for existing mandatory award holders and other students on courses which began before 1 September 1998, and students who entered HE in 1998/99 but are treated exceptionally as existing award holders for the purposes of the Mandatory Awards Regulations (e.g. gap year students), remain largely unchanged. Tuition fees continue to be paid in full by LAs where the student is eligible for a mandatory award and such students also receive a grant towards their maintenance, depending on income, for the duration of their course. Existing students remain eligible for loans repayable on a mortgage-style basis.
7. Loans under the scheme are available to most 'home' students in full-time non-postgraduate HE (and students on full-time and part-time postgraduate courses of initial teacher training) who are aged less than 60 when their course starts (the age limit prior to academic year 2006/07 was 50); they are available to eligible students whether or not they receive a mandatory award, although their course must be designated for mandatory awards purposes.
8. The maximum loan and grant facilities for the academic years 1997/98, and 2003/04 through to 2007/08 are given in Table 1A. Most students in the final year of a course receive a lower rate of loan because the loan does not cover the summer vacation following the end of the course. As

with the grant, there are different rates of loan based on whether the student is living at home, and, if not, on whether the student is studying in London or elsewhere. These loans are not income-assessed.

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGHER EDUCATION FROM 1998/99

FEES SUPPORT

9. New student support arrangements came into effect from the start of the 1998/99 academic year. New entrants to HE were, with certain specified exceptions, expected to contribute up to £1,000 a year (£1,200 in 2006/07) towards the cost of their tuition fees. The amount depended on their own and, if appropriate, their parents' or spouse's income. The remainder is met from public funds and paid directly to HE institutions.

10. In the transitional year of the new arrangements, academic year 1998/99, some students who were not expecting to receive a contribution to their fees from public funds did not make an application to their LA.

MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

11. In 1998/99, eligible new entrants received support for living costs through both grants and loans. Grants, which were assessed against family income, on average formed about a quarter of the support available. All students were entitled to a non income-assessed loan, which comprised the remaining three quarters of support available, and which is repayable on an income contingent basis. From 1999/2000, all basic support for living costs was through loans as grants were discontinued up until the introduction of the HEG in 2004/05.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT

12. The HEG was introduced for new entrants into HE in England in academic year 2004/05 to help cover the costs of participating in HE. The grant is fully means tested and is non-repayable. The maximum amount in 2007/08 is £1,000 as in 2004/05. The HEG does not reduce the amount of Student Loan available to the student.

13. Expenditure on the HEG forms part of the expenditure on Maintenance reported in this SFR. Maintenance expenditure for England and Wales specific to the HE Grant in 2004/05 and 2005/06 was reported in SLC SFR 02/2006.

STUDENT LOANS

14. The amount available to students through loans was increased to compensate for the reduction in grants until 1999/2000 from which point onwards students received their basic support for living costs solely through loans, approximately one quarter of which are income-assessed. However, entrants from 2004/05 onwards may also be entitled to grant support through the HEG.

15. 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).

16. Statistics on loans to students in HE in the United Kingdom in academic year 2006/07 were published in SLC SFR 03/2006 on 28 November 2006. Statistics on the repayment of loans in financial year 2006-07 were published in SLC SFR 01/2007 on 12 June 2007.

STUDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGHER EDUCATION FROM 2006/07

MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

17. A new Maintenance Grant has been introduced for 'new system' students who started their course in September 2006. The new Maintenance Grant replaces the HE Grant. The maximum amount of support available in 2007/08 is £2,765, and how much a student receives depends on their income and that of their household. Students with a household income up to £17,910 will receive the full £2,765 grant; students with household incomes above £17,910 receive a partial grant, with a minimum grant of £50 payable once household income reaches £38,330. No grant is payable where household income is above £38,330. The Maintenance Grant is non-repayable. The equivalent Special Support Grant (of up to £2,765) ensures that students in the DWP vulnerable groups have their grant disregarded when entitlement to benefits is calculated.

TUITION FEE LOANS

18. From 2006/07 students can defer payment of tuition fees by taking out a Tuition Fee loan. As well as being available to new 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

19. The Government retain as grants and allowances those relating to the personal circumstances of students, e. g. for students with dependants; single parent students; care leavers and disabled students. Support for some course-related costs, e.g. extra weeks attendance, are in the form of supplementary loans. Grants for students with dependants and single parent students are income-assessed but the school meals allowances, care leavers grants and disabled students' allowances are not.

ACCESS TO LEARNING FUND

20. From 2004/05 hardship funding was amalgamated into one non-repayable fund, renamed the Access to Learning Fund. Institutions with HE students were allocated £64m in 2006/07 to help students from low income backgrounds and those in financial difficulty to gain access to and stay in HE.

DISCRETIONARY AWARDS

21. Discretionary awards are available to students on designated HE courses who are personally ineligible to receive mandatory scheme or student support scheme support. LAs meet the cost of discretionary awards from their own resources. Hence, they are not included in this SFR. It is for authorities to choose which students and courses to support and how much to spend. Some authorities pay their discretionary awards at the rate for designated courses and others pay at a rate above or below that for courses designated for mandatory scheme or student support scheme support.

DEFINITIONS

22. Assessments of eligibility for student support are made by LAs in England or the SLC (if the LA is one of the areas served by the SLC central unit) of students who are ordinarily resident in their areas, who attend 'designated' HE courses in the United Kingdom and who satisfy the conditions of either the Education (Mandatory Awards) Regulations (if they entered HE before 1998/99) or the Education (Student Support) Regulations. 'Designated' courses are principally those leading to a first degree or equivalent qualification, all approved initial teacher training (ITT)

qualifications (including the Postgraduate Certificate in Education), a University Certificate or Diploma, Higher National Diploma and the Diploma of HE. Under the Student Support Regulations, students attending courses of ITT (whether full-time or part-time) are eligible for full-time support; students attending designated part-time courses other than courses of ITT were eligible for part-time loans only up until academic year 2004/05 when part time course grants and fee grants were introduced. Under the Mandatory Awards Regulations, apart from courses of ITT, only full-time and sandwich courses can be designated.

23. Assessments of eligibility for student support for those students who are ordinarily resident outside the United Kingdom but are ordinarily resident in the European Union and who attend designated HE courses in England are made by the SLC EU Customer Services team.

24. HE courses are those of a level higher than GCE A level or ONC/OND.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

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

Table 1 - Student Support Available

Table 1A : Basic rates of standard maintenance grant and full year loan available to English domiciled students [1]
Academic years 1997/98, and 2003/04 to 2007/08

£

Academic years		Maximum maintenance Grant (cash terms)	Maximum amount of maintenance loan (cash terms)	Standard maintenance grant plus maintenance loan (cash terms)	Standard maintenance grant plus maintenance loan (constant prices) [2]
1997/98	Elsewhere rate [3]	1,755	1,685	3,440	4,377
	London rate	2,160	2,085	4,245	5,402
	Home rate	1,435	1,290	2,725	3,468
2003/2004 [4] (1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	.	4,000	4,000	4,430
	London rate	.	4,930	4,930	5,460
	Home rate	.	3,165	3,165	3,505
2003/2004 [5] (pre 1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,040	1,960	4,000	4,430
	London rate	2,510	2,420	4,930	5,460
	Home rate	1,665	1,500	3,165	3,505
2004/2005 [4] (1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	1,000	4,095	5,095	5,539
	London rate	1,000	5,050	6,050	6,577
	Home rate	1,000	3,240	4,240	4,610
2004/2005 [5] (pre 1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,090	2,005	4,095	4,452
	London rate	2,570	2,480	5,050	5,490
	Home rate	1,705	1,535	3,240	3,522
2005/2006 [4][6] (1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	1,000	4,195	5,195	5,511
	London rate	1,000	5,175	6,175	6,550
	Home rate	1,000	3,320	4,320	4,582
2005/2006 [5] (pre 1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,140	2,055	4,195	4,450
	London rate	2,635	2,540	5,175	5,489
	Home rate	1,745	1,575	3,320	3,522
2006/2007 [7][8] (2006/07 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,700	4,405	5,905 [9]	6,071
	London rate	2,700	6,170	7,670 [9]	7,886
	Home rate	2,700	3,415	4,915 [9]	5,053
2006/2007 [4][6] (1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	1,000	4,405	5,405	5,557
	London rate	1,000	6,170	7,170	7,372
	Home rate	1,000	3,415	4,415	4,539
2006/2007 [5] (pre 1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,195	2,105	4,300	4,421
	London rate	2,700	2,605	5,305	5,454
	Home rate	1,790	1,615	3,405	3,501
2007/2008 [7][8] (2006/07 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	2,765	4,510	6,045 [9]	6,045 [9]
	London rate	2,765	6,315	7,850 [9]	7,850 [9]
	Home rate	2,765	3,495	5,030 [9]	5,030 [9]
2007/2008 [4][6] (1998/99 scheme)	Elsewhere rate [3]	1,000	4,510	5,510	5,510
	London rate	1,000	6,315	7,315	7,315
	Home rate	1,000	3,495	4,495	4,495

. = not applicable

Source: DIUS; ONS

[1] The rate of maintenance grant is applicable to students normally domiciled in England.

[2] In 2007/08 prices based on the September RPI, excluding mortgage interest payments, at the beginning of each academic year.

[3] The 'elsewhere' rate of grant and loan is applicable to students living away from home and studying outside London.

[4] Rates of grant and loan applicable to student support scheme students from 1998/99 onwards; these are students who started their courses in September 1998 or later, excluding those groups such as gap year students who started their courses in 1998/99 but were treated exceptionally as mandatory award holders; also excluding those students who started a course in 1998/99 or later immediately after completing a course that they had started in 1997/98 or earlier.

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.

[5] Rates of grant and loan applicable to students who are eligible to receive grants and loans under similar funding arrangements to those of 1997/98. The loans made under these arrangements are repayable on a mortgage style basis.

[6] In 2004/05 the new HE Grant was introduced to help cover the costs of participating in Higher Education.

The grant is fully means-tested and is non-repayable.

[7] A means-tested Maintenance Grant of £2,700 was introduced in 2006/07 (£2,765 in 2007/08).

Students in receipt of these grants are not eligible for the £1,000 HE Grant.

[8] From 2006/07, loans for fees became available; this is open to both home domiciled and EU students.

[9] The amount of Maintenance Loan available is reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant received up to a maximum of £1,200 (£1,230 in 2007/08).

The maximum amount of support available is therefore lower than the sum of the maximum Maintenance Loan and the maximum Maintenance Grant.

Table 1 - Student Support Available

**Table 1B : Student Maintenance Package 2007/08 in England [1]
Students entering HE from academic year 2006/07**

Residual Income	Amount of fee loan available [2]	Amount of maintenance grant available	Amount of maintenance loan available [3]
Up to £17,910	£3,070	£2,765	£3,280 [4]
Between £17,911 and £27,120	£3,070	£1,230 to £2,764 [5]	£3,280 [4]
Between £27,121 and £38,330	£3,070	£50 to £1,229 [6]	£3,281 to £4,460 [7]
Between £38,331 and £38,805	£3,070	Nil	£4,510 [8]
Between £38,806 and £49,493	£3,070	Nil	£3,385 to £4,509 [9]
Over £49,493	£3,070	Nil	£3,385 [9]

Source: DIUS

[1] Information is for English domiciled students.

[2] The amount of Tuition Fee Loan available is equivalent to the tuition fees charged, up to a maximum of £3,070.

[3] Based on the 'Elsewhere' rate of loan.

[4] 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 will be reduced by £1 for every £1 of Maintenance Grant entitlement up to £1,230.

[5] Reduced by £1 for every £6 of income above £17,910.

[6] Reduced by £1 for every £9.50 of income above £27,120.

[7] The Maintenance Loan is reduced by between £50 and £1,230 depending on the amount of Maintenance Grant received.

[8] The full 'Elsewhere' rate of maintenance loan.

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

Table 2 - Student Support Expenditure

Table 2 : Fee and Maintenance expenditure for Student Support Scheme Students in England [1][2]
Academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08 (provisional)

Academic Years	All student support scheme students					
	Number of Awards (000s) [3][4]	Public expenditure (£m cash)			Average LA/SLC fee grant expenditure per student (£)[3][7][10][11]	Average LA/SLC maintenance expenditure per student (£)[10][11]
		Fee grants [3][5][6][7]	Maintenance [8][9]	Total Public expenditure [10]		
2003/04	781	387	169	556	540	220
2004/05	776	395	201	597	560	260
2005/06	802	413	254	667	560	320
2006/07	815	257	558	814	520	680
Percentage change 2005/06 - 2006/07 (expenditure in real terms) [12]	2	-40	113	19	-9	109
2007/08 (provisional) [13]	770	130	692	823	510	900

Source: Student Loans Company (SLC)

- [1] Students starting their course from 1998/99 under the new arrangements. New students in 1998/99 received support for maintenance through income-assessed grants (comprising about a quarter of the support available) and non income-assessed student loans (comprising about three quarters of the support available). The ratio for continuing students in 1998/99 is roughly 50% means tested grant and 50% non means-tested student loan. From 1999/2000, students who entered higher education from 1998/99 onwards received support for maintenance entirely through loans, of which approximately three quarters of the value was non income-assessed. Loans made under these arrangements are repayable on an income contingent basis.
- [2] Data cover English domiciled student support scheme students in the UK.
- [3] Includes placement year sandwich students. For student support scheme students, the maximum fee contribution for these students was £610 in 2005/06.
- [4] The business process changed between 2003/04 and 2004/05. Up to and including 2003/04 the local authority completed their process by approving an assessment and sending out a loan request form. The Student Loans Company processed the completed Loan Request Form (LRF) if one was received. From 2004/05 onwards, the LRF was combined with the main application forms and both were processed by the local authority. The apparent drop in the number of awards may indicate that the figures prior to 2004/05 included awards made by local authorities which were not subsequently taken up by the student. In reality the number of awards has increased year on year.
- [5] Student Support Scheme students in 1998/99 were expected to contribute up to £1,000 towards the cost of their Tuition Fees depending on family income. This has risen in line with inflation to £1,225 in 2007/08 except for those students entering in or after 2006/07 who are subject to variable fees.
- [6] The number of Student Support Scheme students eligible for fee support in 2003/04 was 707,000, this figure has been used to calculate the average fee. In 2004/2005, the number eligible for fee support is 710,000, in 2005/06 the number eligible is 734,000, in 2006/07 it is 490,000 and in 2007/08 it is 256,000. Those students who are not in attendance in December are not reported.
- [7] Data for fees cover those students who entered HE prior to 2006/07. EU students are entitled to support for fees, but are excluded from these figures.
- [8] Data on maintenance expenditure for student support scheme students relates to additional allowances/grants available to eligible students for extra help depending on their circumstances, e.g. students with disabilities, students with dependents, single parent students, those incurring certain travel costs, and those who have recently left care.
- [9] The maintenance figures from 2004/05 include the Higher Education Grant. This grant was introduced for new students in 2004/05 to help cover the costs of participating in Higher Education. The grant is means-tested and non-repayable and was replaced for 2006/07 by the new Maintenance Grant. The new Maintenance Grant, introduced in 2006/07, allows for a maximum grant of £2,765 to be paid to eligible students, with up to £1,230 of this grant offset against the Maintenance Loan.
- [10] Totals may not add due to roundings.
- [11] Rounded to the nearest £10.
- [12] Expenditure percentage changes in 2006/07 prices based on the annual GDP deflator for fee expenditure and the RPI (excluding mortgage interest payments) of September each academic year for maintenance and average maintenance expenditure per award holder.
- [13] The fee support and maintenance figures for 2007/08 are based on the position as at 07/11/2007. The number of awards will increase as late applications come in. The averages for fee expenditure and maintenance expenditure will increase or decrease depending on the make up of the late applicants.

Table 3 - Distribution of Support in the form of Grants

**Table 3A : Distribution of tuition fee grants in England [1][2]
Academic year 2006/07**

	Student Numbers (000s) [3]	Percentage[4]	Expenditure (£m)
Students in receipt of full fee support [5]	190	39	221
Students in receipt of partial fee support	59	12	35
Students in receipt of nil fee support [6]	240	49	-
Total	490	100	257

- = nil or negligible

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

[1] Data cover English domiciled student support scheme students in the UK.

[2] Most student support scheme students in 2006/07 were assessed to contribute up to £1,200 to their fees depending on family income.

[3] Student numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.

[4] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to roundings.

[5] 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).

[6] Those who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS Bursary are omitted from the grant eligible population.

**Table 3B : Distribution of Maintenance Grants in England [1][2][3]
Academic year 2006/07 and 2007/08 (provisional) [4]**

Academic year	Students				Expenditure (£m) [6]	
	Numbers (000s) [5]		Percentage (%)		2006/07	2007/08 [4]
	2006/07	2007/08 [4]	2006/07	2007/08 [4]		
Students in receipt of a full Maintenance Grant	98	158	33	33	252	435
Students in receipt of a partial Maintenance Grant	68	110	23	23	82	141
Students in receipt of a Nil Maintenance Grant [7]	127	217	43	45	-	-
Total [8][9][10]	292	485	100	100	334	576

- = nil or negligible

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

[1] Data cover English domiciled student support scheme students in the UK.

[2] Means-tested Maintenance Grants, up to a maximum of £2,700 (£2,765 in 2007/08), are available to students entering HE from 2006/07.

[3] Includes the Special Support Grant payable to vulnerable groups of students who may otherwise have their DWP benefits reduced.

[4] 2007/08 figures are provisional as at 19/11/2007.

[5] Student numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.

[6] Expenditure rounded to the nearest million pounds.

[7] Those who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS Bursary are omitted from the grant eligible population.

[8] Excludes those students who do not apply to the SLC for any financial support.

[9] Includes awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study during the academic year.

[10] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to roundings.

**Table 3C : Distribution of Higher Education Grants in England [1][2][3]
Academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08 [4]**

Academic year	Students				Expenditure (£m) [6]	
	Numbers (000s) [5]		Percentage (%)		2006/07	2007/08 [4]
	2006/07	2007/08 [4]	2006/07	2007/08 [4]		
Students receiving a full HE grant	124	70	26	28	121	70
Students receiving a partial HE grant	28	16	6	6	14	8
Students receiving no HE grant [7]	326	168	68	66	-	-
Total [8][9][10]	478	255	100	100	135	78

- = nil or negligible

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

[1] Data cover English domiciled student support scheme students in the UK.

[2] Full-time, sandwich, and part-time initial teacher training students in higher education.

[3] Data cover those student who entered HE from 2004/05 and prior to academic year 2006/07.

[4] 2007/08 figures are provisional as at 19/11/2007.

[5] Student numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.

[6] Expenditure rounded to the nearest million pounds.

[7] Those who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS Bursary are omitted from the grant eligible population.

[8] Excludes those students who do not apply to the SLC for any financial support.

[9] Includes awards to students who subsequently withdrew from their course or suspended study during the academic year.

[10] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to roundings.

Table 4 - Student Support in the form of Loans

**Table 4A : Eligibility and take-up of Maintenance Loans in England [1]
Academic years 2001/02 to 2007/08 (provisional)**

Academic Year	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s)	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [2]
2001/02	768	629	82	2,007	3,190
2002/03	816	666	82	2,161	3,250
2003/04	840	682	81	2,258	3,310
2004/05	874	693	79	2,349	3,390
2005/06	897	719	80	2,496	3,470
2006/07 (provisional)	..	727	..	2,608	3,590
2007/08 (provisional) [3]	..	674	..	2,399	3,560

.. = not available

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DIUS

A breakdown of the above figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 follows:

Students entering HE prior to 2006/07:

Academic Year	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s)	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [2]
2006/07 (provisional)	..	484	..	1,792	3,710
2007/08 (provisional) [3]	..	255	..	941	3,690

Students entering HE from 2006/07:

Academic Year	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s)	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [2]
2006/07 (provisional)	..	243	..	816	3,360
2007/08 (provisional) [3]	..	419	..	1,458	3,480

.. = not available

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC)

[1] Student loans are available to eligible students normally domiciled in the United Kingdom.

[2] Rounded to the nearest £10.

[3] The number of loans taken out for 2007/08 is based on the number of loans approved as at 07/11/2007.

The numbers will increase as late applications come in and this may change the average value of loan.

Table 4 - Student Support in the form of Loans

Table 4B : Eligibility and take-up of Tuition Fee Loans in England [1] [6]
Academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08 (provisional)

Students entering HE prior to 2006/07 [2]:

Academic Year	Domicile of student	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s) [3]	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [4]
2006/07	England	..	153	..	155	1,010
	EU [5]	..	-	..	1	1,050
	Total	..	153	..	156	1,010
2007/08 (provisional)	England	..	95	..	100	1,050
	EU [5]	..	-	..	-	1,150
	Total	..	95	..	100	1,050

.. = not available - = nil or negligible

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DIUS

Students entering HE from 2006/07 [5]:

Academic Year	Domicile of student	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s) [3]	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [4]
2006/07	England	..	226	..	617	2,730
	EU [5]	..	8	..	22	2,850
	Total	..	234	..	639	2,740
2007/08 (provisional)	England	..	420	..	1,211	2,885
	EU [5]	..	11	..	33	2,960
	Total	..	431	..	1,244	2,890

.. = not available - = nil or negligible

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DIUS

Table 4C : Eligibility and take-up of Tuition Fee Loans by English students according to country of study [1] [6]
Academic year 2006/07 and 2007/08 (provisional)

Students entering HE prior to 2006/07 [2]:

	Country of study	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s) [3]	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [4]
2006/07	England	..	144	..	146	1,010
	Other	..	9	..	9	1,030
	Total	..	153	..	155	1,010
2007/08 (provisional)	England	..	89	..	94	1,050
	Other	..	6	..	6	1,070
	Total	..	95	..	100	1,050

.. = not available

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DIUS

Students entering HE from 2006/07 [5]:

	Country of study	Eligible Population (000s)	Number of loans taken out (000s) [3]	Take up of loans by eligible population (%)	Total sum borrowed (£m)	Average value of loan (£) [4]
2006/07	England	..	217	..	606	2,780
	Other	..	8	..	11	1,360
	Total	..	226	..	617	2,730
2007/08 (provisional)	England	..	403	..	1,166	2,900
	Other	..	17	..	45	2,620
	Total	..	420	..	1,211	2,890

.. = not available

Source: Student Loans Company Limited (SLC); DIUS

[1] Tuition Fee loans are provided by DIUS via the Student Loans Company to students normally domiciled in England who attend an HE course anywhere in the United Kingdom as well as to students from the European Union attending HE courses in England.

[2] Students entering HE prior to 2006/07 can take out a Tuition Fee loan to cover their private contribution to fees if they make any.

[3] The number of loans taken out for 2007/08 is based on the number of loans approved as at 14/11/2007.

The numbers will increase as late applications come in and this may change the average value of loan.

[4] Rounded to the nearest £10.

[5] The figures for EU students are released early in the application process. Hence, these provisional figures are significantly lower than the likely final outcome.

[6] Students entering HE from 2006/07 can take out a Tuition Fee loan to cover all or part of the variable fee charged by their HEI.