

Independent /Young (Dependent) Status

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1 INTRODUCTION

The maximum support available to you in 2016-2017 will depend on whether we fund you as an independent student or a young (dependent) student.

If we treat you as a young student then we will work out how much support you can get by using the income of your parents.

If we treat you as an independent student then we do not require the income of your parents. However, we may still include the income of your husband, wife, civil partner or partner.

2 INDEPENDENT STATUS

You must meet one of the following conditions to receive support as an independent student.

- You have reached the age of 25 before the start of the academic year we are assessing you for (1 August for autumn start courses).
- You have supported yourself from earnings or benefits outside full-time education for any three years before the first day of the first academic year of your course. This can include government training schemes and advanced research level postgraduate study where you received an award.
- You have a child who is dependent on you at the start of the academic year, and who lives with you for the majority of the week.
- You have no parents living.
- You are married, in a civil partnership or live with a partner prior to the first day of the first academic year of your course. We can review this if your circumstances change during your course.
- You are permanently estranged from your parents for at least 12 months before the start of the academic year we are assessing you for. Please contact us for advice as you will need strong supporting evidence.

- If there are any other special circumstances that you think may apply to you, please contact us for advice.

3 YOUNG (DEPENDENT) STATUS

- If you do not meet any of the 'independent status' conditions then we can support you as a young student. This means we will use the income of your parents (or step parents, parent's partner) to work out how much support we can give you.

4 SUPPORT PACKAGES

The maximum support packages for 2016-2017 are:

| Young Students (Dependent Students) | | | | Independent Students | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------|----------------------|--------|---------------|
| Household income | Bursary | Loan | Total | Bursary | Loan | Total |
| £0 - £18,999 | £1,875 | £5,750 | £7,625 | £875 | £6,750 | £7,625 |
| £19,000 to £23,999 | £1,125 | £5,750 | £6,875 | £0 | £6,750 | £6,750 |
| £24,000 to £33,999 | £500 | £5,750 | £6,250 | £0 | £6,250 | £6,250 |
| £34,000 and above | £0 | £4,750 | £4,750 | £0 | £4,750 | £4,750 |

Please note that some students may begin a programme of study receiving the young (dependent) support package but may switch to the independent package in subsequent years depending on their circumstances.

5 BURSARY RULES

You will be eligible to apply for a bursary if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You are eligible to receive tuition fee support from us.
- You are Scottish domiciled and are studying in the UK.
- You are taking an eligible full-time course of higher education.