



Previous Study

Previous study

The information in the subject headings below covers the most common course changes for full-time students who are applying for the standard undergraduate support. If we have not covered your specific circumstances, we strongly advise you to contact us before changing your course to check what support you may be eligible for. If we can't give you full support, which includes tuition fees and student bursary, you may still be eligible to apply for a student loan and any living-costs grants that apply to you.

Content

- 1 [What we class as previous study](#)
- 2 [Direct entry degree students](#)
- 3 [Higher National \(HN\) students](#)
- 4 [Students who progress to a degree after completing an HN qualification](#)
- 5 [Changing course or repeating a year](#)
- 6 [Concessions](#)

1 WHAT WE CLASS AS PREVIOUS STUDY

Study taken in the UK

Any tuition fee payment, tuition fee loan or bursary you received from UK public funds for a course of full-time higher education (HNC, HND, degree or equivalent level courses). We do not take into account any loan for living costs and living-costs grants you received from UK public funds, or any support you received for part-time study.

Study taken in the EU

Any financial support (fees or living-costs) you received from EU public funds for a full-time degree or equivalent level course. If you did a degree, but did not graduate with a degree qualification, you can apply for support for an HN or degree level course. If you have a degree, and this is the equivalent of an ordinary degree in the UK, you may get support for an honours year. Please contact us for advice.

2 DIRECT ENTRY DEGREE STUDENTS

You are eligible to apply for full support for one honours degree. Depending on the degree you have chosen, this could take between three to six years.

Except in certain specific circumstances (see the concession section below), once you graduate with an honours degree, you will not normally be eligible for full support for another undergraduate course.

3 HIGHER NATIONAL LEVEL (HNC, HND) STUDENTS

You are eligible to apply for full support for two years, providing you have not already received any support at degree level. This will allow you to graduate with an HND by either studying years 1 and 2 of an HND, or by completing an HNC then progressing direct to year 2 of an HND. If you have received support at degree level, but did not graduate with a degree, you may still get support for an HNC or HND depending on your circumstances. Please contact us for advice.

4 STUDENTS WHO PROGRESS TO DEGREE LEVEL AFTER COMPLETING A HIGHER NATIONAL LEVEL (HNC, HND) COURSE

You may be able to gain direct entry to year 2 (or 3 in some cases) of a degree if you successfully complete a course at Higher National level. You are eligible to apply for full support from year 2 of the degree, providing you have not previously received support at degree level.

Example

John studied an HNC in Computing in session 2014-2015 and received full support from SAAS to study this. As John gained the HNC qualification, he was able to progress to year 2 of the HND in computing. John has received an offer letter to begin a degree in Computing from year 2 as he holds the HND qualification. He will be eligible to apply to for full support in all years of his degree as shown below:

Academic Session	Course	Year of Course	Support from SAAS
2014-2015	HNC - Computing	1	Full support
2015-2016	HND - Computing	2	Full support
2016-2017	BSc - Computing	2	Full support
2017-2018	BSc - Computing	3	Full support
2018-2019	BSc - Computing	4	Full support

5 CHANGING COURSE OR REPEATING A YEAR

You have an extra year (known as +1) of full support available for:

- an academic repeat year; or
- a medical or compassionate repeat year; or
- an Intercalated year (for those that study medicine or dentistry); or
- a change of course

If you have to repeat a year of your course, you can use your +1 entitlement to get full support in your repeat year. We don't need any supporting evidence to explain why you have to repeat the year. If you are not sure about when you can use a +1 year, please contact us for advice.

Example

Natalie began a Degree in Chemistry in session 2014-2015 and received full support from SAAS for this. In the second year of her course, session 2015-2016, she failed one of her modules and this resulted in her having to repeat this year. Her plus one will be applied in session 2016-2017 to allow her to repeat. She will be eligible to apply for full support in every subsequent year of her course as shown below:

Academic Session	Course	Year of Course	Support from SAAS
2014-2015	BA Business Management	1	Full support
2015-2016	BA Business Management	2	Full support
2016-2017	BA Business Management	2 (Repeat year, using +1)	Full support
2017-2018	BA Business Management	3	Full support
2018-2019	BA Business Management	4	Full support

If you change course and your starting point on your new course does not normally allow you to apply for full support, you can use your +1 entitlement to get full support.

Example

Nick started a HNC course in Mechanics and received full support for this. After completion of the course, he decided he wanted to start a new course in hospitality. He applied to study a HND in session 2016-2017 and was required to start the HND from year 1. Normally, if you hold a HNC qualification, you will be allowed to enter year 2 of a HND. However, Nick must enter from year 1 so will be required to use his +1 to fund this. Nick will receive full support for the HND as shown below:

Academic Session	Course	Year of Course	Support from SAAS
2014-2015	HNC Mechanics	1	Full support
2015-2016	HND Hospitality	1 (+1 used)	Full support
2016-2017	HND Hospitality	2	Full support

You cannot use your entitlement to a +1 year in the following circumstances:

- If you have a degree (ordinary or honours) or advanced diploma.
- To do an HNC or HND if you already hold a qualification at that level or higher.
- To do a postgraduate course.

6 CONCESSIONS

There are a number of concessions that apply outside the normal previous study rules that exceptional allow eligible students to apply for full support.

- [Honours year concession](#)
- [Allied Health Profession \(AHP\) 2nd degree concession](#)
- [Second degree medicine and dentistry concession](#)
- [Second degree ministry concession](#)
- [PGDE concession](#)
- [Changing course or career due to a disability, injury or illness](#)

Honours year concession

Most students who are on a degree programme will graduate with a 4 year (or 3 year if they studied in England, Wales or Northern Ireland) honours degree. However, there will be some instances where you choose to graduate after 3 years with an ordinary degree.

You are still eligible to apply for full support for an honours year providing:

- the honours year is in the same subject as the ordinary degree (you can do this at a different university from where you did your ordinary degree);
- you have not already received funding for an honours year.

You do not have to do the honours year immediately after you graduate with an ordinary degree, you can have a break in study.

Example

Jessica graduated with an ordinary degree in accountancy in session 2014-2015. After a year of employment, she decided she would like to return to university to study her honours year. In session 2016-2017 she applied to do the honours year of her original accountancy degree. She is eligible to apply for support as the honours year is in the same subject.

Allied Health Profession (AHP) 2nd degree concession

With the exception of those who have already done an AHP course, if you successfully complete an advance diploma or a degree, with assistance from UK or other EU public funds, you are eligible to apply for full support for the first two years of your AHP course. The concession only applies to the first two years of your AHP course.

Example

Danielle has previously received funding for a four year biology Degree. In session 2016-2017 she applies to do an AHP course and gains direct entry into year 2. She is eligible to apply for full support in years 2 and 3 of her course and will be eligible to apply for the student loan and living costs only in year 4.

Second degree medicine and dentistry concession

As well as the entitlement available under our normal previous study rules, all second degree medicine and dentistry students are eligible to apply for full support from their fifth year of study.

Dentistry students may also wish to go through the undergraduate section of our website to get information about an NHS Dental Bursary scheme.

Example

David starts a 4 year mathematics Degree course and graduates with the qualification. In session 2016-2017 he gains entry to year 1 of a medicine degree. As he already holds a degree qualification, he would be eligible to apply for payment of his tuition fees and bursary from year 5 of his Degree.

Second degree ministry concession

If you are looking to do a second degree in divinity, which leads to a qualification, for example, BA divinity or BA Theology, you may be eligible to receive full support providing you meet the following criteria.

- You must be accepted as a bona fide candidate for the ministry of a recognised church or religious body, for example, Christianity, Islam and Judaism.
- You do not receive more than seven years full support in total for both your first and second degree.

Example

Michael previously received support from SAAS to complete a five year MEng degree. He gains entry to year 1 of a 3 year divinity degree. As he has already received 5 years funding he will be entitled to 2 more years which is applied to the later years of the degree. Therefore, in year 1 he will be eligible to apply for a student loan and living-costs grants only and in years 2 and 3 he will be eligible to apply for full support.

PGDE concession

If you hold an undergraduate degree, you are entitled to full support for a PGDE.

If you have previously taken a PGDE or short vocational postgraduate diploma course with assistance from UK or other EU public funds, you will not be eligible for full support for a PGDE unless you are doing a teaching priority subject.

The priority subjects for 2016-2017 are:

- Art
- Business Education
- Computing
- English
- Gaelic
- Chemistry
- Home Economics
- Maths
- Modern Languages
- Physics
- Primary Education and Primary with Gaelic Medium, including PGDE courses taught in a Gaelic medium
- Technological Education

Example

Jessica previously received support from SAAS to complete a degree in home economics. After gaining her degree qualification, she gains entry onto PGDE course in home economics. She can apply to us for full support under the PGDE concession.

Changing course or career due to a disability, injury or illness

If you are not able to continue with your course or you are already qualified with a profession and you are no longer able to continue working within this profession because of a disability, injury or illness, exceptionally we may be able to offer you support to start a new course that is more suitable to your current circumstances. If this applies to you, please give us details of your circumstances and support this with the relevant medical evidence.