

## FUNDING FOR FULL-TIME ADVANCED COURSES 2011 - 2012

### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

You must be studying full-time on an advanced course (HNC, HND, Degree). You must have been ordinarily resident in the UK for the last 3 years and in Scotland on 1<sup>st</sup> August to be eligible for full funding from SAAS (Student Awards Agency for Scotland). EU students and some young asylum seekers are eligible for fees only. Non-Scottish UK students should apply to Student Funding England / Wales. Previous funding for advanced level study may affect your entitlement to funding including fees, check with Learner Services or SAAS.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING?

You should apply on-line at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) for fees, bursary, grant support and student loans. You can apply from April onwards and must apply by 30<sup>th</sup> June to ensure funding is in place for the start of your course. Once your application is processed fees will be paid directly to your college and you will be notified of your entitlement to bursary, grant and loan funding. The funds are paid directly into your bank account monthly on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month with a double payment at the start of your course.

**Apply as early as possible because the later you apply the longer the process will take.**

### WILL I HAVE TO PAY FEES?

All eligible students studying on advanced courses in Scotland who apply to SAAS before the closing date will have their fees paid in full regardless of household income. Fees for courses outwith Scotland are paid through a means tested loan. Fees for self-funding home students are £1,285 per year plus SQA registration fee in first year. Contact the College Finance Department for advice.

## WHAT GRANTS AND BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE?

### YOUNG STUDENTS BURSARY (YSB)

YSB is non-repayable bursary for students under 25. It is paid instead of part of the loan, so it reduces the amount of loan you have to take out. If your total household gross income is less than £18,000 you will get the maximum award of £2,640 bursary. If your household income is less than £34,195 you will still be eligible for something. Applications should be made directly to SAAS.

### INDEPENDENT STUDENTS BURSARY (ISB)

ISB is non-repayable bursary which replaces part of the loan for independent students whose household income is less than £34,195 per year. A maximum of £1,000 is paid to those with household income of less than £19,310.

### LONE PARENTS GRANT

An extra grant of £1,305 is available, which covers 52 weeks, for lone parents with dependent children.

### CAN I GET ADDITIONAL HELP IF I HAVE DEPENDANTS?

If you have an adult dependent you can claim a grant of £2,640 in addition to funds for yourself. This is also paid in monthly instalments.

You can claim for dependent children through Child Tax Credits from the Inland Revenue.

### CAN I CLAIM TRAVEL EXPENSES?

An amount of £350 per year is included in your loan for travel costs and you can no longer claim any additional expenses for travel. Students who are 16-18 year olds can get a Young Scot National Entitlement Card for discounted travel on buses and trains.

## IF I APPLY FOR A STUDENT LOAN, HOW MUCH COULD I GET?

Your award depends on your income or household income or both. It also depends on how many weeks you will study. However the following table should give you an idea. Table 2 should be used for student in the final year of their course

**Table 1** LIVING AT HOME      AWAY FROM HOME

Maximum Loan per year	£4,727	£5,832
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Minimum Loan per year	£605	£915
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**Table 2**

Maximum Loan per year	£4,262	£5,222
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Minimum Loan per year	£480	£785
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All amounts above are based on a 35 week college year which is usually longer than a university year.

### ADDITIONAL LOAN

An additional loan of £785 is available to those with a household income of less than £22,789

### HOW ARE LOANS REPAYED?

When you leave Education and start full time employment you will repay your loan through income tax. Your Income must be over £15,000 before payments are deducted.

### CAN I GET ADDITIONAL HELP IF I HAVE A DISABILITY?

Funds are available as a non-means tested grant to cover additional expenditure because of disability. Further information on what can be claimed and how to apply should be obtained from The Hub in Stow College (0141) 332 1786

## HE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS (HARDSHIP)

Limited funds are available to assist students who have financial problems. Each applicant will be invited to a Hardship information session where the applications process and eligibility criteria are explained. Contact Learner Services to book a place on one of our Information sessions after you start.

## DEBT

If you have debts before you start college (e.g. bank loans, rent/council tax arrears) you need to carefully consider if you can afford to come to college. It may help you budget if you discuss concerns with a Debt Advisor. You should contact Learner Services for further information and local contacts.

## CAN I GET HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS?

All students can apply for help through the college HE Child Care. To find out more attend one of our new Childcare information sessions this Summer. Contact Learner Services to book a place. We try to ensure that the cost of your Childcare is covered for the days you will be attending the College.

## BENEFITS

Students on full-time HE courses do not normally receive benefits. Lone parents must apply for funding through SAAS/Students Loans but may also be eligible for some housing benefit.

## COUNCIL TAX

If you are living on your own or with other full-time students you should not be liable for council tax. If you live with someone who is not a full time student you may be eligible for a discount of 25%. Contact Learner Services for a form.

## WORKING WHILE STUDYING

Most students need to work part-time while studying. There is no limit on how much you can earn and it does not affect your loan/grant entitlement. If you think your earnings will be less than £7,475 per year (£143 per week) you can ask your employer for a student tax exemption form P38(S).

## HELP AND ADVICE

You should contact Learner Services or information and advice on student finance at the earliest opportunity. The amount you can expect to receive will depend on your individual circumstances and because there have been a lot of changes in recent years it is essential you get an accurate assessment. We are open from Monday until Friday from 8.45 until 5.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### STUDENT AWARDS AGENCY FOR SCOTLAND

Tel: 0300 555 0505 (general enquiries)

Web Site [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

### STUDENT LOANS COMPANY

Tel: 0845 026 2019

Web Site [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

### CHILD TAX CREDITS

Helpline 0844 496 6510

Web Site <http://taxcredits.hmrc.gov.uk>

### BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

On-line handbook from CPAG

Web Site <http://scottishhandbooks.cpag.org.uk>

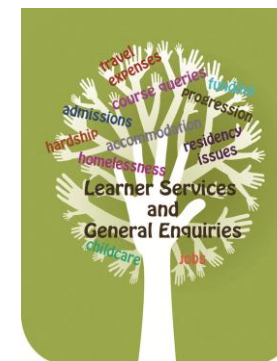
### STUDENTS AND TAX

Centre 1 0845 300 0627

Web Site [www.hmrc.gov.uk/students](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/students)

### CITIZENS ADVICE

<http://www.cas.org.uk>



LSGI Reaching out to help

STUDENT FINANCE  
2011 / 2012

## ADVANCED COURSES

The information given here is for guidance only and is as accurate and up to date as possible.

All students are responsible for checking their entitlement to funds with the relevant authorities based on their individual circumstances.

May 2011

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