

**2007 No. 328**

**EDUCATION**

**The Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations  
(Northern Ireland) 2007**

*Made* - - - - - *5th July 2007*

*Coming into operation* - *1st September 2007*

The Department for Employment and Learning, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 4(8) and 14(4) of the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005(a) makes the following Regulations.

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and shall come into operation on 1st September 2007.

2. In these Regulations—

“the Order” means the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005;

“the Student Support Regulations” means the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007(b);

“course for the initial training of teachers” includes such a course leading to a first degree;

“previous Regulations” has the meaning given in regulation 2 (1) of the Student Support Regulations;

“publicly-funded” has the meaning given in regulation 2 (1) of the Student Support Regulations;

“single course” means a course to which regulation 6(4) of the Student Support Regulations applies and which falls within the description of a course in that regulation.

**Revocation**

3. The Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(c) are revoked.

**Prescribed description of a qualifying course**

4.—(1) A qualifying course which is prescribed for the purposes of Article 4 of the Order is a course of higher education which, subject to paragraph (3), is a course which is designated for the

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(a) S.I. 2005/1116 (N.I. 5) *see* Article (2) for definitions of “the Department”, “prescribed” and “regulations”  
(b) S.R. 2007 No. 195  
(c) S.R. 2006 No. 384

purposes of Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998(a) on the first day of an academic year which begins during the grant period and is provided by an institution in Northern Ireland.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) the reference to an institution in Northern Ireland means an institution whose activities are carried out in Northern Ireland.

(3) A course is not a qualifying course if at the time the qualifying person received an offer of a place on that course the institution providing it was not publicly-funded.

### **Prescribed description of a qualifying person**

**5.**—(1) A qualifying person who is prescribed for the purposes of Article 4 of the Order is a person who falls within the Schedule on the first day of an academic year which begins during the grant period, other than—

- (a) a person who is not eligible for support under the Student Support Regulations by reason of regulation 5(3)(c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) of those Regulations, or
- (b) a person mentioned in paragraph (2) or (6).

(2) Subject to the exception in paragraphs (3) to (5), a person is not a qualifying person if—

- (a) he has an honours degree from an institution in the United Kingdom; or
- (b) he has an honours degree from an institution in the Republic of Ireland, for which he received financial support under previous Regulations for some or all of the academic years during which he took the course leading to the award of the honours degree.

(3) Paragraph (2) does not apply where—

- (a) the qualifying course is a course for the initial training of teachers;
- (b) the duration of the course does not exceed two years (the duration of a part-time course being expressed as its full-time equivalent); and
- (c) the qualifying person is not a qualified teacher.

(4) Paragraph (2) does not apply in respect of any part of a single course where—

- (a) the single course leads to an honours degree being conferred on the qualifying person from an institution in the United Kingdom or a relevant institution of higher education in the Republic of Ireland before the final degree or equivalent qualification; and
- (b) the qualifying person only has an honours degree which was received as part of that single course.

(5) Paragraph (2) does not apply where the qualifying course is a course leading to a degree in social work at an educational institution in Northern Ireland

(6) Where an event occurs in the course of an academic year and as a result a person falls within the Schedule in the course of an academic year, he is not a qualifying person in respect of the academic year in which the relevant event occurred or any previous academic year.

(7) In this regulation “a relevant institution of higher education in the Republic of Ireland” means an institution listed in Schedule 6 to the Student Support Regulations.

### **Transitional Cases**

**6.**—(1) Where a qualifying person, disregarding any intervening vacation, begins an end-on course within the meaning of regulation 2(1) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(b) immediately after a qualifying course (“the relevant course”) in a case where paragraph (3) or (4) applies, the end-on course shall be treated as if the offer for it had been received on the same date as the offer for the relevant course.

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(a) S.I. 1998/1760 (N.I. 14) as amended by the Learning and Skills Act 2000 (c.21), section 147(3)(a) and (b) and the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1116 (N.I. 5))

(b) S.R. 2006 No.312, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

(2) In a case where paragraph (3) or (4) applies, where a qualifying person undertakes a qualifying course (“the relevant course”) which is a single course, an offer received for any part of the relevant course shall be treated as if it had been received on the same date as the offer for the first part of the relevant course.

(3) This paragraph applies where—

- (a) the qualifying person had on or before 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005 received an offer, whether conditional on obtaining specified qualifications or not, of a place on the relevant course, or a similar course, and
- (b) the first academic year of the relevant course begins before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

(4) This paragraph applies where—

- (a) the qualifying person had received an offer of a place on a qualifying course (whether or not at the same institution as the relevant course) the first academic year of which began before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006,
- (b) he was unable to take up the offer because a specified qualification or grade was not awarded to him,
- (c) he appealed against the decision not to award him the qualification or grade,
- (d) the appeal was allowed after the last date on which he could have taken up the offer,
- (e) as a result he was offered a place on the relevant course, and
- (f) the first academic year of the relevant course begins after 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006 but before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

(5) For the purpose of paragraph (3)(a) a course (“the original course”) is similar to the relevant course if—

- (a) it appears to the governing body of the institution providing the relevant course that the subject matter of the course is in whole or in part the same as the subject matter of the original course, and
- (b) except where the original course is no longer being provided, the relevant course is provided by the institution which was to have provided the original course.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Employment and Learning on 5th July 2007



*Sir Reg Empey MLA*  
Minister for Employment and Learning

## SCHEDULE

Regulation 5 (1) and (6)

### QUALIFYING PERSONS

1.—(1) For the purposes of this Schedule—

“academic year” means the period of twelve months beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July or 1<sup>st</sup> September of the calendar year in which the academic year of the course in question begins according to whether that academic year begins on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January and before 1<sup>st</sup> April, on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April and before 1<sup>st</sup> July, on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July and before 1<sup>st</sup> August or on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August and on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December, respectively;

“Directive 2004/38” means Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2004<sup>(a)</sup> on the rights of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely in the territory of the Member States;

“EC national” means a national of a Member State of the European Community;

“EEA Agreement” means the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1992<sup>(b)</sup> as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1993<sup>(c)</sup>;

“EEA frontier self-employed person” means an EEA national who—

- (a) is a self-employed person in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) resides in Switzerland or the territory of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom and returns to his residence in Switzerland or that EEA State daily or at least once a week;

“EEA frontier worker” means an EEA national who—

- (a) is a worker in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) resides in Switzerland or the territory of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom and returns to his residence in Switzerland or that EEA State daily or at least once a week;

“EEA migrant worker” means an EEA national who is a worker, other than an EEA frontier worker, in the United Kingdom;

“EEA national” means a national of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom;

“EEA self-employed person” means an EEA national who is a self-employed person, other than an EEA frontier self-employed person, in the United Kingdom;

“employed person” means an employed person with the meaning of Annex 1 to the Swiss Agreement;

“employment” means full-time or part-time employment;

“European Community” means the territory comprised by the Member States of the European Community as constituted from time to time;

“European Economic Area” means the area comprised by the EEA States;

“family member” means—

- (a) in relation to an EEA frontier worker, an EEA migrant worker, an EEA frontier self-employed person or an EEA self-employed person—
  - (i) his spouse or civil partner;
  - (ii) his child or the child of his spouse or civil partner; or
  - (iii) dependent direct relatives in his ascending line or that of his spouse or civil partner;
- (b) in relation to a Swiss employed person, a Swiss frontier employed person, a Swiss frontier self-employed person or a Swiss self-employed person—
  - (i) his spouse or civil partner; or
  - (ii) his child or the child of his spouse or civil partner;
- (c) in relation to an EC national who falls within Article 7(1)(c) of Directive 2004/38—
  - (i) his spouse or civil partner; or
  - (ii) direct descendants of his or of his spouse or civil partner who are—
    - (aa) under the age of 21; or
    - (bb) dependants of his or his spouse or civil partner;
- (d) in relation to an EC national who falls within Article 7(1)(b) of Directive 2004/38—
  - (i) his spouse or civil partner;
  - (ii) direct descendants of his or of his spouse or civil partner who are—

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(a) OJ L158, 30.4.2004, p77-123

(b) Cmnd 2073

(c) Cmnd 2183

- (aa) under the age of 21; or
- (bb) dependants of his or his spouse or civil partner; or
- (iii) dependent direct relatives in his ascending line or that of his spouse or civil partner;
- (e) in relation to a United Kingdom national, for the purposes of paragraph 9—
  - (i) his spouse or civil partner; or
  - (ii) direct descendants of his or of his spouse or civil partner who are—
    - (aa) under the age of 21; or
    - (bb) dependants of his or his spouse or civil partner;

“the Islands” means the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man;

“overseas territories” means Anguilla; Aruba; Bermuda; British Antarctic Territory; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Faroe Islands; French Polynesia; French Southern and Antarctic Territories; Mayotte; Greenland; Montserrat; Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten); Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie & Oeno Islands; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; St Helena and Dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan de Cunha); St Pierre et Miquelon; the Territory of New Caledonia and Dependencies; Turks and Caicos Islands and Wallis and Futuna;

“person with leave to enter or remain” means a person—

- (a) who has been informed by a person acting under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department that, although he is considered not to qualify for recognition as a refugee, it is thought right to allow him to enter or remain in the United Kingdom;
- (b) who has been granted leave to enter or to remain accordingly; and
- (c) whose period of leave to enter or remain has not expired or has been renewed and the period for which it was renewed has not expired or in respect of whose leave to enter or remain an appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002)(a); and
- (d) who has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the period since he was granted leave to enter or remain;

“refugee” means a person who is recognised by Her Majesty’s government as a refugee within the meaning of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees done at Geneva on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1951(b) as extended by the Protocol thereto which entered into force on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1967(c);

“right of permanent residence” means a right arising under Directive 2004/38 to reside in the United Kingdom permanently without restriction;

“self-employed person” means—

- (a) in relation to an EEA national, a person who is self-employed within the meaning of Article 7 of Directive 2004/38 or the EEA Agreement, as the case may be; or
- (b) in relation to a Swiss national, a person who is a self-employed person within the meaning of Annex 1 to the Swiss Agreement;

“settled” has the meaning given by section 33(2A) of the Immigration Act 1971(d);

“Swiss Agreement” means the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the Free Movement of

(a) 2002 c.41. Section 104 was amended by the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 (c.19), section 26 and Schedules 2 and 4, and the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 (c.13), section 9.

(b) Cmnd. 9171.

(c) Cmnd. 3906 (out of print; photocopies are available, free of charge, from the Student Support Division, Department for Education and Skills, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9BG).

(d) 1971 c.77; section 33(2A) was inserted by paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to the British Nationality Act 1981 (c.61).

Persons signed at Luxembourg on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1999<sup>(a)</sup> and which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2002;

“Swiss employed person” means a Swiss national who is an employed person, other than a Swiss frontier employed person, in the United Kingdom;

“Swiss frontier employed person” means a Swiss national who—

- (a) is an employed person in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) resides in Switzerland or in the territory of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom and returns to his residence in Switzerland or that EEA State daily or at least once a week;

“Swiss frontier self-employed person” means a Swiss national who—

- (a) is a self-employed person in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) resides in Switzerland or in the territory of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom and returns to his residence in Switzerland or that EEA State daily or at least once a week;

“Swiss self-employed person” means a Swiss national who is a self-employed person, other than a Swiss frontier self-employed person, in the United Kingdom;

“Turkish worker” means a Turkish national who—

- (a) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) is, or has been lawfully employed in the United Kingdom;

“worker” means a worker within the meaning of Article 7 of Directive 2004/38 or the EEA Agreement as the case may be.

(2) For the purposes of this Schedule, “parent” includes a guardian, any other person having parental responsibility for a child and any person having care of a child and “child” is to be construed accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of this Schedule, a person is to be treated as ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom and Islands, in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland, in the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and the overseas territories, or in the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and Turkey if he would have been so resident but for the fact—

- (a) he;
- (b) his spouse or civil partner;
- (c) his parent; or
- (d) in the case of a dependent direct relative in the ascending line, his child or child’s spouse or civil partner,

is or was temporarily employed outside the area in question.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), temporary employment includes—

- (a) in the case of members of the regular naval, military or air forces of the Crown, any period which they serve outside the United Kingdom as members of such forces;
- (b) in the case of members of the regular armed forces of an EEA State or Switzerland, any period which they serve outside the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland as members of such forces; and
- (c) in the case of members of the regular armed forces of Turkey, any period which they serve outside the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and Turkey as members of such forces.

(5) For the purposes of this Schedule an area which—

- (a) was previously not part of the European Community or the European Economic Area; but

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(a) Cm. 4904.

- (b) at any time before or after these Regulations come into operation has become part of one or the other or both of these areas,

is to be considered to have always been a part of the European Economic Area.

### **Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom**

2.—(1) A person who on the first day of the first academic year of the course—

- (a) is settled in the United Kingdom other than by reason of having acquired the right of permanent residence;
- (b) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (d) subject to sub-paragraph (2), whose residence in the United Kingdom and Islands has not during any part of the period referred to in paragraph (c) been wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education.

(2) Paragraph (d) of sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a person who is treated as being ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands in accordance with paragraph 1(3).

3. A person who—

- (a) is settled in the United Kingdom by virtue of having acquired the right of permanent residence on the first day of an academic year of the course;
- (b) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (d) in a case where his residence referred to in paragraph (c) was wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education, was ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland immediately before the period of residence referred to in paragraph (c).

### **Refugees and their family members**

4.—(1) A person—

- (a) who is a refugee;
- (b) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands and has not ceased to be so resident since he was recognised as a refugee; and
- (c) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

(2) A person—

- (a) who is the spouse or civil partner of a refugee;
- (b) who was the spouse or civil partner of the refugee on the date on which the refugee made his application for asylum;
- (c) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands and has not ceased to be so resident since he was given leave to remain in the United Kingdom; and
- (d) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

(3) A person—

- (a) who is the child of a refugee or the child of the spouse or civil partner of a refugee;



- (b) who, on the date on which the refugee made his application for asylum, was the child of the refugee or the child of a person who was the spouse or civil partner of the refugee on that date;
- (c) who was under 18 on the date on which the refugee made his application for asylum;
- (d) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands and has not ceased to be so resident since he was given leave to remain in the United Kingdom; and
- (e) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**Persons with leave to enter or remain and their family members**

**5.—(1) A person—**

- (a) with leave to enter or remain; and
- (b) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**(2) A person—**

- (a) who is the spouse or civil partner of a person with leave to enter or remain;
- (b) who was the spouse or civil partner of the person with leave to enter or remain on the date on which that person made his application for asylum; and
- (c) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**(3) A person—**

- (a) who is the child of a person with leave to enter or remain or the child of the spouse or civil partner of a person with leave to enter or remain;
- (b) who, on the date on which the person with leave to enter or remain made his application for asylum, was the child of that person or the child of a person who was the spouse or civil partner of the person with leave to enter or remain on that date;
- (c) who was under 18 on the date on which the person with leave to enter or remain made his application for asylum; and
- (d) who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**Workers, employed persons, self-employed persons and their family members**

**6.—(1) A person who—**

- (a) is—
  - (i) an EEA migrant worker or an EEA self-employed person;
  - (ii) a Swiss employed person or a Swiss self-employed person;
  - (iii) a family member of a person mentioned in paragraph (i) or (ii);
  - (iv) an EEA frontier worker or an EEA frontier self-employed person;
  - (v) a Swiss frontier employed person or a Swiss frontier self-employed person; or
  - (vi) a family member of a person mentioned in paragraph (iv) or (v);
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (3), is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course.

**(2) A person who—**

- (a) is an EC national falling within paragraph (a)(i) or (a)(iv) of sub-paragraph (1);



- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (3), is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and the overseas territories throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course.

(3) Paragraph (b) of sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply where the person falls within paragraph (a)(iv), (v) or (vi) of sub-paragraph (1).

7. A person who—

- (a) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- (b) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (c) is entitled to support by virtue of Article 12 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1612/68 on the freedom of movement of workers<sup>(a)</sup>, as extended by the EEA Agreement.

**Persons who are settled in the United Kingdom and have exercised a right of residence elsewhere**

8.—(1) A person who—

- (a) is settled in the United Kingdom;
- (b) left the United Kingdom and exercised a right of residence after having been settled in the United Kingdom;
- (c) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the day on which the first term of the first academic year actually begins;
- (d) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (e) in a case where his ordinary residence referred to in paragraph (d) was wholly or mainly for the purposes of receiving full-time education, was ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland immediately before the period of ordinary residence referred to in paragraph (d).

(2) For the purposes of this paragraph, a person has exercised a right of residence if he is a United Kingdom national, a family member of a United Kingdom national for the purposes of Article 7 of Directive 2004/38 (or corresponding purposes under the EEA Agreement or Swiss Agreement) or a person who has a right of permanent residence who in each case has exercised a right under Article 7 of Directive 2004/38 or any equivalent right under the EEA Agreement or Swiss Agreement in a state other than the United Kingdom or, in the case of a person who is settled in the United Kingdom and has a right of permanent residence, if he goes to the state within the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland of which he is a national or of which the person in relation to whom he is a family member is a national.

**EC nationals**

9.—(1) A person who—

- (a) is either—
  - (i) an EC national on the first day of an academic year of the course; or
  - (ii) a family member of a such a person;
- (b) is undertaking the course in the Northern Ireland;

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(a) OJ No L257, 19.10.1968, p2 (OJ/SE 1968 (II) p475).

- (c) in the case of a person falling within sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i), has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and the overseas territories throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- (d) in the case of a person falling within sub-paragraph (1)(a)(ii), has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (e) subject to sub-paragraph (2), whose ordinary residence in the relevant territory has not during any part of the period referred to in paragraph (c) or (d) been wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education.

(2) Paragraph (e) of sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a person who is treated as being ordinarily resident in the relevant territory in accordance with paragraph 1(3).

### **Children of Swiss nationals**

#### **10. A person who—**

- (a) is the child of a Swiss national who is entitled to support in the United Kingdom by virtue of Article 3(6) of Annex 1 to the Swiss Agreement;
- (b) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (d) in a case where his ordinary residence referred to in paragraph (c) was wholly or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education, was ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area and Switzerland immediately before the period of ordinary residence referred to in paragraph (c).

### **Children of Turkish workers**

#### **11. A person who—**

- (a) is the child of a Turkish worker;
- (b) is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- (c) has been ordinarily resident in the territory comprising the European Economic Area, Switzerland and Turkey throughout the three-year period preceding the first day of the first academic year of the course.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

Article 4 of the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 requires the Department to impose a condition on grants given to the governing body of higher and further education institutions. This condition requires the governing bodies to secure that the qualifying fees payable in respect of any qualifying course by a qualifying person do not exceed the basic or higher fee amounts applicable to that course. The fee amounts are prescribed by The Student Fees (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (S.R. 2006 No. 455).

These Regulations revoke previous Regulations. They prescribe the qualifying courses and class of qualifying persons for the purposes of the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. The qualifying courses prescribed by regulation 4 are those courses which are designated under Article 3 of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 and which are provided by institutions in Northern Ireland.

The class of qualifying persons prescribed in regulation 5 are those persons who, on the first day of the relevant academic year, fall within the Schedule, save for those persons who are not eligible for student support under the Education (Student Support) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (S.R. 2007 No. 195) by reason of certain paragraphs of regulation 5 of those Regulations, or who already have an honours degree from a publicly-funded institution. There is an exception in respect of a previous honours degree for a person undertaking a course of initial teacher training or a degree in social work in Northern Ireland or who has obtained the honours degree only as part of a single course they are currently undertaking.

Regulation 6 re-enacts provision for transitional cases made in the revoked Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.