
WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2006 No. 126

**The Assembly Learning Grants and Loans
(Higher Education) (Wales) Regulations 2006**

PART 2

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students

4.—(1) An eligible student qualifies for support in connection with a designated course subject to and in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) A person is an eligible student in connection with a designated course if—

- (a) the National Assembly has determined in connection with that course that the person is mentioned in Schedule 1; and
- (b) the person is not excluded by paragraph (3).

(3) A person shall not be an eligible student if—

- (a) an old award has been bestowed on that person in respect of the person's attendance on the course;
- (b) the person is eligible for a loan in relation to an academic year of the course under the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 or the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990;
- (c) there has been bestowed on, or paid to, the person in relation to the person's attendance on the course—
 - (i) a healthcare bursary the amount of which is not calculated by reference to the person's income; or
 - (ii) any allowance under the Nursing and Midwifery Student Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1992(1);
- (d) the person is in breach of any obligation to repay any loan;
- (e) the person has reached the age of 18 and has not ratified any agreement for a loan made with them when they were under the age of 18; or
- (f) the person has, in the opinion of the National Assembly, shown themselves by their conduct to be unfitted to receive support.

(4) For the purposes of paragraphs (3)(d) and (3)(e), "loan" ("*benthyciad*") means a loan made under the student loans legislation.

(5) In a case where the agreement for a loan is subject to the law of Scotland, paragraph (3)(e) only applies if the agreement was made—

- (a) before 25 September 1991, and

- (b) with the concurrence of the borrower’s curator or at a time when he or she had no curator.
- (6) An eligible student in respect of whom the first academic year of the course begins on or after 1 September 2000 must not, at any one time, qualify for support for—
 - (a) more than one designated course;
 - (b) a designated course and a designated part-time course;
 - (c) a designated course and a designated postgraduate course.
- (7) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a person is an eligible student for the purposes of these Regulations if he or she satisfies the conditions in paragraph (8), (9) or (10).
- (8) The conditions in this paragraph are—
 - (a) the person qualified as an eligible student in connection with an earlier academic year of the present designated course pursuant to regulations made under section 22 of the Act;
 - (b) the person was ordinarily resident in Wales on the first day of the first academic year of the present course; and
 - (c) that status has not expired or been terminated.
- (9) The conditions in this paragraph are—
 - (a) the present course is an end-on course which the person is starting on or after 1 September 2006;
 - (b) the person qualified as an eligible student in connection with the course in relation to which the present course is an end-on course;
 - (c) the period of eligibility in respect of the course in sub-paragraph (b) only ceased on the grounds that the student had completed the course; and
 - (d) the person was ordinarily resident in Wales on the first day of the first academic year of the course in sub-paragraph (b).
- (10) The conditions in this paragraph are—
 - (a) the National Assembly has previously determined that the person is—
 - (i) an eligible part-time student in connection with a designated part-time course; or
 - (ii) an eligible student in connection with a designated course other than the present course,
 - (b) the person’s status as an eligible part-time student or as an eligible student in connection with the course in sub-paragraph (a) has been converted or transferred from that course to the present course as a result of one or more conversions or transfers in accordance with regulations made under section 22 of the Act;
 - (c) the person was ordinarily resident in Wales on the first day of the first academic year of the course in sub-paragraph (a); and
 - (d) the person’s status as an eligible student has not terminated.

Designated courses

- 5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a course is a designated course for the purposes of section 22(1) of the Act and regulation 4 if it is—
- (a) mentioned in Schedule 2;
 - (b) one of the following—
 - (i) a full-time course;
 - (ii) a sandwich course; or

- (iii) a part-time course for the initial training of teachers;
 - (c) of at least one academic year's duration; and
 - (d) wholly provided by a publicly-funded educational institution or institutions in the United Kingdom or provided by such an institution or institutions in conjunction with an institution or institutions outside the United Kingdom.
- (2) A course falling within paragraph 6 or 7 of Schedule 2 is not a designated course where the governing body of a maintained school has arranged for the provision of such a course to a pupil of the school.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—
- (a) a course is provided by an institution if it provides the teaching and supervision which comprise the course, whether or not the institution has entered into an agreement with the student to provide the course;
 - (b) a university and any constituent college or institution in the nature of a college of a university is regarded as publicly funded if either the university or the constituent college or institution is publicly funded; and
 - (c) an institution is not regarded as publicly funded by reason only that it receives public funds from the governing body of a higher education institution in accordance with section 65(3A) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(2).
- (4) A course to which this paragraph applies is considered to be a single course for a first degree or for an equivalent qualification notwithstanding that—
- (a) the course may lead to another degree or qualification being conferred before the degree or equivalent qualification; and
 - (b) part of the course may be optional.
- (5) Paragraph (4) applies to a course the standard of which is not higher than a first degree which leads to a qualification as a medical doctor, dentist, veterinary doctor, architect, landscape architect, landscape designer, landscape manager, town planner or town and country planner.
- (6) For the purposes of section 22 of the Act and regulation 4(1) the National Assembly may designate courses of higher education which are not designated under paragraph (1).

Period of eligibility

- 6.—(1) An eligible student retains his or her status as an eligible student for the duration of the period of eligibility.
- (2) Subject to the following paragraphs, the “period of eligibility” terminates at the end of the academic year in which the student completes the designated course.
- (3) Despite paragraph (1), a new system eligible student or gap-year student who has not attended a previous course is only eligible for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs in respect of the present course for the number of academic years equal to **OD+R+1**.
- (4) Despite paragraph (1), a new system eligible student or gap-year student who has attended a previous course is only eligible for grants or loans for fees and grants for living costs in respect of the present course for the number of academic years equal to **(OD+R+1)–PC**, except that—
- (a) no deduction equivalent to PC applies in the case of a teacher training student; and
 - (b) one additional year is added in the case of an eligible student who did not complete successfully the latest previous course because of compelling personal reasons.

(2) 1992 c. 13; section 65(3A) was inserted by the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (c. 30), section 27.

(5) Despite paragraph (1), a continuing student is only eligible for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs in respect of the present course for the number of academic years equal to $(A+R+1)-Y$.

(6) Despite paragraph (1) and subject to paragraphs (7), a transferring student is only eligible for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs in respect of the present course for the number of academic years equal to $(A+R+1)-Y$.

(7) A transferring student starting the first full academic year of a further course to which he or she transfers under regulation 8 after 1 September 2006 is only eligible for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs in respect of the further course for the number of years equal to $(A+R+1)-Y-Z$.

(8) In any case where the number of academic years for which a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs is available in accordance with this regulation is less than the number of academic years that make up the period ordinarily required for the completion of the present course, the academic years in which he or she is eligible for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs are the latest years of the present course.

(9) In this regulation—

- (a) **A** is the number of academic years from 31 August 2006 that make up the period ordinarily required for the completion of the present course or, in the case of a transferring student, the previous course;
- (b) **OD** is number of academic years that make up the period ordinarily required for the completion of the present course;
- (c) **PC** is the number of years of attendance by the eligible student on a previous course;
- (d) **R** is the number of repeated academic years on the present course starting on or after 1 September 2006 that are repeats of preceding academic years that the eligible student was unable to complete successfully because of compelling personal reasons;
- (e) **Y** is the number of years of the present course, or the previous course in the case of a transferring student, in respect of which it has been determined before 1 September 2006 under regulations made under section 22 of the Act that support was not available;
- (f) **Z** is the number of academic years spent on a previous course beginning on or after 1 September 2006;
- (g) “continuing student” is an old system eligible student who started the present course before 1 September 2006;
- (h) “teacher training student” (“*myfyriwr ar gwrs hyfforddi athrawon*”) means a student attending a course for the initial training of teachers where the duration of the course does not exceed 2 years (the duration of a part-time course being expressed in its full-time equivalent) and the student is not a qualified teacher;
- (i) “transferring student” means an eligible student who starts the present course on or after 1 September 2006 having had his or her status as an eligible student transferred to that course as a result of one or more transfers of that status pursuant to regulations made under section 22 of the Act from a designated course which he or she began before 1 September 2006.

(10) In calculating the number of years for the purpose of this regulation attendance for part of an academic year is treated as a whole academic year

(11) The National Assembly may, at any time, renew or extend the period of eligibility for such further period as it determines.

(12) The National Assembly may confer eligibility to grants and loans for fees and grants for living costs otherwise than in accordance with paragraphs (3) to (9).

(13) The period of eligibility terminates when the eligible student—

- (a) withdraws from the student's designated course in circumstances where the National Assembly has not converted or will not convert the student's status as an eligible student under regulation 58(1); or
- (b) abandons, or is expelled from, the student's designated course.

(14) The National Assembly may terminate the period of eligibility where the eligible student has shown himself or herself by his or her conduct to be unfitted to receive support.

(15) If the National Assembly is satisfied that an eligible student has failed to comply with any requirement to provide information under these Regulations or has provided information which is inaccurate in a material particular, the National Assembly may take such of the following actions as it considers appropriate in the circumstances—

- (a) terminate the period of eligibility;
- (b) determine that the student no longer qualifies for any particular support or particular amount of support;
- (c) treat any support paid to the student as an overpayment which may be recovered under regulation 49.

Previous study

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), an eligible student who has attained an honours degree following attendance on a previous course does not qualify for a grant or loan for fees or a grant for living costs.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), an eligible student who starts his or her course on or after 1 September 2006 does not qualify for a loan for living costs if he or she has attained an honours degree following attendance on a previous course.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply to an eligible student attending a course for the initial training of teachers where the ordinary duration of the course does not exceed 2 years (the ordinary duration of a part-time course being expressed as its full-time equivalent) and the eligible student is not a qualified teacher.

(4) Paragraph (2) does not apply to an eligible student attending a course which leads to a qualification as a social worker, medical doctor, dentist, veterinary doctor, architect, landscape architect, landscape designer, town planner or town and country planner.

(5) For the purposes of this regulation and regulation 6 a previous course is any course the student attended before the present course and which meets the conditions in paragraph (6).

(6) The conditions referred to in paragraph (5) are that the course was a full-time higher education course provided by an institution in the United Kingdom and—

- (a) that institution was publicly funded at the time the course was provided; or
- (b) any scholarship, exhibition, bursary, grant, allowance or award of any description which was available in respect of the student's attendance on the course to defray fees was paid out of public funds or funds attributable to public funds by any person or body, public or private.

(7) In this regulation and regulation 6, the "ordinary duration of the course" ("*cyfnod arferol y cwrs*") means the number of academic years that a standard student would take to complete the designated course and "standard student" ("*myfyriwr safonol*") means a student who is to be taken—

- (a) to have started the designated course on the same date as the eligible student in question;
- (b) not to be excused any part of the course on account of having attended another course;
- (c) not to repeat any part of the course; and
- (d) not to be absent from the course other than during vacations.

Transfer of Status

8.—(1) Where an eligible student transfers to another course, the National Assembly must transfer the student's status as an eligible student to that course where—

- (a) it receives a request from the eligible student to do so;
- (b) it is satisfied that one or more of the grounds of transfer in paragraph (2) applies; and
- (c) the period of eligibility has not expired or been terminated.

(2) The grounds of transfer referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) on the recommendation of the academic authority the eligible student starts to attend another course at the institution;
- (b) the eligible student starts to attend a designated course at another institution with the consent of the academic authority of that institution;
- (c) after commencing a course for the Certificate in Education, the eligible student is, on or before the completion of that course, admitted to a designated course for the degree of Bachelor of Education either at the same institution or at another institution;
- (d) after commencing a course for the degree (other than an honours degree) of Bachelor of Education, the eligible student is, on or before completion of that course, admitted to a designated course for the honours degree of Bachelor of Education either at the same institution or at another institution; or
- (e) after commencing a course for a first degree (other than an honours degree) the eligible student is, before completion of that course, admitted to a designated course for an honours degree in the same subject or subjects at the institution.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), an eligible student who transfers under paragraph (1) continues to receive in connection with the course to which he or she transfers the support for which the National Assembly has determined he or she qualifies in respect of the course from which he or she transfers for the remainder of the academic year in which he or she transfers.

(4) The National Assembly may re-assess the amount of support payable after the transfer.