
WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2018 No. 656

The Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2018

PART 1

GENERAL

Title, commencement and application

1.—(1) The title of these Regulations is the Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2018.

(2) These Regulations come into force on 25 June 2018 and apply in relation to Wales.

(3) These Regulations apply in relation to the provision of postgraduate doctoral degree loans to students in relation to courses which begin on or after 1 August 2018 whether anything done under these Regulations is done before, on or after 1 August 2018.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1998 Act” (“*Deddf 1998*”) means the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998;

“the 2017 Master's Degree Loans Regulations” (“*Rheoliadau Benthyciadau at Radd Feistr 2017*”) means the Education (Postgraduate Master's Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2017^{M1};

“the 2017 Student Support Regulations” (“*Rheoliadau Cymorth i Fyfyrrwyr 2017*”) means the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2017^{M2};

“the 2018 Student Support Regulations” (“*Rheoliadau Cymorth i Fyfyrrwyr 2018*”) means the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018^{M3};

“academic authority” (“*awdurdod academaidd*”) means, in relation to an institution, the governing body or other body having the functions of a governing body and includes a person acting with the authority of that body;

“course” (“*cwrs*”) means, unless the context otherwise requires, a taught programme of study, a programme of research, or a combination of both, which may include one or more periods of work experience, and which leads, on successful completion, to the award of a postgraduate doctoral degree, but a course which leads to a higher doctorate or a course which leads to a doctorate by publication is not a course;

“course which leads to a doctorate by publication” (“*cwrs sy'n arwain at ddoethuriaeth drwy waith cyhoeddedig*”) means a course which leads to a postgraduate doctoral degree awarded to a person (“P”) on the basis of a thesis consisting of associated published research papers, whether or not P is required by the relevant academic authority to—

(a) register on the course;

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(b) undertake a particular programme of study; or

(c) undertake a final examination;

“course which leads to a higher doctorate” (“*cwrs sy'n arwain at ddoethuriaeth uwch*”) means a course which leads to a qualification awarded to a person (“P”)—

(a) of an academic level which is higher than a postgraduate doctoral degree; and

(b) for distinction regarding P's contribution to the advancement of science or learning;

“designated course” (“*cwrs dynodedig*”) means a course designated by regulation 4(1) or by the Welsh Ministers under regulation 4(5);

“Directive 2004/38” (“*Cyfarwyddeb 2004/38*”) means Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council^{M4} on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely in the territory of the Member States;

“distance learning course” (“*cwrs dysgu o bell*”) means a course in relation to which a student undertaking the course is not required to be in attendance by the institution providing the course, other than to satisfy any requirement imposed by the institution to attend any institution—

(a) for the purpose of registration, enrolment or any examination;

(b) on a weekend or during any vacation; or

(c) on an occasional basis during the week;

“electronic signature” (“*llofnod electronig*”) is so much of anything in electronic form as—

(a) is incorporated into or otherwise logically associated with any electronic communication or electronic data; and

(b) purports to be so incorporated or associated for the purpose of being used in establishing the authenticity of the communication or data, the integrity of the communication or data, or both;

“eligible prisoner” (“*carcharor cymwys*”) means a prisoner—

(a) who begins a designated course or on after 1 August 2018;

(b) who is serving a sentence of imprisonment in the United Kingdom;

(c) who has been authorised by the prison Governor or Director or other appropriate authority within the custodial institution to study the designated course; and

(d) whose earliest release date is within 8 years of the first day of the first academic year of the designated course;

“eligible student” (“*myfyriwr cymwys*”) has the meaning given in regulation 3;

[^{F1}“English plan provider” (“*darparwr cynllun Seisnig*”) means a registered English institution which has an access and participation plan approved by the Office for Students under section 29 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and which remains in force;]

[^{F1}“English regulated institution” (“*sefydliad rheoleiddiedig Seisnig*”) means a registered English institution subject to a fee limit condition under section 10 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017;]

“equivalent or higher qualification” (“*cymhwyster cyfatebol neu uwch*”) means a qualification determined in accordance with paragraph (2) to be an equivalent or higher qualification;

“EU national” (“*gwladolyn UE*”) means a national of a Member State of the EU;

“fees” (“*ffioedd*”) has the meaning given in section 57(1) of the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015^{M5};

“healthcare bursary” (“*bwrsari gofal iechyd*”) means a bursary or award of similar description under section 63(6) of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968^{M6} or Article 44 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972^{M7};

“immigration rules” (“*rheolau mewnfudo*”) means the rules laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State under section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971^{M8};

“information” (“*gwybodaeth*”) includes documents;

“Islands” (“*Ynysoedd*”) means the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man;

“KESS 2 Scheme” (“*Cynllun KESS 2*”) means the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships 2 Scheme which is funded, in part, by the European Social Fund^{M9};

[^{F1}“Northern Irish funded institution” (“*sefydliad a gyllidir gan Ogledd Iwerddon*”) means an institution maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of funds provided by the Northern Ireland Executive;]

“ordinary period of registration” (“*cyfnod arferol y cofrestriad*”) means the number of academic years ordinarily required to complete a course;

“period of eligibility” (“*cyfnod cymhwysra*”) has the meaning given in regulation 5 in relation to an eligible student;

“periods of work experience” (“*cyfnodau o brofiad gwaith*”) means—

- (a) periods of industrial, professional or commercial experience, including research, associated with the course at an institution, but at a place outside that institution;
- (b) periods during which a student is employed and residing in a country whose language is one that the student is studying for that student's course (provided that the period of residence in that country is a requirement of that student's course and the study of one or more modern languages accounts for not less than one half of the total time spent studying on the course);

“person granted stateless leave” (“*person y rhoddwyd caniatâd iddo aros fel person diwladwriaeth*”) means a person who—

- (a) has extant leave to remain as a stateless person under the immigration rules; and
- (b) has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the period since the person was granted such leave;

“person with leave to enter or remain” (“*person sydd â chaniatâd i ddod i mewn neu i aros*”) means a person (“A” in this definition)—

- (a) [^{F2}who has—
 - (i) applied for refugee status but has, as a result of that application, been informed in writing by a person acting under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department that, although A is considered not to qualify for recognition as a refugee, it is thought right to allow A to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the grounds of humanitarian protection or discretionary leave, and who has been granted leave to enter or remain accordingly;
 - (ii) not applied for refugee status but has been informed in writing by a person acting under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department that it is thought right to allow A to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the grounds of discretionary leave, and who has been granted leave to enter or remain accordingly;
 - (iia) [^{F3}been granted leave to remain on the grounds of family life under the immigration rules;]

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- (iii) been granted leave to remain on the grounds of private life under the immigration rules; or
- (iv) been informed in writing by a person acting under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department that, although A is not considered to qualify for leave to remain on the grounds of private [^{F4}or family] life under the immigration rules, A has been granted leave to remain outside the rules on the grounds of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights;]
- (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 ^{M10}); and
- (d) who has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the period since A was granted leave to enter or remain;

[^{F1}“person with section 67 leave to remain” (“*person sydd â chaniatâd i aros o dan adran 67*”) means a person who—

- (a) has extant leave to remain in the United Kingdom under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and in accordance with the immigration rules; and
- (b) has been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and Islands throughout the period since the person was granted such leave;]

“postgraduate doctoral degree loan” (“*benthyciad at radd ddoethurol ôl-raddedig*”) means a loan payable to an eligible student under Part 4;

“prisoner” (“*carcharor*”) includes a person who is detained in a young offender institution;

“private institution” (“*sefydliad preifat*”) means an institution which is not publicly funded;

“public funds” (“*cronfeydd cyhoeddus*”) means moneys provided by Parliament including funds provided by the Welsh Ministers;

“publicly funded” (“*a gyllidir yn gyhoeddus*”, “*cael ei gyllido'n gyhoeddus*”) means maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of public funds, and related expressions are to be interpreted accordingly;

“refugee” (“*ffoadur*”) 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 July 1951 ^{M11} as extended by the Protocol thereto which entered into force on 4 October 1967 ^{M12};

[^{F1}“registered English institution” (“*sefydliad Seisnig cofrestredig*”) means an institution registered by the Office for Students in the register;]

“Research Council” (“*Cyngor Ymchwil*”) means any of the following research councils—

- (a) Arts and Humanities Research Council;
- (b) Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council;
- (c) Economic and Social Research Council;
- (d) Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council;
- (e) Medical Research Council;
- (f) Natural Environment Research Council;
- (g) Science and Technology Facilities Council;

^{F5} ...

[^{F1}“Scottish funded institution” (“*sefydliad a gyllidir gan yr Alban*”) means an institution maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of funds provided by the Scottish Ministers;]

“student loans legislation” (“*y ddeddfwriaeth ar fenthyciadau i fyfyrwyr*”) means the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 ^{M13}, the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 ^{M14}, the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 ^{M15} and regulations made under those Acts or that Order, the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 ^{M16} and regulations made under that Order or the 1998 Act and regulations made under the 1998 Act;

“Turkish worker” (“*gweithiwr Twrcaid*”) means a Turkish national who—

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

[^{F1}“Welsh funded institution” (“*sefydliad a gyllidir gan Gymru*”) means an institution maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of funds provided by the Welsh Ministers;]

(2) The Welsh Ministers may determine that a qualification is an equivalent or higher qualification if—

- (a) an eligible student holds a higher education qualification from any institution whether or not in the United Kingdom; and
- (b) the qualification referred to in sub-paragraph (a) is a postgraduate doctoral degree from an institution in the United Kingdom or is of an academic level which, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, is equivalent to or higher than a qualification to which the designated course leads.

(3) An academic year, in respect of a course, is determined as follows—

- (4) identify the period in Column 2 of the Table within which the academic year actually begins;
- (5) the academic year is the period of 12 months beginning on the date specified in the entry in Column 1 of the Table corresponding to the period set out in Column 2.

(6) Any reference in these Regulations to an “academic year” is a reference to the year determined in accordance with this paragraph.

Table

<i>Column 1 Start date of academic year for the purposes of these Regulations</i>	<i>Column 2 Period within which academic year begins</i>
1 September	On or after 1 August but before 1 January
1 January	On or after 1 January but before 1 April
1 April	On or after 1 April but before 1 July
1 July	On or after 1 July but before 1 August

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3)(b) of the amending S.I.) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/235\)](#), regs. 1(3)(a), **62**
- F2** Words in reg. 2(1) substituted (30.7.2018) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/814\)](#), regs. 1(2), **55**
- F3** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (9.9.2019) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Amendments to Student Eligibility\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1192\)](#), regs. 1(2), **8(2)(a)**

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- F4** Words in reg. 2(1) inserted (9.9.2019) by The Education (Student Finance) (Amendments to Student Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1192), regs. 1(2), **8(2)(b)**
- F5** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1302), regs. 1(3), **35**

Marginal Citations

- M1** S.I. 2017/523 (W. 109), amended by S.I. 2017/712 (W. 169) and S.I. 2018/277 (W. 53).
- M2** S.I. 2017/47 (W. 21), amended by S.I. 2018/191 (W. 42).
- M3** S.I. 2018/191 (W. 42).
- M4** OJ No L158, 30.04.2004, p. 77-123.
- M5** 2015 anaw 1.
- M6** 1968 c. 46; section 63(6) was amended by the Health and Medicines Act 1988 (c. 49), **section 20**.
- M7** S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14).
- M8** 1971 c. 77.
- M9** The European Social Fund is established under Article 162 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- M10** 2002 c. 41. Section 104 was amended by the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 (c. 19), **Schedules 2** and 4, the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 (c. 13), **section 9**, S.I. 2010/21 and the Immigration Act 2014 (c. 22), **Schedule 9**, Part 4.
- M11** Cmnd. 9171.
- M12** Cmnd. 3906 (out of print).
- M13** 1990 c. 6; repealed by the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (c. 30), **Schedule 4**, with savings see the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provisions) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998/2004) (C. 46) and amended by S.I. 2010/1158, **Schedule 4**, paragraph 5(2)(e).
- M14** S.I. 1990/1506 (N.I. 11), amended by S.I. 1996/274 (N.I. 1), **Article 43** and Schedule 5, Part II, S.I. 1996/1918 (N.I. 15), **Article 3** and the Schedule and S.I. 1998/258 (N.I. 1), **Articles 3 to 6** and revoked, with savings, by SR (N.I.) 1998 No. 306.
- M15** 1980 c. 44.
- M16** S.I.1998/1760 (N.I. 14) to which there have been amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

PART 2

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students

3.—(1) An eligible student qualifies for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan in connection with a designated course subject to and in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) to (9), a person is an eligible student in connection with a designated course if in assessing the person's application for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan under regulation 9 the Welsh Ministers determine that the person falls within one of the categories set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

(3) A person (“A”) is not an eligible student if—

- (a) A has reached the age of 60 on the first day of the academic year in which the designated course starts;
- (b) A is in breach of any obligation to repay any loan;
- (c) A has reached the age of 18 and has not ratified any agreement for a loan made with A when A was under the age of 18;

- (d) A has, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, shown by A's conduct that A is unfitted to receive a postgraduate doctoral degree loan;
- (e) A is a prisoner, unless A is an eligible prisoner;
- (f) A is enrolled on a course which is—
 - (i) a designated course under regulation 5 (designated courses), 66 (designated distance learning courses) or 83 (designated part-time courses) of the 2017 Student Support Regulations and is receiving support under those Regulations for that course;
 - (ii) a designated course under regulation 4 (designated courses) of the 2017 Master's Degree Loans Regulations and is receiving support under those Regulations for that course;
 - (iii) a designated course under regulation 5 (designated courses) of the 2018 Student Support Regulations and is receiving support under those Regulations for that course;
- (g) A has already obtained an equivalent or higher qualification;
- (h) A is already enrolled on a designated course and is in receipt of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan under these Regulations for that course;
- (i) subject to paragraph (9), A has previously received a postgraduate doctoral degree loan under these Regulations;
- (j) there has been bestowed on or paid to A in relation to A undertaking the course—
 - (i) a healthcare bursary;
 - (ii) any allowance under the Nursing and Midwifery Student Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 2007^{M17};
 - (iii) any allowance, bursary or award of similar description made under section 67(4)(a) of the Care Standards Act 2000^{M18}[^{F6}, or under section 46 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017,] save to the extent that A is eligible for such a payment in respect of travel expenses;
 - (iv) any allowance, bursary or award of similar description made under section 116(2)(a) of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016^{M19} save to the extent that A is eligible for such a payment in respect of travel expenses;
- (k) subject to paragraph (9), A has previously received a loan in respect of a course other than under these Regulations, where that loan was provided out of funds provided by a government authority within the United Kingdom;
- (l) A is, in relation to the course, in receipt of any allowance, bursary or award paid out of funds provided—
 - (i) by a Research Council;
 - (ii) by, or on behalf of, United Kingdom Research and Innovation^{M20}; or
- (m) there has been bestowed on or paid to A, in relation to the course, any allowance, bursary or award made under the KESS 2 Scheme.

(4) Where the eligible student is undertaking a designated course which is a distance learning course, the student does not qualify for support in respect of that course unless the Welsh Ministers consider that the student is undertaking the course in Wales on the first day of the first academic year of the course, whether the course is a designated course at that date or is designated on a later date.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (4), a person (“A”) is to be treated as undertaking the course in Wales for any period during which—

- (a) A would have been undertaking the course in Wales but for the fact that—

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- (i) A,
 - (ii) A's spouse or civil partner,
 - (iii) A's parent,
 - (iv) where A is a dependent direct relative in the ascending line, A's child or child's spouse or civil partner,
- is or was temporarily employed in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland as a member of the regular naval, military or air forces of the Crown; or

- (b) A is treated as ordinarily resident in Wales by virtue of paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 1 on the basis of temporary employment falling within paragraph 1(5)(a) of Schedule 1.

(6) An eligible student ceases to be eligible for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan in respect of a distance learning course if the Welsh Ministers consider that the student is undertaking the course outside the United Kingdom notwithstanding whether that student has previously been considered by the Welsh Ministers to be undertaking their course within the United Kingdom.

(7) Paragraph (6) does not apply to a person who is treated as being ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom by virtue of paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 1 on the basis of temporary employment falling within paragraph 1(5)(a) of Schedule 1.

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(b) and (c), “loan” means a loan made under any provision of the student loans legislation.

(9) The Welsh Ministers may deem a person described in paragraph (3)(i) or (3)(k) to be an eligible student where the Welsh Ministers are of the view that the person had not been able to complete the course to which the previous loan related due to compelling personal reasons.

(10) The Welsh Ministers may only exercise their discretion under paragraph (9) once in respect of a particular student.

Textual Amendments

- F6** Words in reg. 3(3)(j)(iii) inserted (coming into force in accordance with reg. 1 of the amending S.I.) by [The Children and Social Work Act 2017 \(Consequential Amendments\) \(Social Workers\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1094\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 45(2)**

Marginal Citations

- M17** [S.S.I. 2007/151](#), as amended by [S.S.I. 2007/503](#), [S.S.I. 2008/206](#), [S.S.I. 2009/188](#), [S.S.I. 2009/309](#), [S.S.I. 2012/72](#), [S.S.I. 2013/80](#), [S.S.I. 2016/82](#) and [S.S.I. 2017/180](#).
- M18** [2000 c. 14](#). Section 67(4)(a) was amended by the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (anaw 2), [section 185](#), [Schedule 3, Part 2, paragraphs 40](#) and [43\(d\)](#).
- M19** [2016 anaw 2](#).
- M20** United Kingdom Research and Innovation is a body corporate established by section 91 of the [Higher Education and Research Act 2017 \(c. 29\)](#). Sections 95 to 98 of that Act provide for United Kingdom Research and Innovation to make arrangements for the exercise of its functions on its behalf.

Designated courses

4.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a course is a designated course for the purposes of section 22(1) of the 1998 Act and regulation 3 if —

- (a) the duration of the ordinary period of registration for the course is—
 - (i) not less than three academic years; and
 - (ii) not more than eight academic years;

- [^{F7}(b) it is one of the following—
- (i) where the course begins before 1 August 2019, it is provided by an institution that before 1 August 2019 was a publicly funded institution (whether alone or in conjunction with another such publicly funded institution or with an institution situated outside the United Kingdom);
 - (ii) where the course begins on or after 1 August 2019, it is provided by—
 - (aa) a Welsh funded institution, a Scottish funded institution, a Northern Irish funded institution or an English regulated institution (whether alone or in conjunction with an institution within or outside the United Kingdom); or
 - (ab) a registered English institution on behalf of an English plan provider;]
 - (c) it is substantially provided in the United Kingdom; and
 - (d) it is a course which—
 - (i) leads to a doctoral degree granted or to be granted by a body falling within section 214(2)(a) or (b) of the Education Reform Act 1988 ^{M21}; and
 - (ii) the teaching and supervision which comprise the course has been approved by that body.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) and (c)—
- (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 course is substantially provided in the United Kingdom where at least half of the teaching and supervision which comprise the course is provided in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) a university and any constituent college or institution in the nature of a college of a university is to be regarded as publicly funded if either the university or the constituent college or institution is publicly funded;
- [^{F8}(d) an institution is not regarded as a publicly funded institution or a Welsh funded institution by reason only that—
- (i) where the course begins before 1 August 2019, it was a connected institution which received a relevant payment before that date; or
 - (ii) where the course begins on or after 1 August 2019, it is a connected institution which receives a relevant payment;]
 - (e) a course is not to be regarded as provided on behalf of a publicly funded educational institution where a part of the course is provided by a private institution.
- [^{F9}(2A) For the purpose of paragraph (2)—
- (a) “a connected institution” means a connected institution within the meaning of section 65(3B) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992; and
 - (b) “a relevant payment” means the payment of the whole or part of any grant, loan or other payment from the governing body of an institution which is provided to the connected institution in accordance with section 65(3A) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.]
- (3) The designated course may, but need not, be a distance learning course.
- (4) A course is not a designated course for the purposes of regulation 3 if it is recognised as a designated course for the purposes of—
- (a) regulations 5 or 83 of the 2017 Student Support Regulations;
 - (b) regulation 4 of the 2017 Master's Degree Loans Regulations;

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(c) regulation 5 of the 2018 Student Support Regulations.

(5) For the purposes of section 22 of the 1998 Act ^{M22} and regulation 3, the Welsh Ministers may designate courses of higher education which are not designated under paragraph (1).

(6) The Welsh Ministers may revoke or suspend the designation of a course which is designated under paragraph (5).

Textual Amendments

- F7** Reg. 4(1)(b) substituted (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3)(b) of the amending S.I.) by The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/235), regs. 1(3)(a), **63(a)**
- F8** Reg. 4(2)(d) substituted (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3)(b) of the amending S.I.) by The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/235), regs. 1(3)(a), **63(b)**
- F9** Reg. 4(2A) inserted (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3)(b) of the amending S.I.) by The Education (Student Finance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/235), regs. 1(3)(a), **63(c)**

Marginal Citations

- M21** 1988 c. 40; section 214(2) was amended by the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (c. 13), **section 93** and Schedule 8 and the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (c. 29), **section 53**.
- M22** 1998 c. 30.

Period of eligibility

5.—(1) A student's status as an eligible student is retained in connection with a designated course until the status terminates in accordance with this regulation or regulation 3.

(2) The period for which an eligible student retains the status referred to in paragraph (1) is the “period of eligibility”.

(3) Subject to the following paragraphs and regulation 3, an eligible student's (“A's”) period of eligibility terminates—

- (a) at the end of the academic year in which the ordinary period of registration of A's designated course ends; or
- (b) when A's initial thesis in relation to that course is submitted to the relevant academic authority,

whichever is the earlier.

(4) A's period of eligibility terminates when—

- (a) A withdraws from A's designated course in circumstances where the Welsh Ministers are not obliged under regulation 6 to transfer A's status as an eligible student to another course; or
- (b) A abandons or is expelled from A's designated course.

(5) The Welsh Ministers may terminate the period of eligibility where A has shown by A's conduct that A is unfitted to receive a postgraduate doctoral degree loan.

(6) If the Welsh Ministers are satisfied that A 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 Welsh Ministers may take such of the following actions as they consider appropriate in the circumstances—

- (a) terminate A's period of eligibility;

- (b) determine that A no longer qualifies for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan;
- (c) treat any postgraduate doctoral degree loan paid to the student as an overpayment which may be recovered under regulation 18.

(7) Where the period of eligibility terminates before the end of the academic year in which a student completes the designated course, the Welsh Ministers may, at any time, renew the period of eligibility for such period as they determine.

Transfer of status

6.—(1) Where an eligible student (“A”) transfers from a designated course (“the old course”) to another designated course (“the new course”), the Welsh Ministers must transfer A's status as an eligible student to the new course where—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers receive a request from the eligible student to do so;
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers are satisfied that one or more of the grounds for transfer in paragraph (2) applies; and
 - (c) the period of eligibility has not terminated.
- (2) The grounds for transfer are—
- (a) on the recommendation of the academic authority A ceases the old course and starts to undertake the new course at the same institution; or
 - (b) A starts to undertake the new course at another institution.

(3) Where A transfers under paragraph (1), A is entitled to receive in connection with the new course, the remainder of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan, if any, in accordance with regulation 14 and, where relevant, regulation 17, in respect of the old course.

Students becoming eligible during a course

7. Where one of the events listed in regulation 8 occurs during the currency of a student's course, a student may qualify for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan, provided the student complies with the application provisions set out in Part 3.

Events

8. The events are—
- (a) the student's course becomes a designated course;
 - (b) the student or the student's spouse, civil partner, parent, parent's spouse or parent's civil partner is recognised as a refugee or becomes a person granted stateless leave or a person with leave to enter or remain;
 - [^{F10}(ba) the student or the student's parent becomes a person with section 67 leave to remain;]
 - (c) a state accedes to the EU where the student is a national of that state or a family member (as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 1) of a national of that state;
 - (d) the student becomes a family member (as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 1) of an EU national [^{F11}or of a person who is eligible under paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 by virtue of paragraph 10(5) of that Schedule other than as a family member];
 - [^{F12}(e) the student becomes a person described in paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 1;]
 - (f) the student becomes the child of a Turkish worker;
 - (g) the student becomes a person described in paragraph 7(1)(a) of Schedule 1;
 - (h) the student becomes the child of a Swiss national; or

Status: Point in time view as at 31/12/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2018. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) the student commences a designated course after the start date of the designated course as the relevant academic authority has permitted the student to commence the course at this later start date.

Textual Amendments

- F10** Reg. 8(ba) inserted (with application in accordance with reg. 1(3)(b) of the amending S.I.) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/235\)](#), regs. 1(3)(a), **64**
- F11** Words in reg. 8(d) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1302\)](#), regs. 1(3), **36(a)**
- F12** Reg. 8(e) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/1302\)](#), regs. 1(3), **36(b)**

PART 3

APPLYING FOR SUPPORT

Applications for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan

9.—(1) A person does not qualify for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan as an eligible student in relation to a designated course unless the person makes an application for that loan.

(2) An application under paragraph (1) must—

- (a) be in such form and contain such information as the Welsh Ministers may specify;
- (b) be accompanied by such documentation as the Welsh Ministers may require; and
- (c) reach the Welsh Ministers within the time limit specified in regulation 11.

Welsh Ministers' decision on an application

10.—(1) The Welsh Ministers may take such steps and make such inquiries as they think necessary to make a decision on an application under regulation 9.

(2) Those steps may include requiring the applicant to provide such further information or documentation as the Welsh Ministers may require.

(3) The Welsh Ministers must notify the applicant of a decision on an application under regulation 9.

Time limits

11.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), an application under regulation 9 must reach the Welsh Ministers no later than the end of the ninth month of the academic year of the course in which the ordinary period of registration ends.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), an application to amend the amount of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan under regulation 13(3) must reach the Welsh Ministers no later than the end of the ninth month of the academic year of the course in which the ordinary period of registration ends.

(3) Paragraphs (1) or (2) do not apply where the Welsh Ministers consider that having regard to the circumstances of the particular case the time limit should not apply, in which case the application must reach the Welsh Ministers not later than such date as they specify in writing.

Requirement to enter into a contract for a loan

12.—(1) An eligible student may not receive a postgraduate doctoral degree loan unless the student enters into a contract for the loan with the Welsh Ministers.

(2) The contract—

- (a) must be in such form and on such terms, and
- (b) may be required to be signed in such manner (including electronically), as the Welsh Ministers specify.

(3) The contract may require the eligible student to repay a postgraduate doctoral degree loan by a particular method.

(4) Where the Welsh Ministers have required the student's agreement as to the method of repayment, they may withhold any payment of postgraduate doctoral degree loan until the student provides what has been requested.

PART 4

THE LOAN

Amount of postgraduate doctoral degree loan

13.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person may apply for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan of up to [^{F13}£26,445] towards the costs of undertaking a designated course.

(2) Subject to regulation 17(5), where an eligible prisoner applies for a postgraduate doctoral degree loan the amount of the loan must not exceed the lesser of—

- (a) the fees payable in respect of the course, and
- (b) [^{F14}£26,445].

(3) Except where regulation 17(5) and (6) applies an eligible student may apply to the Welsh Ministers to amend the amount of postgraduate doctoral degree loan for which the student has applied, provided that—

- (a) in aggregate, the amounts of postgraduate doctoral degree loan applied for do not exceed the applicable amounts set out in paragraphs (1) and (2);
- (b) such application is made in accordance with regulation 11(2).

(4) If the Welsh Ministers have determined under regulation 10 that the applicant is an eligible student, the Welsh Ministers must pay the amount for which the eligible student qualifies in accordance with regulation 14.

Textual Amendments

F13 Sum in reg. 13(1) substituted (with application in accordance with [reg. 1\(2\)](#) of the amending S.I.) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Amounts\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/153\)](#), [reg. 31\(a\)](#)

F14 Sum in reg. 13(2) substituted (with application in accordance with [reg. 1\(2\)](#) of the amending S.I.) by [The Education \(Student Finance\) \(Amounts\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/153\)](#), [reg. 31\(b\)](#)

Payment of postgraduate doctoral degree loan

14.—(1) The Welsh Ministers may pay the postgraduate doctoral degree loan for which a student qualifies under these Regulations—

- (a) either as a lump sum or by instalments; and
- (b) at such times, and in such manner, as the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate.

(2) If the Welsh Ministers think it appropriate to make payments by transfer into a bank or building society account they may require an eligible student to provide details of such an account in the United Kingdom into which payments may be made.

(3) If the requirement described in paragraph (2) is imposed, the Welsh Ministers may not make any payment of postgraduate doctoral degree loan until the eligible student has complied.

(4) In the case of an eligible prisoner, the Welsh Ministers must pay the postgraduate doctoral degree loan for which an eligible prisoner qualifies to the institution to which the eligible prisoner is liable to make payment for the fees payable in connection with the designated course or to such third party that the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate for the purpose of ensuring the payment of such fees to the relevant institution.

(5) The Welsh Ministers must—

- (a) not make a payment of postgraduate doctoral degree loan in excess of £10,609 in respect of any one academic year of an eligible student's designated course;
- (b) in determining the amount of postgraduate doctoral degree loan for which an eligible student qualifies, disregard any completed academic years.

(6) In this regulation, “completed academic years” means academic years of the designated course completed by the eligible student prior to the Welsh Ministers' receipt of the student's application under regulation 9(1).

(7) The relevant academic authority must, as soon as reasonably practicable after being requested to do so, provide the Welsh Ministers with the date on which—

- (a) an eligible student's designated course starts; and
- (b) the ordinary period of registration for that course ends.

(8) Subject to paragraph (9), the Welsh Ministers must not make any payment of postgraduate doctoral degree loan in respect of an academic year of an eligible student's designated course unless, in respect of that year, they have received from the relevant academic authority confirmation (in such form as may be required by the Welsh Ministers) that—

- (a) the student is not, in connection with the designated course, in receipt of any allowance, bursary or award paid out of funds provided—
 - (i) by a Research Council;
 - (ii) by, or on behalf of, United Kingdom Research and Innovation;
- (b) the student is in attendance or is undertaking the designated course, or continues to attend or undertake that course (as applicable);
- (c) at least half of the teaching and supervision that comprise the designated course is provided in the United Kingdom;
- (d) the academic authority considers that it will be possible for the student to complete the designated course within the ordinary period of registration for the course;
- (e) there has not been bestowed on or paid to the student, in connection with the designated course, any allowance, bursary or award made under the KESS 2 Scheme.

(9) An academic authority is not required to provide the confirmation described in paragraph (8)

- (a) if it is unable to do so.

(10) Where an event mentioned in paragraph (11) occurs in respect of an eligible student (“A”), the relevant academic authority must as soon as reasonably practicable after the event occurs—

- (a) notify the Welsh Ministers; and
- (b) provide such additional information about the event as the academic authority thinks the Welsh Ministers may require for the purposes of these Regulations.

(11) The events are—

- (a) the academic authority becomes aware that A is, in connection with A's designated course, in receipt of any allowance, bursary or award paid out of funds provided—
 - (i) by a Research Council;
 - (ii) by, or on behalf of, United Kingdom Research and Innovation;
- (b) A withdraws, is suspended or is expelled from A's designated course, or is otherwise absent;
- (c) the academic authority no longer considers it possible for A to complete A's designated course within the ordinary period of registration for that course;
- (d) A submits their initial thesis in connection with A's designated course before the ordinary period of registration for that course ends; and
- (e) the academic authority becomes aware that there has been bestowed on or paid to A, in connection with A's designated course, any allowance, bursary or award made under the KESS 2 Scheme.

(12) For the purposes of paragraphs (8)(d) and (11)(c), the academic authority must have regard to—

- (a) any increase in intensity of study that would be required for the student to complete the course within the ordinary period of registration;
- (b) any parts of the course which the student has been required to repeat.

Provision of United Kingdom national insurance number

15.—(1) The Welsh Ministers may make it a condition of entitlement to payment of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan that an eligible student must provide them with the student's United Kingdom national insurance number.

(2) If that condition is imposed, the Welsh Ministers may not make any payment of the loan until the eligible student has complied, unless the Welsh Ministers are satisfied that, owing to exceptional circumstances, it would be appropriate to make a payment despite the condition not being complied with.

Absence from or inability to complete course

16.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (6), if the Welsh Ministers receive notice under regulation 14(10) or paragraph 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 2 of an eligible student's (“A's”)—

- (a) absence from A's designated course; or
- (b) inability to complete A's designated course within the ordinary period of registration for that course,

the Welsh Ministers may not make any further payment of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan.

(2) Further payment may be made despite such notification if, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, payment would be appropriate in all the circumstances.

(3) Paragraph (4) applies where—

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- (a) the Welsh Ministers have received notice in relation to an eligible student (“A”) which falls within paragraph (1)(a); and
 - (b) A recommences A's course.
- (4) A must—
- (a) notify the Welsh Ministers that A has recommenced A's course; and
 - (b) provide the Welsh Ministers with details of the length and cause of A's preceding absence from that course.
- (5) The relevant academic authority must notify the Welsh Ministers if, further to a notice given to the Welsh Ministers under regulation 14(10) in connection with regulation 14(11)(c), it no longer considers that the student is unable to complete the designated course within the ordinary period of registration for that course.
- (6) Where the Welsh Ministers receive notification under paragraphs (4) or (5), they must recommence payment of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan in accordance with regulation 14 if, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, they consider it would be appropriate in all the circumstances.

Effect of becoming, or ceasing to be, an eligible prisoner

17.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where an eligible student who is in receipt of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan becomes an eligible prisoner and continues to undertake a designated course.

(2) The Welsh Ministers must—

- (a) adjust future payment of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan so that the total of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan awarded does not exceed the amount to which the student, as an eligible prisoner, is entitled to under regulation 13(2); and
- (b) pay any remaining sum of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan, in accordance with regulation 14.

(3) Paragraphs (4) to (6) apply where an eligible prisoner (“A”) who is in receipt of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan ceases to be an eligible prisoner and remains an eligible student, and continues to undertake a designated course.

(4) The Welsh Ministers must pay the remaining sum of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan, or future instalments of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan, if any, in accordance with regulation 14.

(5) Where A would have qualified for a higher amount of postgraduate doctoral degree loan had A not been an eligible prisoner A may, subject to paragraph (6), apply for the amount of loan to be increased.

(6) The maximum amount of the increase in A's postgraduate doctoral degree loan for which A may apply under paragraph (5) is the amount which is calculated by reference to the following formula—

$$\frac{(F-R)}{M} \times T$$

where—

F equals the amount which A would have qualified for if A had not been an eligible prisoner;

R equals the amount which A qualifies for as an eligible prisoner;

T is the number of days of the ordinary period of registration for the course which remain when A ceases to be an eligible prisoner beginning with the day after the day on which A ceases to be an eligible prisoner; and
M is the total number of the days of the duration of the ordinary period of registration for the course.

Overpayments of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan

18.—(1) Any overpayment of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan is recoverable by the Welsh Ministers from—

- (a) the institution or third party which received the monies of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan where payment was made to such institution or third party; or
- (b) the student who received the postgraduate doctoral degree loan.

(2) A student must, if so required by the Welsh Ministers, repay any amount of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan paid to the student or paid in respect of the student, which for whatever reason exceeds the amount of loan to which the student is entitled.

(3) An overpayment of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan may be recovered from a student under paragraph (1)(b) in whichever one or more of the following ways the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate in all the circumstances—

- (a) by subtracting the overpayment from any amount of the postgraduate doctoral degree loan which remains to be paid to or in respect of the student;
- (b) by subtracting the overpayment from any kind of grant or loan payable to the student from time to time pursuant to regulations made by the Welsh Ministers under section 22 of the 1998 Act;
- (c) by requiring the student to repay the postgraduate doctoral degree loan in accordance with regulations made under section 22 of the 1998 Act;
- (d) by taking such other action for the recovery of an overpayment as is available to them.

PART 5

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Information requirements

19.—(1) Schedule 2 applies in respect of the provision of information by an applicant and an eligible student.

(2) The Welsh Ministers may at any time request from an applicant or eligible student information that the Welsh Ministers consider is required to recover a postgraduate doctoral degree loan.

(3) The Welsh Ministers may at any time request from an applicant or eligible student sight of their valid national identity card, valid passport issued by the state of which they are a national or their birth certificate.

(4) Where the Welsh Ministers have requested information under this regulation, the Welsh Ministers may withhold any payment of a postgraduate doctoral degree loan until the applicant or eligible student provides what has been requested or provides a satisfactory explanation for not complying with the request.

Status: Point in time view as at 31/12/2020.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Education (Postgraduate Doctoral Degree Loans) (Wales) Regulations 2018. (See end of Document for details)

Kirsty Williams
Cabinet Secretary for Education, one of the
Welsh Ministers

Status:

Point in time view as at 31/12/2020.

Changes to legislation:

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