



24 February 2020

Dear parent/guardian

You will recently have received an email from the Careers Department regarding changes to the Student Finance Northern Ireland application system, which will be moving to an online application portal for the 2020/2021 academic year. All Higher Education students, including new first time students hoping to go to university or college in September 2020, will be required to apply for financial support via this new online portal, or by downloading paper copies of the application form.

The SFNI online portal was scheduled to be available from mid-March 2020. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, there has been a delay to the Education Authority's launch of the new online application system.

The system is now anticipated to go live in early April 2020. You and your child will receive further communication nearer the time of the rescheduled launch to confirm the new arrangements.

Guidance notes about student finance can be found on the Student Finance NI website. For a simple guide to Student Finance, check out the following link: <https://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk/student-finance-explained>. There is also a dedicated section for parents on the Student Finance website, which you may find useful: <https://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk/parents-and-partners/>.

GCS Careers Department