

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE AND PGCE STUDENTS

(with notes)

What determines eligibility for student finance?

- Personal Eligibility – Residence / Age
- Previous Study
- Course
- University or College
- Other conditions

Residence

- The student normally lives in Northern Ireland and is living here prior to the first day of the first year of their course; and
- Was living here for the three years immediately before this date; and
- Has settled status – meaning the student can live in the UK without the Home Office placing any restrictions on them.

Age

- Age at 1st September of 1st year of course
- Under 60 to apply for a Maintenance Loan
- No age limit to apply for –
 - Tuition Fee Loan
 - Maintenance Grant / Special Support Grant
 - Dependants Grants
 - Disabled Students Allowance
 - Travel (if applicable)

Previous Study

Previous study may affect eligibility for student finance, for example -

- Students who hold a qualification and decide to study another course may be restricted in the student support package for their new course
- Only some degree courses attract funding if a student decides to study a second degree course

Course

- For the course to be eligible it must be of a certain type and be leading to a recognised HIGHER EDUCATION qualification
- The most common types include –
 - First Degree (BSc, BA, BEd, MEng, etc)
 - Foundation Degree
 - Higher National Diploma / Certificate
 - Diploma of Higher Education
 - Postgraduate Certificate in Education

University or College

- The university or college must be publicly funded by the Government and be located in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland

OR

- Privately funded but running individual courses that receive public funding

Other conditions

- Eligibility must be demonstrated before Student Finance NI can make an assessment
- Eligibility is only checked once - at the beginning of the student's studies
- An application must be submitted within the required time
- Applicants must not be in arrears with Student Finance NI / Students Loans Company if the student has previously taken out a loan – all repayments must be up to date

Other Support Available



- Help to cover 2 main expenses i.e. tuition fees and day to day living costs
- Help for students with children
- Help for students who have a disability
- Assessed through Student Finance NI
- Specific queries should be directed to the student's local Student Finance Office
- www.studentfinancenl.co.uk