STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 56

EDUCATION

The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - - 19th March 2026

Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1(2) and (3)

The Department for the Economy(**a**), in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 3 and 8(4) of the Education (Student Support) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998(**b**) makes the following Regulations.

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on 10th April 2026.

(3) The provisions of these Regulations specified in paragraph (4) apply only in relation to the provision of support in relation to a new academic year, whether or not anything done under these Regulations is done before, on or after 1st August 2026.

(4) The provisions mentioned in paragraph (3) are—

(a) regulations 3 (amendments to disabled students allowances);

(b) regulation 7 (amendments to the payment rates for student support) and the Schedule (new payment rates for student support).

(5) In these Regulations—

"new academic year" means an academic year which begins on or after 1st August 2026: and

"academic year" has the meaning given by regulation 2 of the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(**c**).

(**a**) Formerly the Department for Employment and Learning; *see* Article 6(1)(c) of the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 76).

(**b**) S.I. 1998/1760 (N.I. 14). Article 3 was amended by the Learning and Skills Act 2000 (c.21), section 147(3)(a) and (b); the Student Loans (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, (c.2 (N.I.)), s.1(1); the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 (c.1), Schedule 6; the Finance Act 2003 (c.14), s.147(4); the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1116 (N.I. 5)), Articles 11 and 12 and the Schedule; and by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (No.2) Order 2013, (S.I. 2013/1881), Schedule 1.

(**c**) S.R. 2009 No. 373, amended by S.R.s 2010 No. 383, 2012 Nos. 62 and 398, 2013 Nos. 128 and 223, 2014 Nos. 97 and 309, 2016 No. 21, 2017 Nos. 7 and 43, 2018 No. 35, 2019 Nos.35 and 102, 2020 No. 79, 2021 Nos. 50, 85 and 260, 2022 Nos. 75, 201 and 263, 2024 Nos. 19 and 157 and S.R. 2025 No. 32.

Amendments to the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

2. Regulations 3 to 7 amend the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Amendments to disabled students' allowances

3.—(1) In regulation 41(1), after "attendance on", insert "or undertaking of";

(2) In the following provisions (which set maximum expenditure other than for travel), for "£25,000" substitute "£27,500" —

(a) regulation 42(2)(a) (disabled students' allowance);

(b) regulation 112(6)(a) (disabled distance learning students' allowance);

(c) regulation 130(5)(a) (disabled part-time students' allowance); and

(d) regulation 146(2)(a) (support for postgraduate students with disabilities).

Amendment to omit references to Scottish healthcare allowance

4.—(1) In regulation 2(1)—

(i) in the definition of "bursary year", omit "or a Scottish healthcare allowance",

(ii) omit the definition of "Scottish healthcare allowance";

(2) in regulation 46(3)(c), omit "or Scottish healthcare allowance";

(3) in regulation 63(2)(c), omit "or a Scottish healthcare allowance".

Amendment to omit Regional Health and Social Care Board

5. Omit regulation 39(6)(e)(i).

Amendment to special support grant

6. In regulation 59, after the previously omitted paragraph (6), insert—

"(7) A current system student does not qualify for a special support grant if the current course is a graduate entry course.".

Amendments to the payment rates for student support

7. The Schedule to these Regulations has effect to substitute the figure in the third column of the table for the figure in the second column where that figure appears in the provision of the 2009 Regulations set out in the first column.

Amendment to the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

8. Regulation 22 of the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 (**a**) is revoked.

(**a**) S.R. 2025 No. 32.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for the Economy on 19 March 2026.

L.S.

Graham Miller
A senior officer of the Department for the Economy

SCHEDULE

Regulation 7

NEW PAYMENT RATES FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

Provision in the Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009	*Existing figure*	*New figure*
Regulation 25		
25(1)(a)	£9,535	£9,790
25(2)(a)	£4,765	£4,895
25(2A)(a)	£4,855	£4,985
25(2B)(a)	£2,410	£2,475
25(13)(a)	£9,535	£9,790
25(11)(a)	£1,430	£1,465
25(14)(a)	£11,440	£11,750
25(14)(b)	£4,855	£4,985
Regulation 58		
58(1)(a)	£1,738	£1,785
58(1)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
58(1)(c)	£3,475	£3,569
58(2)(a)	£1,738	£1,785
58(2)(b)	£1,738	£1,785
	£9.09	£8.86
58(2)(c)	£659	£678
58(3)(a)	£3,475	£3,569
58(3)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
	£4.55	£4.43
58(3)(c)	£1,318	£1,354
58(4)(a)	£1,738	£1,785
58(4)(b)	£1,738	£1,785
	£9.09	£8.86
	£19.00	£18.50
58(5)(a)	£3,475	£3,569
58(5)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
	£4.55	£4.43
58(5)(c)	£1,318	£1,354
	£9.50	£9.25
Regulation 60		
60(1)(a)	£1,738	£1,785

60(1)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
60(1)(c)	£3,475	£3,569
60(2)(a)	£1,738	£1,785
60(2)(b)	£1,738	£1,785
	£9.09	£8.86
60(2)(c)	£659	£678
60(3)(a)	£3,475	£3,569
60(3)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
	£4.55	£4.43
60(3)(c)	£1,318	£1,354
60(4)(a)	£1,738	£1,785
60(4)(b)	£1,738	£1,785
	£9.09	£8.86
	£19.00	£18.50
60(5)(a)	£3,475	£3,569
60(5)(b)	£3,475	£3,569
	£4.55	£4.43
60(5)(c)	£1,318	£1,354
	£9.50	£9.25
Regulation 66		
66(2)(i)	£6,300	£6,471
66(2)(ii)	£11,391	£11,699
66(2)(iii)	£9,694	£9,956
66 (2)(iv)	£8,132	£8,352
66(3)(i)	£5,696	£5,850
66(3)(ii)	£10,366	£10,646
66(3)(iii)	£8,426	£8,654
66(3)(iv)	£7,527	£7,731
Regulation 67		
67(2)(a)	£6,300	£6,471
67(2)(b)	£11,391	£11,699
67(2)(c)	£9,694	£9,956
67(2)(d)	£8,132	£8,352
67(3)(a)	£5,696	£5,850
67(3)(b)	£10,366	£10,646
67(3)(c)	£8,426	£8,654
67(3)(d)	£7,527	£7,731
Regulation 69		
69(1)(a)(i)	£2,991	£3,072
69(1)(a)(ii)	£5,595	£5,747
69(1)(a)(iii)	£3,982	£4,090
69(1)(b)(i)	£2,991	£3,072
69(1)(b)(ii)	£5,595	£5,747
69(1)(b)(iii)	£4,763	£4,892
69(1)(b)(iv)	£3,982	£4,090
69(1)(c)(i)	£4,725	£4,853
69(1)(c)(ii)	£8,543	£8,774
69(1)(c)(iii)	£7,271	£7,468
69(1)(c)(iv)	£6,099	£6,264
69(2)(a)(i)	£2,268	£2,330
69(2)(a)(ii)	£4,284	£4,400

69(2)(a)(iii)	£3,108	£3,192
69(2)(b)(i)	£2,268	£2,330
69(2)(b)(ii)	£4,284	£4,400
69(2)(b)(iii)	£3,478	£3,572
69(2)(b)(iv)	£3,108	£3,192
69(2)(c)(i)	£4,272	£4,388
69(2)(c)(ii)	£7,775	£7,985
69(2)(c)(iii)	£6,320	£6,491
69(2)(c)(iv)	£5,645	£5,798
69(3)(a)	£659	£678
69(3)(b)	£1,318	£1,354
Regulation 70		
70(5)(i)	£93	£96
70(5)(ii)	£183	£188
70(5)(iii)	£197	£203
70(5)(iv)	£142	£146
70(6)(a)	£55	£96
70(6)(b)	£84	£146
Regulation 91		
91(1)(a)	£4,725	£4,853
91(1)(b)	£8,543	£8,774
91(1)(c)	£7,271	£7,468
91(1)(d)	£6,099	£6,264
91(2)(a)	£4,272	£4,388
91(2)(b)	£7,775	£7,985
91(2)(c)	£6,320	£6,491
91(2)(d)	£5,645	£5,798
Regulation 110A		
110A(1)(a)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
Regulation 117		
117(4)(d)(i)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
Regulation 127A		
127A(1)(a)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
Regulation 135		
135(4A)(d)(i)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
135(10B)(a)(i)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
135(19)(a)(i)	£3,641.25	£3,738.75
Schedule 5		
3(3)	£1,153	£1,185
5(2)(c)	£1,153	£1,185
7(1)(c)	£1,153	£1,185
9(1)(a)	£5.71	£5.55
9(2)	£2,848	£2,925
9(4)	£2,848	£2,925

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend legislation which makes provision about, or in connection with, student finance. Those Regulations being amended are the Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 "the 2009 Regulations", and the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 "the 2025 Regulations".

These Regulations come into force on 10 April 2026, unless otherwise specified.

Regulation 3 allows for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) to be available to 'exam/assessment only' students and uplifts the maximum level of DSA support available to eligible students in the 2009 Regulations, from £25,000 to £27,500 annually.

Regulations 4 and 5 omit redundant references in the 2009 Regulations.

Regulation 6 inserts a previously omitted paragraph to ensure students studying graduate entry courses are not eligible for special support grant, aligning with arrangements for maintenance grant.

Regulation 7 plus the Schedule amend the 2009 Regulations to update the payment rates for student support for an academic year which begins on or after 1st August 2026.

Regulation 8 makes technical amendments to correct the 2025 Regulations.

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