STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2025 No. 32

EDUCATION

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

Made - - - - 19th February 2025

Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1(2), (3) and (4)

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**) and Articles 4(8) and 14(4) of the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005(**c**) makes the following Regulations.

In accordance with Article 4(11)(a)(i) and (b)(i) of the Higher Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 the Department is satisfied that the increases to the basic and higher amounts are no greater than are required to maintain the value of those amounts in real terms.

PART 1

Introductory

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.

(2) Except as provided for in paragraphs (3) and (4), these Regulations come into operation on 16th March 2025.

(3) Regulations 3 to 5 come into operation on 1st September 2025.

(4) Regulations 18 and 19 come into operation on 6th April 2025.

(5) The provisions of these Regulations specified in paragraph (6) 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 2025.

(6) The provisions mentioned in paragraph (5) are—

(**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.I. 2005/1116; see Article 2(2) for definitions of "the Department", "prescribed" and "regulations".

(a) regulations 3 to 5 (amendments of the Student Fees (Amounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005);

(b) regulations 12 to 14 (graduate entry medicine course);

(c) regulation 15 to 17 and the Schedule (new payment rates for student support).

(7) The provisions of these Regulations specified in paragraph (8) apply only in relation to the provision of support in relation to a new course, whether or not anything done under these Regulations is done before, on or after 1st August 2025.

(8) The provisions mentioned in paragraph (7) are regulations 6 to 11 (termination of eligible student status).

(9) In this regulation "new course" means a course which begins on or after 1st August 2025.

(10) In these Regulations "new academic year" means an academic year which begins on or after 1st August 2025.

(11) In paragraph (10) an "academic year" is the period of twelve months beginning with 1st January, 1st April, 1st July or 1st September of the calendar year in which the academic year of the course in question begins, according to whether the academic year of the course in question begins—

(a) on or after 1st January and before 1st April;

(b) on or after 1st April and before 1st July;

(c) on or after 1st July and before 1st August; or

(d) on or after 1st August and on or before 31st December.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

(a) "the 2005 Regulations" means the Student Fees (Amounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005(**a**);

(b) "the 2009 Regulations" means the Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009(**b**).

PART 2

CHAPTER 1

Amendment of the Student Fees (Amounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005

Amendment to the 2005 Regulations

3. The 2005 Regulations are amended in accordance with this Chapter.

4. In regulation 3 (Prescribed basic and higher amounts)—

(a) for "£1,870" substitute "£1,910"; and

(b) for "£4,750" substitute "£4,855".

5. In regulation 4 (Prescribed basic and higher amounts for specified courses)—

(a) for "£910" substitute "£930"; and

(**a**) S.R. 2005 No. 290 as amended by S.R. 2006 No. 455, S.R. 2007 No. 442, S.R. 2008 No. 455, S.R. 2009 No. 400, S.R 2011 Nos. 1 and 369, S.R. 2012 No. 184, S.R. 2013 No. 120, S.R. 2014 No. 116, S.R. 2015 No. 243, S.R. 2016 No. 354, S.R. 2017 No. 104, S.R. 2018 No. 105, S.R. 2019 No. 102, S.R. 2020 No. 98 and S.R. 2022 No. 260.

(**b**) 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 and 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

(b) for "£2,360" substitute "£2,410".

PART 3

CHAPTER 1

Termination of Eligible Student Status

Amendment to the 2009 Regulations

6. The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with this Chapter.

7. In regulation 5(**a**) (eligible students)—

(a) after paragraph (11F) insert—

"(11G) Where—

(a) the Department determined that, by virtue of being a person satisfying the criteria in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 (eligible students: long residence), a person ("A") was an eligible student in connection with—

(i) an application for support for an earlier year of the current course;

(ii) an application for support for a course in relation to which the current course is an end-on course; or

(iii) an application for support in connection with a designated part-time course, designated distance learning course or other designated course from which A's status as an eligible part-time student, eligible distance learning student or eligible student has been transferred to the current course; and

(b) as at the day before the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support begins, the period for which A was granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom has expired and—

(i) no further leave to remain has been granted;

(ii) no appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002); and

(iii) A has not become a British or Irish citizen,

A's status as an eligible student terminates immediately before the first day of the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support.".

8. In regulation 105(**b**) (eligible distance learning students)—

(a) after paragraph (11F) insert—

"(11G) Where—

(a) the Department determined that, by virtue of being a person satisfying the criteria in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 (eligible students: long residence), a person ("A") was an eligible distance learning student in connection with—

(i) an application for support for an earlier year of the current distance learning course; or

(ii) an application for support in connection with a designated course, designated part-time course or other designated distance learning course from which A's status as an eligible student, eligible part-time student or eligible distance

(**a**) Regulation 5 was amended by S.S.I. 2007 No. 503, S.R.s 2010 No. 383, 2013 No. 128, 2017 No. 7, 2019 No. 35, 2021 Nos. 50 and 85, 2022 No. 75, 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

(**b**) Regulation 105 was amended by S.S.I. 2007 No. 503, S.R.s 2010 No. 383, 2019 No. 35, 2021 Nos. 50 and 85, 2022 Nos. 75 and 201, and 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

learning student has been transferred to the current distance learning course; and

(b) as at the day before the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support begins, the period for which A was granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom has expired and—

(i) no further leave to remain has been granted;

(ii) no appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002); and

(iii) A has not become a British or Irish citizen,

A's status as an eligible distance learning student terminates immediately before the first day of the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support.".

9. In regulation 122(**a**) (eligible part-time students)—

(a) after paragraph (10F) insert—

"(10G) Where—

(a) the Department determined that, by virtue of being a person satisfying the criteria in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 (eligible students: long residence), a person ("A") was an eligible part-time student in connection with—

(i) an application for support for an earlier year of the current part-time course; or

(ii) an application for support in connection with a designated course, designated distance learning course or other designated part-time course from which A's status as an eligible part-time student, eligible student or eligible distance learning student has been transferred to the current part-time course; and

(b) as at the day before the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support begins, the period for which A was granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom has expired and—

(i) no further leave to remain has been granted;

(ii) no appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002); and

(iii) A has not become a British or Irish citizen,

A's status as an eligible part-time student terminates immediately before the first day of the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support.".

10. In regulation 139(**b**) (eligible postgraduate students)—

(a) after paragraph (12F) insert—

"(12G) Where—

(a) the Department determined that, by virtue of being a person satisfying the criteria in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 (eligible students: long residence), a person ("A") was an eligible postgraduate student in connection with—

(i) an application for support for an earlier year of the current postgraduate course; or

(ii) an application for support in connection with another designated postgraduate course from which A's status as an eligible postgraduate student has been transferred to the current postgraduate course; and

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(**a**) Regulation 122 was amended by S.R.s 2010 No. 383, 2017 No. 7, 2019 No. 35, 2021 Nos. 50 and 85, 2022 No. 75, 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

(**b**) Regulation 139 was amended by S.R.s 2010 No. 383, 2017 No. 43, 2019 No. 35, 2021 Nos. 50 and 85, 2022 Nos. 75 and 201, 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

(b) as at the day before the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support begins, the period for which A was granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom has expired and—

(i) no further leave to remain has been granted;

(ii) no appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002); and

(iii) A has not become a British or Irish citizen,

A's status as an eligible postgraduate student terminates immediately before the first day of the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support.".

11. In regulation 149(**a**) (eligible Master's, etc. students)—

(a) after paragraph (11F) insert—

"(11G) Where—

(a) the Department determined that, by virtue of being a person satisfying the criteria in paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 (eligible students: long residence), a person ("A") was an eligible Master's, etc. student in connection with—

(i) an application for support for an earlier year of the current Master's, etc. course; or

(ii) an application for support in connection with another designated Master's, etc. course from which A's status as an eligible Master's, etc. student has been transferred to the current Master's, etc. course; and

(b) as at the day before the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support begins, the period for which A was granted leave to stay in the United Kingdom has expired and—

(i) no further leave to remain has been granted;

(ii) no appeal is pending (within the meaning of section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002); and

(iii) A has not become a British or Irish citizen,

A's status as an eligible Master's, etc. student terminates immediately before the first day of the academic year in respect of which A is applying for support.".

CHAPTER 2

Graduate Entry Medicine Course

Amendments to the 2009 Regulations

12. The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with this Chapter.

13. In regulation 20(**b**) (availability of fee loans to current system students – general) —

(a) after paragraph (2) insert —

"(2A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(a) to (c), a current system student qualifies for a fee loan in respect of a graduate entry medicine course at an educational institution in Northern Ireland.";

(b) in paragraph (5) after "21" add "21A".

14. After regulation 21 insert—

(**a**) Regulation 149 was amended by S.R.s 2017 Nos. 7 and 43, 2018 No. 35, 2020 No. 79, 2021 Nos. 50 and 85, 2022 Nos. 75 and 201, 2024 Nos. 19 and 157.

(**b**) Regulation 20 was amended by S.R. 2013 No. 223, S.R. 2014 No. 97, S.I. 2017/43.

"Standard entitlement – graduate entry medicine course in Northern Ireland

21A. The standard entitlement of a current system student who is studying a graduate entry medicine course at an educational institution in Northern Ireland is calculated as follows—

OD+1

where *OD* is the number of academic years that make up the ordinary duration of the course."

CHAPTER 3

New Payment Rates for Student Support

Amendments to the 2009 Regulations

15. The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with this Chapter.

16. In regulation 66 (current system students with full entitlement), for paragraph (4) substitute—

"(4) "the maintenance grant amount" is, unless otherwise stated—

(i) where the student qualifies under Chapter 6 of Part 5 for an amount of maintenance grant not exceeding £1,318, the amount of maintenance grant payable;

(ii) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(2) for an amount of maintenance grant exceeding £1,318 but less than £1,738, £1,700 less £1 in every complete £9.42 by which the household income exceeds £19,203;

(iii) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(2) for an amount of maintenance grant of £1,738, £1,700;

(iv) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(3) for an amount of maintenance grant exceeding £1,318 but less than £3,475, £2,650 less £1 in every complete £7.36 by which the household income exceeds £19,203;

(v) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(4) for an amount of maintenance grant exceeding £1,318 but less than £1,738, £1,550 less £1 in every complete £11.01 by which the household income exceeds £19,203;

(vi) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(4) for an amount of maintenance grant of £1,738, £1,550;

(vii) where the student qualifies under regulation 58(5) for an amount of maintenance grant exceeding £1,318 but less than £3,475, £1,850 less £1 in every complete £18.45 by which the household income exceeds £19,203;

(viii) where the student qualifies under Chapter 6 of Part 5 for an amount of maintenance grant of £3,475, £1,850; and

(ix) where no maintenance grant is payable, nil."

17. 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 Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 set out in the first column.

CHAPTER 4

Amendments to Non-Domiciled Tax Status

Amendments to the 2009 Regulations

18. The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with this Chapter.

19. In Schedule 5 (financial assessment)—

(a) in paragraph 5(6)(a) (calculation of parent's residual income)(**a**) omit "or domiciled" each time it occurs;

(b) in paragraph 7(7)(a) (calculation of parent's partner's residual income)(**b**) omit "or domiciled" each time it occurs.

PART 4

CHAPTER 1

Miscellaneous Amendments

Amendments to the 2009 Regulations

20. The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 21 and 22.

21. In regulation 57(7) (qualifying conditions for the maintenance grant) for "the graduate entry course" substitute "a graduate entry course".

22. In regulation 141(1)(b) (designated postgraduate courses) in sub-paragraph (ii) omit the word "twice".

Amendments to the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

23. The Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024(**c**) are amended in accordance with regulations 24 to 40.

24. Before regulation 3 insert —

"**A3.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 3 and 4."

25. Before regulation 5 insert —

"**A5.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 5 and 6."

26. Before regulation 7 insert —

"**A7.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 7."

27. Before regulation 8 insert —

"**A8.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 8."

28. Before regulation 9 insert —

"**A9.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 9 and 10."

29. Before regulation 11 insert —

"**A11.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 11 and 12."

30. Before regulation 13 insert —

"**A13.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 13 and 14."

31. Before regulation 15 insert —

(**a**) Paragraph 5 was amended by S.R.s 2014 No. 309, 2016 No. 21, 2017 No. 43, 2020 Nos. 79 and 295.
(**b**) Paragraph 7 was amended by 2004 c.12 and S.R.s 2020 Nos. 79 and 295.
(**c**) S.R. 2024 No. 157.

"**A15.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 15."

32. Before regulation 16 insert —

"**A16.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 16 to 20."

33. Before regulation 21 insert —

"**A21.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 21."

34. Before regulation 22 insert —

"**A22.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 22."

35. Before regulation 23 insert —

"**A23.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 23."

36. Before regulation 24 insert —

"**A24.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 24."

37. Before regulation 25 insert —

"**A25.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 25."

38. Before regulation 26 insert —

"**A26.** The Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 are amended in accordance with regulations 26 to 30."

39. Before regulation 31 insert —

"**A31.** The 2009 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulations 31 and 32."

40. Before regulation 33 insert —

"**A33.** The 2007 Regulations are amended in accordance with regulation 33."

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for the Economy on 19th February 2025.

L.S.

Mr Mark Lee
A senior officer of the Department for the Economy

SCHEDULE

Regulation 17

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)	£9,250	£9,535
25(2(a)	£4,625	£4,765
25(2A)(a)	£4,750	£4,855
25(2B)(a)	£2,360	£2,410
25(11)(a)	£1,385	£1,430
25(13)(a)	£9,250	£9,535
25(14)(a)	£11,100	£11,440
25(14)(b)	£4,750	£4,855
Regulation 66		
66(2)(i)	£5,250	£6,300
66(2)(ii)	£9,492	£11,391
66(2)(iii)	£8,078	£9,694
66 (2)(iv)	£6,776	£8,132
66(3)(i)	£4,746	£5,696
66(3)(ii)	£8,638	£10,366
66(3)(iii)	£7,021	£8,426
66(3)(iv)	£6,272	£7,527
Regulation 67		
67(2)(a)	£5,250	£6,300
67(2)(b)	£9,492	£11,391
67(2)(c)	£8,078	£9,694
67(2)(d)	£6,776	£8,132
67(3)(a)	£4,746	£5,696
67(3)(b)	£8,638	£10,366
67(3)(c)	£7,021	£8,426
67(3)(d)	£6,272	£7,527
Regulation 69		
69(1)(a)(i)	£2,492	£2,991
69(1)(a)(ii)	£4,662	£5,595
69(1)(a)(iii)	£3,318	£3,982
69(1)(b)(i)	£2,492	£2,991
69(1)(b)(ii)	£4,662	£5,595
69(1)(b)(iii)	£3,969	£4,763
69(1)(b)(iv)	£3,318	£3,982
69(1)(c)(i)	£3,925	£4,725
69(1)(c)(ii)	£7,119	£8,543
69(1)(c)(iii)	£6,062	£7,271
69(1)(c)(iv)	£5,082	£6,099
69(2)(a)(i)	£1,890	£2,268
69(2)(a)(ii)	£3,570	£4,284

69(2)(a)(iii)	£2,590	£3,108
69(2)(b)(i)	£1,890	£2,268
69(2)(b)(ii)	£3,570	£4,284
69(2)(b)(iii)	£2,898	£3,478
69(2)(b)(iv)	£2,590	£3,108
69(2)(c)(i)	£3,560	£4,272
69(2)(c)(ii)	£6,479	£7,775
69(2)(c)(iii)	£5,266	£6,320
69(2)(c)(iv)	£4,704	£5,645
Regulation 70		
70(5)(i)	£77	£93
70(5)(ii)	£152	£183
70(5)(iii)	£164	£197
70(5)(iv)	£118	£142
Regulation 91		
91(1)(a)	£3,925	£4,725
91(1)(b)	£7,119	£8,543
91(1)(c)	£6,062	£7,271
91(1)(d)	£5,082	£6,099
91(2)(a)	£3,560	£4,272
91(2)(b)	£6,479	£7,775
91(2)(c)	£5,266	£6,320
91(2)(d)	£4,704	£5,645
Regulation 110A		
110A(1)(a)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
Regulation 117		
117(4)(d)(i)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
Regulation 127A		
127A(1)(a)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
Regulation 135		
135(4A)(d)(i)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
135(10B)(a)(i)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
135(19)(a)(i)	£3,562.50	£3,641.25
Schedule 5		
9(1)(a)	£6.79	£5.71
(9)(2)	£6,336	£2,848
(9)(4)	£6,336	£2,848

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend legislation which makes provision about, or in connection with, student finance. Three sets of Student Support Regulations are amended. Those Regulations are the Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 "the 2009 Regulations", the Student Fees (Amounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 "the 2005 Regulations" and the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

These Regulations come into force on 16th March 2025, unless otherwise specified.

Regulations 3 to 5 amend the 2005 Regulations by increasing the basic and higher amounts prescribed in the 2005 Regulations. In each case the increases are by 2.3%, and will come into operation on 1st September 2025.

Regulations 6 to 11 amend the 2009 Regulations to include termination provisions so that persons who are granted student support under the long residence category but whose leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom has expired and who have not been granted further leave to remain do not retain their status as students eligible for financial support.

Regulations 12 to 14 amend the 2009 Regulations to allow for the provision of tuition fee loans to those students studying graduate entry medicine in educational institutions in Northern Ireland.

Regulations 15 to 17 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 2025.

Regulation 18 and 19 remove references in the 2009 Regulations to the concept of domicile as a relevant connecting factor in the UK tax system, which will be replaced by a system based on tax residence. Regulations 18 and 19 come into operation from 6th April 2025.

Regulations 20 to 40 make technical amendments and fix drafting errors in the 2009 Regulations and the Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 respectively.

A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced for this rule as no, or no significant impact on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen.

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£8.14

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/nisr/2025/32

ISBN 978-0-33-802431-2

