



Information sheet 004

Funding available for students on initial teacher training courses for the Lifelong Learning Sector

The following information has been provided by the Department for Education and Skills.

Whether pre-service or in-service, full-time and part-time initial teacher training courses for the post-compulsory sector attract the same funding as initial teacher training courses for the compulsory sector, provided they meet the general criteria set out below.

- Full-time course or part-time course for the initial training of teachers
- Stage 3 courses, e.g. Cert Ed (post-compulsory), PGCE (post-compulsory) or Stage 3 of the City and Guilds 7407
- At least one academic year's duration.
- Provided by a publicly-funded educational institution

Most new students starting such courses in 2006/07 will be able to apply for the new package of support which includes a **maintenance grant**, and a **fee loan**. Existing students (and gap-year students) will continue to be treated for fee and student support purposes in the same way as when they started their course. Both new and existing students will be able to apply for loans for living costs (**maintenance loans**).

The amount of support available for students starting part-time courses, including 'in service' courses, in 2006/07 will depend on the period of full-time study undertaken in the academic year. This is explained in the tables below.

The **maintenance grant** is tax-free and non-repayable. It has two components: a means-tested component and a non-means-tested component, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Maximum entitlement to non-repayable maintenance grant for initial teacher training courses(excluding those leading to a first degree)

Period of full-time study in an academic year ¹	Less than 6 weeks	6 weeks or more, but less than 10 weeks	Course 10 weeks or more
Non-means-tested element	Nil	£600	£1, 200
Means-tested element	Nil	£750	£1, 500
Maximum total grant payable	Nil	£1, 350	£2, 700

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The **fee loan** and **maintenance loan** are both repayable. Their values are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Maximum entitlement to loans for fees and living costs

Period of full-time study in an academic year ¹ :	Less than 6 weeks	6 weeks or more but less than 10 weeks	10 weeks or more
Loan for fees	£1, 500	£1, 500	£3,000
Loan for living costs ²	Half Rate	Full Rate	Full Rate

¹ Weeks' study includes aggregates of days of full-time study. Days of full-time teaching practice are also included, but only when calculating entitlement to living cost support.

²Full rate loans for living costs will be subject to substitution, i.e., a student who is eligible for a maintenance grant will have his loan for living costs reduced by £1 for every £1 of maintenance grant received up to a maximum of £1,200.

Detailed information is set out in the DfES document SSIN 07/06 which can be found at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport/administrators/dsp_ssin_links.shtml.

SSIN 07/06 is currently under review. An updated version of this document will be added to the DfES website in due course.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply for the new funding?

Contact the Student Support Officer at your local education authority (LEA) to get a copy of **Form PN1** form. You complete this form for both full-time and part-time initial teacher training courses and return it to your LEA.

You can find your LEA from this site

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm?action=authority&letter=B>

2. How much are tuition fees?

Under the Higher Education Act 2004, course providers in England can charge new entrants to initial teacher training programmes up to £3,000 in tuition fees for full-time courses and up to £1500 for part-time courses. The amount actually charged will vary from institution to institution and you should check with your preferred provider(s).

3. Do I get a local authority grant to pay my tuition fees?

No.

Under previous arrangements full-time, pre-service trainee teachers had their tuition fees of £1,200 paid by their local education authority, regardless of their own income. Part-time, in-service trainee teachers had their fees paid on a discretionary basis. Under the new arrangements, trainee teachers will be eligible for a non-means-tested loan to cover their tuition fees.

4. How does the loan for tuition fees work?

Whether you are a pre-service student or an in-service student, you can take out a loan to cover the cost of the tuition fees raised by your course provider. The loan is not means-tested. The maximum value of this loan is related to the maximum you can be charged by your course provider; you cannot borrow more than the tuition fees actually charged. The loan to which you will be eligible also depends on the duration of your course.

- If the course duration is ten weeks or more, the maximum loan is £3,000
 - If the course duration is less than ten weeks, the maximum loan is £1,500
- Repayments of the loan are based on your subsequent income and will be deducted from your salary, like national insurance contributions.

5. What is the new maintenance grant?

This is a non-repayable grant, intended to help students from households with low incomes. The grant is paid by your local education authority. The level of support to which you are entitled will depend on the duration of your study in the academic year.

- If you are following a course of ten weeks or more, you might be entitled to a maintenance grant of up to £2,700. The first £1,200 of this grant is not means-tested, and so is available to everybody, but the next £1,500 of the grant is means-tested according to household income.
- If you are following a course of more than six weeks but less than ten weeks, duration, you might be eligible for a grant of up to £1,350. The first £600 of this grant is not means-tested, and so is available to everybody, but the next £750 of the grant is means-tested according to household income.
- If you are following a course of less than six weeks duration, you will not be entitled to a maintenance grant.

When calculating entitlement to a maintenance grant, 'weeks of study' is found by aggregating all the days of full-time study, *excluding* days of full-time teaching practice.

Please note that students following Stages 1 and 2 of an initial teaching qualification accredited by an award body (e.g. City and Guilds 7407) are not eligible for a maintenance grant but become eligible when they study Stage 3 of the qualification.

6. Is there any other help with cost of living?

Maintenance loans are available to help with living and study costs, such as rent, food and books. The value of these loans depends on the duration of your course and where you live. If the duration of your course is six weeks or more in one academic year, you will be eligible for the maximum loans below. If the duration of your course is less than six weeks, you will be eligible for half the rates below.

- £3,415 for students living at home
- £4,405 for students living away from home, outside London
- £6,170 for students living away from home in London

Please note that, for this support for living costs, 'weeks of study' is calculated by aggregating all the days of full-time study, *including* days of full-time teaching practice.

Also note that, if you receive the non-repayable maintenance grant, the amount of the above maintenance loan to which you are eligible will be reduced by £1 for every £1 of the maintenance grant you receive, up to a maximum deduction of £1,200.

7. This sounds a bit complicated. Can you give me some examples of how the fee loan, maintenance grant and maintenance loan will work?

- Kiran is following a full-time PGCE course. Her university charges £2,000 in tuition fees, making her eligible for a fee loan of £2,000. Kiran is entitled to receive the minimum £1,200 non-means-tested element of the maintenance grant. Based on her household income, she has also been assessed to receive the remaining £1,500 of the means-tested element of this grant, giving her a total maintenance grant of £2,700. She is living away from home in London, so the maximum amount of maintenance loan to which Kiran is eligible is £6,170. However, this will be reduced by £1,200 as Kiran is receiving the non-means-tested element of the maintenance grant.
- Brian is following a part-time Cert Ed course. His course aggregates to eight weeks of full-time study per year, so he is entitled to receive the half rate fee loan. As his course provider cannot charge more than £1,500 per year, Brian will be eligible for a loan that fully covers his tuition fees. As his course is over six weeks long, Brian is entitled to the £600 non-means-tested element of the maintenance grant. Based on his household income, he has been assessed to receive £200 of the means-tested element, giving him a total maintenance grant of £800. He is living away from home outside of London. This makes Brian eligible for a maximum maintenance loan of £4,405 reduced by £800 in lieu of his maintenance grant. The maintenance loan to which Brian will be eligible is, thus, £3605.

8. I am disabled. Is there any help?

Yes, further assistance is available for students with disabilities or specific learning difficulties. You need to complete Form DSA1, obtainable from your LEA.

9. I am responsible for the care of another. Is financial help available for this?

There are two types of financial assistance available.

- **Childcare grant** – the amount payable will be based on 85% of the actual childcare costs and, in 2006/07, will be subject to a maximum grant of £148.75 per week for one child or £255 per week for two or more children. You need to complete Form CCG1, obtainable from your LEA.
- **Adult dependant's grant** – in 2006/07, the maximum grant in respect of a spouse or, where there is no spouse, on one adult dependant will be £2,455. You can obtain further information from your local education authority.

10. Will my course provider offer any financial assistance?

Colleges and universities are able to set their own tuition fees.

Where a college or university sets the maximum tuition fee of £3,000, they must pay a minimum bursary of £300 to any student in receipt of a full maintenance grant of £2,700. Thus, such students will receive grants to cover their full tuition fees. Course providers are able to offer further bursaries. You should check with your preferred provider(s) for further information.

11. Are training bursaries available?

Training bursaries are tax-free and non-repayable.

All students following a pre-service initial teacher training courses in Wales will be eligible for a training bursary of £6,000.

In England, training bursaries are available only to students training to teach a designated shortage subject. The payments in England are:

- £9,000 for students training to teach construction, mathematics and science
- £6,000 for student training to teach business administration, design & technology, English, engineering, health & social care, information and communications technology (ICT), and 'skills for life' subjects (ESOL, adult literacy and adult numeracy)

The training bursary scheme is administered by course providers and you should contact your preferred provider(s) for further details.

12. What are 'Golden Hello' payments

The 'Golden Hello' scheme offers incentives for people with skills in shortage subjects to enter teaching in England. It is payable to new staff in their second year of teaching. The value of these payments is shown below.

- £5,000 to teachers of construction, mathematics and science
- £4,000 to teachers of design & technology, English, engineering, health & social care, information and communications technology (ICT), skills for life subjects (ESOL, adult literacy and adult numeracy). Unlike the training bursary scheme, there is no 'Golden Hello' payment for teachers of business administration.

You can gain further information about the 'Golden Hello' incentive scheme, including the most up-to-date list of shortage subjects, from our information and advice team on 020 7936 5798 or by email at helpline@lifelonglearninguk.org.

13. I have a job in an expensive part of the country. Is there any financial help available?

There are three schemes available to those with a permanent contract to teach in a further education college in East England, South East England and London.

- **Key Worker Homebuy** - offers 'Equity Loans' of up to £50,000 to help key workers buy a home on the open market or a new property offered by a registered social landlord.
- **Key Worker Shared Ownership** – is available on new homes built by housing associations. You buy at least 25% of the home and pay a reduced rent on the remaining share.
- **Key Worker Intermediate Renting** – is available through housing associations, the rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords

For further information about eligibility criteria, and contact details for your zone agent, please contact our information and advice team by phone on 020 7936 5798 or by email at advice@lluk.org.