

Academic Year 13/14 Student Support Policy for Full-time and Part-time students

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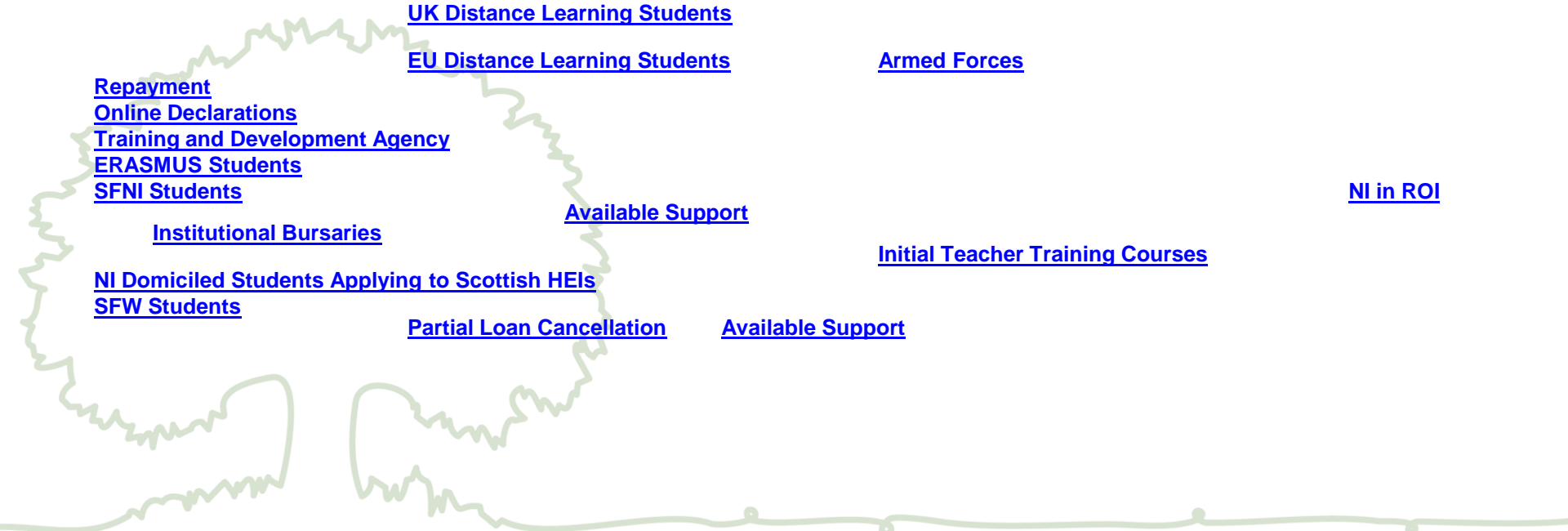
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Grants for Dependants(GFDs)

Household Income

The method used when Grants for Dependants are financially assessed is being impacted by number of changes. The following changes will impact both new and returning students in England and Northern Ireland:

- For the assessment of GFDs, the income that will be used in the assessment will be from the Prior Financial Year as opposed to taking estimates of the net income for the Academic Year ahead. For partners and other adult dependants, this will be the gross taxable income. For child dependants, this will be the net income.
- Income submitted by partners will be subject to a VHI check (England only) for each year the student is wanting to be assessed for GFDs
- Income from other adult dependents (i.e. not partners) will not be subject to VHI checks

Financial Commitments

New Students

Any new student applying for GFDs in AY13/14 will not have to provide details of previous and ongoing financial commitments for the current Academic Year.

To take account of this change, they will also be subject to new disregards that are used in the manual calculation of GFDs based on the student's family situation. The new disregards are as follows:

Eligible student has no dependent child	£6,159
Eligible student is not a lone parent and has one dependent child	£8,473
Eligible student is not a lone parent and has more than one dependent child	£9,627
Eligible student is a lone parent and has one dependent child	£9,627
Eligible student is a lone parent and has more than one dependent child	£10,792

This change will be reflected in Section 9 of AY13/14 PN1 form.

Continuing Students

Any continuing student applying for GFDs in AY13/14 will continue to provide details of previous and ongoing financial commitments for the current Academic Year. They will also remain subject to the current disregards that are in place and are used in the manual calculation of GFDs. Therefore, Section 9 of AY13/14 PR1 form will remain unchanged.

Childcare Cap

In addition to the above changes, there is also an impact on new and continuing students in England and Northern Ireland in AY13/14 who are applying for the Childcare Grant (CCG):

- When a student completes a CCG1 form, the form requests details of the student's childcare provider. The form can be completed without providing these details and the student will still receive the 1st instalment of any CCG they are entitled to receive but there can be a potential for Grant overpayment/underpayment to the student without these details at this point
- In order to prevent this happening, any student who completes a CCG1 form without providing the childcare provider details will have the 1st instalment of their CCG capped.
- The cap will consist of the student receiving the lower of either £115 per week or 85% of their estimated childcare costs
- Once the student supplies details of the childcare provider, a re-assessment will be carried out and any underpayment that exists will be paid to the student
- The cap will only ever apply to the student's 1st instalment as subsequent instalments of CCG are never paid out without the details of the childcare provider.
- As this change is affecting both new & returning students, the CCG1 form will still be required to be completed by both types of student

Note: The 1st instalment will be specific to their course start date

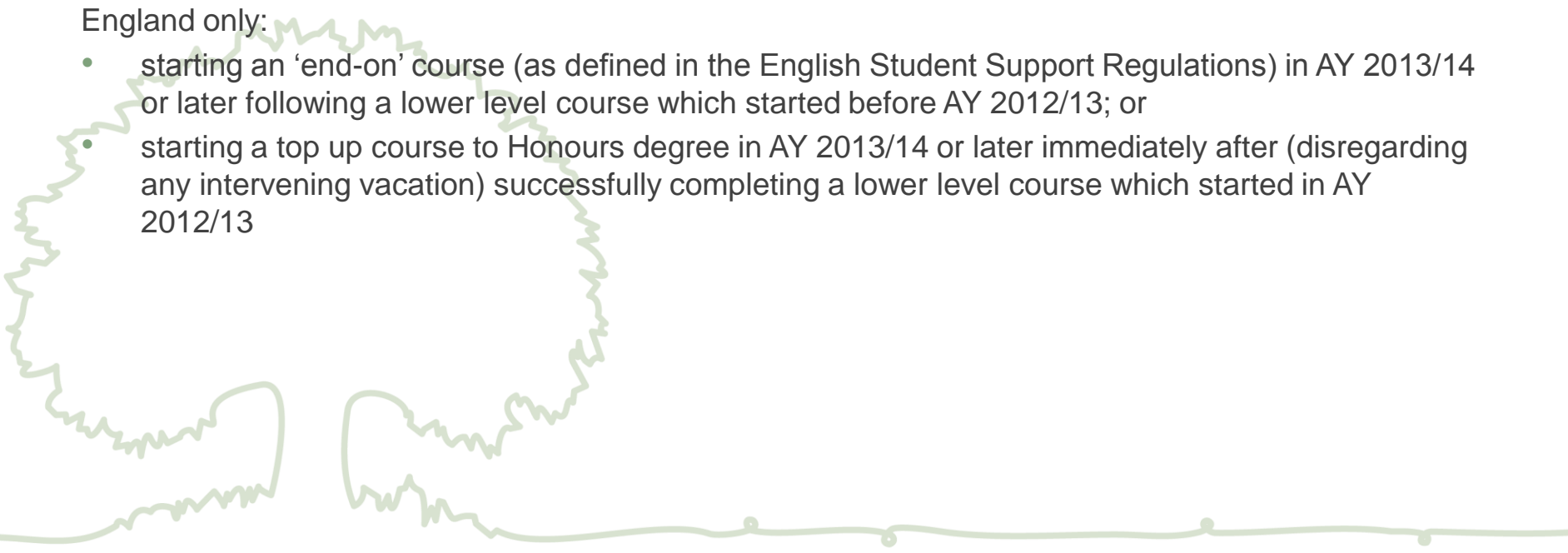
Transitional Protection

The change from using current academic year income to prior financial year income of partners and dependants applies to all applicants, new and continuing.

The removal of financial obligations and increase in the level of disregards will only apply to students who are starting a course in AY 2013/14 or later (irrespective of whether the student has previously applied for targeted support products or not). They will not apply to those students who are:

- continuing on a course which started prior to AY 2013/14;
- transferring in AY 2013/14 or later from a course which started before AY 2013/14, where there was no change of mode of study*;

England only:

- starting an 'end-on' course (as defined in the English Student Support Regulations) in AY 2013/14 or later following a lower level course which started before AY 2012/13; or
 - starting a top up course to Honours degree in AY 2013/14 or later immediately after (disregarding any intervening vacation) successfully completing a lower level course which started in AY 2012/13
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- The cap will consist of the student receiving the lower of either £115 per week or 85% of their estimated childcare costs
- Once the student supplies details of the childcare provider, a re-assessment will be carried out and any underpayment that exists will be paid to the student
- The cap will only ever apply to the student's 1st instalment as subsequent instalments of CCG are never paid out without the details of the childcare provider.
- As this change is affecting both new & returning students, the CCG1 form will still be required to be completed by both types of student

Note: The 1st instalment will be specific to their course start date

Example

Robyn starts a full-time course in September 2013. She applies for Childcare Grant but does not supply details of a childcare provider on her initial Childcare Grant application. She has two children and estimates childcare costs at £350 per week. Robyn's Childcare Grant for the first payment period will be capped at £115 per week, or 85% of actual costs, whichever is less, because she has not supplied details of a childcare provider. In this case the maximum amount payable is £115 per week. Robyn contacts SLC to provide details of a childcare provider during the first term of the academic year. Her Childcare Grant for the first payment period will be reassessed. In this case the maximum amount payable after reassessment is £255 per week. The extra amount of Childcare Grant payable to Robyn will be paid to her following reassessment.