



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-VH-2017-25

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1SN

29 August 2025

Dear Elin,

The Education (Student Support) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2025

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 I am notifying you that this statutory instrument will come into force on 31 August 2025, less than 21 days after it has been laid. A copy of the instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies it are attached for your information.

The Education (Student Support) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (“the Regulations”) will amend the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018 (“the 2018 Regulations”). Student support regulations, made under section 22 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, underpin the system of financial support for students ordinarily resident in Wales undertaking courses of higher education.

The Student Loans Company (“SLC”), which provides the Student Finance Wales service on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, reviewed franchised courses uploaded by higher education providers, and delivered by private institutions in England, to its Courses Management Service system. These courses are described as being designated for the purpose of attracting statutory student support for Welsh students. Designation enables financial support to be paid to students and higher education providers. SLC’s review found that not all the courses had been designated by Welsh Ministers. Therefore, a Welsh student is not entitled to receive support in connection with those courses.

The 2018 Regulations make provision for both automatic designation (courses in categories that are designated by the 2018 Regulations with no further action required) and specific designation (which requires the Welsh Ministers to make a further decision to designate specific courses, under the Regulations).

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Whilst the Welsh Ministers have the power to specifically designate the affected courses and so provide financial support to those students who are eligible under the 2018 Regulations, this would only provide for a small tuition fee loan. For full-time undergraduate students, this is a maximum of £6,355 compared with the full rate of £9,535. For part-time students, the reduced loan for those studying in England is £4,765, compared with the full rate of £7,145. Providers of affected courses are charging up to the maximum tuition fee permissible in England. Should a specific designation be made, a Welsh student on one of the affected courses would face a shortfall in meeting their tuition fee obligation for the 2025/26 academic year in the absence of any further intervention.

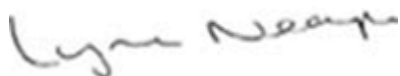
Welsh students on courses that are automatically designated by the 2018 Regulations are eligible for the maximum tuition fee loan of up to £9,535.

The Regulations amend the 2018 Regulations to enable the affected courses to be automatically designated and provide for the maximum tuition fee loan to eligible students. The 2025 Regulations will apply only to academic years starting on or after 1 September 2025, provided the course begins before 1 January 2026. This means that courses which begin during the period 1 September to 31 December are captured, as well as courses which are continuing into their second or subsequent years during that period.

The Regulations will come into force before 21 days have elapsed. The Regulations must be in force before 1 September (the first day of the academic year) to enable students beginning or continuing a course with a course start date between the 1 September and the 31 December to be eligible for adequate tuition fee support. These Regulations ensure no students on affected courses are disadvantaged by circumstances outside their control.

I am copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip, Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Matthew Richards, Interim Director of Senedd Business, Bethan Davies, Head of Chamber and Committee Services, Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education