

STUDENT GRANT SUPPORT – DTLLS 2011-2012

If you are starting your DTLLS course with Joan Patterson Associates starting in October 2011 or later, new arrangements apply for the student finance support available. Our DTLLS course students will be eligible for the same maintenance support package as other higher education part-time students. Specific student guidance is now available from www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance and this is a summary of that guidance. To apply for this support you **must be living in England**, different rules apply if you live in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Most new students starting initial teacher training courses in 2011/12 will be able to apply for a package of support.

New part-time DTLLS students will be eligible for:

- a fully means-tested **Fee Grant** (see Table 1) of up to £1,230 to support the cost of the course fees. There are three bands of grant, depending on 'the intensity of study' of the course: these are shown in Table 2. The tutor of your part-time course will be able to tell you which of these bands applies.
- a fully means-tested **Course Grant** (see Table 1) of up to £265 for books, travel and other expenditure relating to their course.
- a non-means-tested **Employer's Grant** of £400 towards the cost of your course fees, if you are following an in-service part-time course and are a trainee on a DTLLS/PGCE. This grant continues to be offered in 2011-2012 and will be administered by the Institute for Learning. It is applied for by the *trainee teacher's employer*. For this scheme the employer must be either an FE/6th form college, or an employer in receipt of SFA funding. The trainee must be working on SFA funded provision. New teachers who are not employed in the sector (for example those who are doing their teaching practice as an unpaid placement) will not be eligible for the £400 grant, nor will those employed by teaching agencies website. There is more information on the Institute for Learning website (www.ifl.ac.uk)

Table 1

Household Income	Entitlement
N/A	Employer's Grant of £400 towards the cost of your course fees if you are following an in-service part-time course and are a trainee on a DTLLS/PGCE or Skills for Life Additional Diploma
Below £16,845	Full Course Grant of £265. Amount of fee grant Full Fee Grant (or the fees charged by the college whichever is lower). - Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £820 - Course equivalent to 60% to 74% of a full-time course – £985 - Course equivalent to 75% or more of a full-time course – £1,230
£16,845	Full Course Grant of £265 The Fee Grant is reduced by £50. Amount of fee grant - Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £770
£16,846 to £25,419	Full Course Grant of £265. Fee Grant as follows (or the fees charged by the college whichever is lower). Amount of fee grant - Course equivalent to 50% to 59% of a full-time course – £770 less £1 for every £11.91 of income (before tax) over £16,845
£25,420	Full Course Grant of £265. £50 fee grant.
£25,421 to £26,029	Full Course Grant of £265. No Fee Grant
£26,030 to £28,064	Course Grant of £265 less £1 for every £9.47 of income (before tax) over £26,030.

£28,065	£50 Course Grant
£28,066 and over	No support

On the direct.gov website, there is a student finance calculator which you can use to calculate the amount to which you should be entitled. The web link is:

http://www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=153,4680136&_dad=portal

How to apply

Part-time students need to download a PTG1 form from Student Finance England. Updated forms for 2011-2012 will be available later in the year. **Complete the form and take it with you to your course provider when you start your course.** The administration office will complete the rest of the form (waiting until you've attended for two weeks), confirming that you are a student there, how intensive your course is and what the tuition fees are. You will then need to send the form to Student Finance England. *Please check that the form has been officially stamped by your course provider, otherwise Student Finance will not be able to process it. Please note that applications received later than 9 months after the start of the course are unlikely to be accepted.*

How do I apply for continuing funding?

Student Finance England recommend you apply online through their website. If you are unable to apply online, please contact Student Finance England.

Can part-time students get a maintenance grant?

No. Only full-time students are eligible for the fully means tested maintenance grant. The amount of fee grant that a part-time student will receive depends on the rate at which the student studies their course each year; this is referred to as '**intensity of study**'. There are three bands of fee grant, £820, £985 and £1230 (maximum amounts) Each is measured as a percentage of a full time equivalent course: 50 -59%, 60 -74% and 75% or more.

Extra help

You may qualify for extra help if you're disabled, or you have a mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. Check the website for further details.