



**Isle of Man
Government**

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Department of Education, Sport and Culture
Consultation on Student Awards Policy

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Student Awards on the Isle of Man

As part a review of the Isle of Man’s Education legislation, the Department of Education Sport and Culture seek your views on policy principles of Student Awards. The responses to this consultation will be used to inform the policy required to underpin amendments the Department make to the Education (student awards) Regulations 2019.

In reviewing the regulations for student awards on the Isle of Man the following aims are suggested as principles which should underpin future policy and amendment to the current regulations;

- i. reflect the changes to Education as a result of the challenges faced during the coronavirus pandemic, primarily distance and flexible learning;
- ii. provide better parity with physical courses taken in the UK and overseas and part-time or distance learning courses and in terms of fees and maintenance grants available;
- iii. align with the needs of the Island’s economy as outlined in the economic recovery plan with preference to skills shortages;
- iv. review the exclusion in Clause 7 to enable post-graduate medical and nursing degrees;
- v. review and update the Disabled Student Allowances (DSA);
- vi. review and amend the current definition of “income”; and
- vii. Arts and Drama courses are considered under a separate scheme to reflect the different access criteria (not traditionally based on UCAS points).

Consultation questions

1. My response to this consultation is in the capacity as:

- Individual
- Student
- Parent/contributor
- other – please specify below

2. Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your decision making around further education in any of the following ways?

- I didn’t get the grades required to qualify for funding from Student Awards
- I decided to delay entry to university/college
- I decided to do distance learning
- I decided to study at UCM instead of going off Island
- I had to leave university and return to the Island to seek employment
- I decided not to go to university but seek employment

- Career change due to redundancy which required different qualifications
- Other, please specify

Funding provided

3. Those who choose to leave the island to attend university can apply for a maintenance grant of up to £8,000 depending on the location of study. Please note, levels of funding are subject to means testing.

Should maintenance grants be available to students studying on Island whether at UCM or through a distance learning course?

- Studying at UCM
 - Yes
 - No
- Studying via distance learning
 - Yes
 - No

4. What should the level of funding for on Island study be?

- Current level (£6,750)
- Higher level – please specify amount and reason why
- Lower level – please specify amount and reason why

5. Currently all off-Island higher education courses are eligible for Student Awards funding, whether for maintenance and tuition fees.

Should funding for courses be limited to specific subjects to meet Isle of Man skills shortages and aid local economic recovery?

- All courses should be funded equally
 - Only specified courses should be funded
- Further comments:

6. Should Student Award funding be limited to only one undergraduate degree per student, or should further funding be available for specific courses e.g. medicine, dentistry, veterinary which follow the first degree? For example a person undertakes a 3 year degree in Pharmacology but subsequently decides that they would like to train to become a doctor. Should further funding be available for the full course of study for a second degree?
 - No – it should be limited to one degree
 - Yes – further funding should be allowed

7. Should repeat funding be provided for subsequent degree studies, whether at a higher or the same level? For example, 6 years ago a person completed a degree in geology and has worked as a geologist. They now want to take another degree for a career change. Should further funding be available in instances like this after a certain length of time has passed?
 - Yes
 - No

8. Should cultural subject courses (e.g. arts, drama, dance) be considered separately to the standard Student Award Regulations to allow for the fact that access to these courses is not usually based on obtaining a specified level of UCAS points?
 - Yes
 - No

9. A disabled student's allowance (DSA) is available for those disabled students requiring additional funding following application and subsequent assessment. Current levels per year for undergraduate courses are a basic allowance of £1,642, an additional allowance for a non-medical helper (e.g. reader) of £12,420 and an additional allowance for special equipment (payable once for whole course) of £4,905; or in the case of a postgraduate a basic allowance per annum of £10,993. Are these levels of funding appropriate?
 - Yes
 - No

Means testing

10. Currently, Student Awards provide funding up to a maximum of £9,250 (including a loan of £2,500) for tuition fees for an eligible student. The contributors (typically, the students' parents) are means tested.

Should funding for tuition fees be means tested?

- Yes
- No

11. Currently, Student Awards provide funding up to a maximum of £7,500 (or £8,000 for students studying at Oxbridge or in London) by maintenance grant for an eligible student. The contributors (typically, the students' parents) are means tested.

Should funding for maintenance grants be means tested?

- Yes
- No

12. Should overall wealth (income and assets) of the contributors be taken into account when calculating the level of Student Awards funding for an eligible student (currently, only income is considered)?

- Yes
- No

13. Currently 73% of tuition fee funding is met by Government with the remainder by the student/their parents, either directly or via loan contribution. Is the current model fair or should it be reviewed?

- Fair
- Not Fair (Please provide additional comments if you wish).

14. Do you have any further comments or observations to make regarding funding assistance for higher education?