

19 March 2024

Dear Careers Adviser

Student Finance for the 2024/25 Academic Year

The Student Loans Company portal for 2024/25 online applications is now open. Pupils can access it via the www.studentfinancenl.co.uk This website contains information for students and parents as well as forms and guides which can be downloaded as required.

The closing date for applications this year is 30 April 2024, although applications should be made as soon as possible.

Pupils who receive EMA already have an account with the Student Loans Company and must apply for Student Finance using their EMA Customer Reference Number (11-digit number). They should not create a new account or their support will be delayed.

All pupils should apply using either the name on their EMA account or the exact name on their passport or birth certificate. Pupils with a UK passport can input their passport details online. All other students must submit identity evidence to their local Student Finance office. Surnames should not contain spaces e.g. O’Kane, McMaster etc.

Household income details should be completed online by parents as soon as the student’s online application is submitted. Verification to confirm any income should be sent to their local Student Finance office at the same time.

If pupils apply online but do not submit identity verification and household income details, their applications are regarded as incomplete and will not be fully processed. Please ensure, therefore, that all pupils are aware of the consequences of submitting applications without valid identity and income verification.

There is additional support available to students with disabilities (Disabled Students’ Allowances). Pupils who wish to apply for additional support should complete the online question relating to the Disabled Students’ Allowance which will direct them to the relevant form for completion and return.

Again I would stress the importance of such students applying early so that any assistance required from the Disabled Students’ Allowances can be put in place for the start of the academic year. Waiting to apply for DSA support until after exam results in August will mean that necessary support is unlikely to be in place until the end of the first term.

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

Education Authority

40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ

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Students who wish to apply for part-time HE support will be unable to make application until late May.

The updated series of short videos for pupils to view are available on the [EA Student Finance home page](#)

If you have any enquiries about any aspect of Student Finance please do not hesitate to get in contact with your local Student Finance NI office. Details can be found [here](#).

Yours faithfully

Chris Scott

Head of Admissions and Financial Support

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