

Grants for Education 2012

June 12, 2012

From Sept 2012 a new agency, Student Universal Support Ireland will take over the awarding of all new grants. Application to SUSI is online from www.studentfinance.ie and is now open.

You can contact SUSI on 0761 08 7874 or email them at support@susi.cdvec.ie

Reckonable Income limits for the Maintenance & Fee Grants 2012.

Types of Grant: Grants can cover fulltime third level and FETAC 5/6 courses.

Maintenance grants are payments to students to cover the costs of participating in education. From September 2012 they will be made on a pro-rata monthly basis directly into a students bank account.

Fee grants are a once-off payment of €2,500 (from Sept 2012) paid on behalf of an eligible student directly to the college to cover the student registration charge. Fee grants can, in some cases cover other charges associated with education at the discretion of SUSI.

Family income limits

The means test for a maintenance or fee grant in 2012/2013 is based on your family's income for the previous full tax year (2011). The income limits for a maintenance grant are set out below.

Number of Dependent Children	Full Maintenance	Part Maintenance (75%)	Part Maintenance (50%)	Part Maintenance (25%)	Exempt from student contribution	*Exempt from 50% student contribution
Less than 4	€41,110	€42,235	€44,720	€47,205	€51,380	€55,920
4 to 7	€45,165	€46,415	€49,145	€51,880	€56,460	€61,440
8 or more	€49,045	€50,400	€53,360	€56,320	€61,295	€66,700

* Full student contribution is paid where income is at or below this level.

Other family members in college: The income limits are increased if more than one family member is in college. See www.studentfinance.ie for more details.

Application Process: Students will apply online to SUSI giving details of their circumstances. SUSI will make an initial assessment of eligibility and will contact the student for documentation to support their claim.

Documentation required for the grant can include:

- Birth Cert.
- Residency & Proof of Address.
- DSP (Social Welfare) or HSE cert of income for the previous tax year.
- P60, P45, P21 PAYE Balancing Statement.
- Pension entitlement info
- Income from employment including self –employment
- Details of pension or redundancy lump sums.
- Gifts, Inheritances, Income from Land or other property.
- Any other source of income

Rates of Grant

	Non-Adjacent Rate	Adjacent Rate
Full Maintenance	€3,025	€1,215
Part Maintenance (75%)	€2,270	€940
Part Maintenance (50%)	€1,515	€605
Part Maintenance (25%)	€755	€315

The non adjacent rate is only paid to students whose chosen course is more than 45km from their normal residence. This applies to all students including mature students.

Special Rate of Maintenance Grant

Disadvantaged students who meet a number of conditions can qualify for special rates of the maintenance grant.

Special Rate of Grant	Total Grant
Non-Adjacent	€5,915
Adjacent	€2,377

In order to be eligible for these 'top-up' rates, your reckonable income must be at or below a certain limit, (in 2011 the limit was €22,703), and must also include at least one of a range of social welfare payments including Jobseekers Allowance, Jobseekers Benefit and One-Parent Family Payment. Disability payments may also be included.