



Student Studying Outside the State



Are you eligible?

If you have not already done so, you should use our Eligibility Reckoner on our website (www.susi.ie) to give you an idea if you meet the criteria to receive Student Grant funding. (The Eligibility Reckoner will give an indication only and does not guarantee your eligibility for a grant).

For those studying **outside the state** please note that funding is available for **Undergraduate Study only** (except for postgraduate courses in four approved institutions in Northern Ireland).

These approved institutions, and the approved courses available therein, are as follows:

- **Queen’s University, Belfast** – full-time Postgraduate courses of not less than one year duration;
- **University of Ulster** – full-time Postgraduate courses of not less than one year duration;
- **St. Mary’s College of Education, Belfast** – Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Irish Medium); and
- **Stranmillis College, Belfast** – Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

To be eligible for a grant you must qualify under the following criteria:

Nationality and Residency:

- You must be an Irish, EU, EEA or Swiss National or have specific leave to remain in the State; and
- You must be ordinarily resident in Ireland or the EU, EEA or Switzerland for 3 of the last 5 years. If you were resident outside the Irish State for this period but were resident in the EU, EEA or Switzerland you are deemed to be a tuition student which would normally make you eligible for the course fee portion of a grant. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Course:

- You must be progressing in your education (increasing your NFQ level); and
- You must be attending an approved course in an approved institution. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Previous Education and Progression – studying outside the state

Previous Education

SUSI may need to know your academic history to determine if you are eligible for a grant.

Progression

| Higher Education | Level | Progression |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Higher Education | UG Level 6 | Higher Certificate |
| Higher Education | UG Level 7 | Ordinary Bachelor Degree |
| Higher Education | UG Level 8 | Honours Bachelor Degree |
| Higher Education | PG Level 8 | Higher Diploma |
| Higher Education | PG Level 9 | Diploma |
| Higher Education | Level 9 | Masters Degree |
| Higher Education | Level 10 | PHD |

You must be increasing your NFQ (National Framework of Qualifications, www.nfq.ie) level to be considered eligible for a grant.

You must be attending an approved course:

- that leads to a higher level of qualification than any you may already hold;
- that is at a higher level than any course you may have previously attended; and
- in which you are progressing from one year to the next and not repeating a year (save in exceptional circumstances)



However, you may be considered eligible for funding as a “second chance” student where you:

- have previously attended but not completed a course; and
- have had a 5-year break in studies since leaving that course.

Repeat/Equivalent Period of Study

If you are a student who is repeating a year on the same course then you are not eligible for a grant for that repeat year. However, if you previously started higher education course but left prior to finishing, you may be eligible for a portion of a student grant once you have completed an equivalent period of study.

Students studying Outside the State – Approved Institutions/Courses

To be deemed an approved undergraduate course outside the Irish State, the course must meet the following criteria:

- be provided by an educational institution in another EU Member State that provides higher education and training and which is in receipt of recurrent grants from public funds;
- be a full-time course of at least two years duration; and
- lead to a major education and training award, in line with the National Framework of Qualifications (www.nfq.ie) or equivalent.

Income:

- Who is included in the calculation of your income for grant purposes depends on what **class of applicant** you are, dependent or independent. Please note that applicants who apply under the incorrect class will have their applications cancelled and will need to apply again;
- Your reckonable income (income calculated for grant purposes) must fall under the specified thresholds. This income will be a factor in determining what type of funding you could receive; and
- Applications are assessed with regard to gross household income from the previous year. (See www.susi.ie for more information).

Maximum periods of grant assistance:

Funding is only available to students at Undergraduate and Postgraduate level for a certain amount of years and depends on their previous education.

Undergraduate Level:

| Category | Level | Maximum Period of Grant Assistance |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| Undergraduate | Level 6 and 7 | Max 4 years in total at level 6 and 7 subject to; 2 years at Level 6 and 3 years at Level 7 |
| | Level 8 | 4 years maximum except for courses where the normal duration is more than 4 years |

Postgraduate Level:

| Category | Level | Maximum Period of Grant Assistance |
|--------------|--|---|
| Postgraduate | Level 8 Higher Diploma, Level 9 and Level 10 | 4 years maximum, taking account of all previous attendance and attainment at this level regardless of whether grant supported |

