

# Policy Changes

## 2023 - 2024

## 1. Residency Changes

### Evacuated or assisted British nationals from Afghanistan – Home Tuition fees and student support

1. British nationals and their family members who have been evacuated or required assistance to leave Afghanistan during the period known as ‘Operation Pitting’; **and**
2. ordinarily resident in the UK since first arriving from Afghanistan; **and**
3. ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date.

### UK nationals who have fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion – Home Tuition fees and student support

1. UK nationals and their family members who have left Ukraine in connection with the Russian invasion and since arrived in the UK; **and**
2. ordinarily resident in the UK since first arriving from Ukraine; **and**
3. ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date.

## 2. Living Costs Funding Increases

There will be a £900 student loan uplift across all income bands from session 2023-2024.

### Young Students

Household Income	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Bursary	Loan	Total	Bursary	Loan	Total
£0 to £20,999	£2,000	£6,100	£8,100	£2,000	£7,000	£9,000
£21,000 to £23,999	£1,125	£6,100	£7,225	£1,125	£7,000	£8,125
£24,000 to £33,999	£500	£6,100	£6,600	£500	£7,000	£7,500
£34,000 and above	£0	£5,100	£5,100	£0	£6,000	£6,000

### Independent Students

Household Income	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Bursary	Loan	Total	Bursary	Loan	Total
£0 to £20,999	£1,000	£7,100	£8,100	£1,000	£8,000	£9,000
£21,000 to £23,999	£0	£7,100	£7,100	£0	£8,000	£8,000
£24,000 to £33,999	£0	£6,600	£6,600	£0	£7,500	£7,500
£34,000 and above	£0	£5,100	£5,100	£0	£6,000	£6,000

## Care Experienced Students

Care Experienced Bursary	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Bursary	Loan	Total	Bursary	Loan	Total
	£8,100	£0	£8,100	£9,000	£0	£9,000

## Estranged Students

Estranged Students	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Bursary	Loan	Total	Bursary	Loan	Total
	£1,000	£7,100	£8,100	£1,000	£8,000	£9,000

### 3. Estranged Students

Changes have been made to our definition of estranged students to make it more inclusive. The 12-month stipulation for estrangement eligibility has been removed and we have included that we will consider isolated instances of contact when considering applications. This new definition has also been adopted by Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council, providing a consistent approach for students articulating from college to university.

The new definition is as follows:

*An estranged student is someone who no longer has contact with their parents or legal guardians due to a permanent breakdown in their relationship (isolated instances for contact will be considered on a case by case basis).*

Previous version:

*If you're estranged from your parents/legal guardians, it means:*

- you're not in contact with them, and*
- there's been a permanent breakdown in your relationship, and there is no sign of this being resolved in the future*

*We would usually expect that you've had no contact with them for at least 12 months, but we'll assess each case individually.*

We are also introducing a bespoke funding application route for estranged students in the form of an Estranged Student Bursary which will promote awareness that there is support available to estranged students:

- A bespoke funding route will allow estranged students to declare their status earlier in the online application process.
- Having a bespoke route to access support, will help to address a key theme from the research, which was lack of awareness of the support available.

The SAAS Award Notice will be updated to suggest estranged students make their institution aware of their status so that they may access any additional support available to them.

## 4. Postgraduate Funding Package Changes

The following changes are being implemented to the postgraduate funding package from session 2023-2024:

- Tuition fee loan uplift of £1,500, increasing the package to £7,000. This is to accommodate a rise in tuition fee costs since the £5,500 tuition fee loan was introduced. This brings the total funding package up to £11,500 for full-time students.
- Postgraduate support will be extended to eligible courses in the rest of the UK, rather than just those where there is no equivalent course available in Scotland.
- Postgraduate support will also be extended to courses at validated private providers throughout the UK.

These changes will bring the funding for postgraduate courses into further alignment with the funding for undergraduate courses.

Students who are studying their course over more than one academic session and are therefore splitting their fee loan will receive an increased fee loan in 2023/24. For example, a student who starts their 2 year course in 2022/23 is entitled to £2,750 for year 1 as this is half of £5,500. In year 2, due to the increase they will now be entitled to £3,500 as this is half of £7,000.