

EEA Migrant Workers and Student Funding

For students living in the UK before the 31st Dec 2020 who are on the EU Settlement Scheme

This is a basic overview of student funding arrangements for EEA Migrant Workers and their families i.e. nationals from EEA member states who are exercising their right to work in the UK, who have been granted pre-settled or settled status.

If you have already applied to Student Finance England (SFE) for fee support and think you may qualify as a Migrant Worker, seek advice from SWAT.

If you already have settled status in place you may already be eligible for full SFE maintenance and tuition fee loan support. See Welfare Advice Guides: 'Full-time Students Funding' The rules are complicated, so for more detailed information you should always contact the Student Welfare Advice Team (SWAT).

Note: If you have already completed a degree course in the UK or any other country you may not qualify for any financial help towards your fees or living costs.

In addition, if you have studied at HE level before, even if you did not gain a qualification, your entitlement will be affected. Please seek advice.

Which countries are in the EEA?

The EEA consists of all the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Swiss Nationals and their children have similar rights to EEA nationals.

How do EEA Migrant Workers qualify for the whole funding package?

In order to qualify for full SFE support as an EEA Migrant Worker, you need to:

- have been granted a status as part of the EU Settlement scheme.
- be ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of the course i.e. 1st September, 1st January, 1st April, whichever is closest to the start of your course.

- be ordinarily resident in the EEA for three years prior to the commencement of the course and full fill the other residency requirements.

In addition, you must show one of the following:

- Prior to starting your course you worked and you continue to work either full or part-time while studying.
- You have been working in the UK, stopped when you started your course, **but** you can demonstrate a link between your previous employment and your studies e.g. if you were working as a Health Care Assistant and you gave up your job to study a Degree in Nursing.
- You get a job after you have started your course and continue to work while studying. But remember, you must also have been resident on the first day of the first academic year of the course.

I think I am an EEA Migrant Worker. What next?

You should download a paper form for both **fee** and **living cost** support from Student Finance England at: www.gov.uk/student-finance or you can request an application pack by telephoning 0300 100 0607 and asking for the PN1 form. You will also need to supply the following evidence with your application:

- National Insurance Number
- Passport/National I.D. card (originals)
- Student Bank Account details
- Your household income details. You should provide income from the previous tax year i.e. April to April (UK)
- Your parent's household income details (if you are under 25)

It is essential you provide all addresses prior to the start of the course.

Note: Documentation should be translated and notarised into English. You will need to provide evidence of your continued work in September, December and March in order to maintain your migrant work status. SFE will write to request this.

Can I apply for funding as a Migrant Worker after already having my tuition fees paid as an EU student with pre-settled status?

Yes, but please be aware that if your Migrant Worker application is successful, your original EU tuition fee funding application will be cancelled. SFE would then take by the Tuition Fee Loan paid to the University.

To ensure that your tuition fees remain paid; when completing the PN1 form as a Migrant Worker be sure to request "a loan to pay the full tuition fees charged by your University" on page 27 of 2023/24 paper PN1 application.

What about family members?

Family members will be considered to hold the status of an EEA migrant worker if one of the following categories applies:

- You are the spouse, civil partner, or are under 21 and a direct descendant of the person, the person's spouse or civil partner, or dependent on the person or person's spouse or civil partner.
- Are a direct relative in the ascending line (parent or step-parent) of the spouse or civil partner.
- However, there is no provision for the ascendants of Swiss workers.

Note: Children of Turkish workers also qualify for the whole student support package. However, both parent and child would need to be resident on 31st December 2020 and be in the UK on the first day of the academic year i.e. 1st September.

What does the funding package include?

The funding package may include:

- Fee Loan (non means-tested)
- Maintenance Loan
- Adult Dependant Grant (means-tested)
- Parent Learning Allowance (means-tested)
- Childcare Grant (means-tested)
- Disabled Student Allowances (non means tested)

If your application is successful, it is important that you continue to work while you are studying (unless there is a link between your previous employment and the course you are studying) or you will lose your entitlement to the living cost support mentioned above. In addition, if you decide to go on a student exchange or a placement you may have problems, seek advice first.

The funding for fees and maintenance is released on a 'per term' basis. You will be asked to provide evidence of your continuous employment at the start of each term in order for your funding to be released.

For a more detailed overview of the funding package see Welfare Advice Guide: 'Full-time Students Funding'.

Also see link www.ukcisa.org.uk

Any questions?

Contact the Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team on 020 8411 3008 between 11am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm Mon to Fri, or submit an enquiry at <https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/unihelp> (use the subject Student Welfare Advice in the enquiry) or make an appointment at <https://unihelponline.mdx.ac.uk/#/offlineBookAppointmentService/MzAw//MTY=/>

You can access all of our other Welfare Advice Guides at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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